

Ontario Regional Representative

Executive Report

Kendra Komsa & Ali Damji • Spring General Assembly 2015 • Vancouver ON



Description of Position

The primary roles of the CFMS Ontario Regional Representatives are outlined in the bylaws, which state that executives in this position should represent the six Ontario member schools (Western, McMaster, Toronto, NOSM, Queen's, and Ottawa) and their students at Executive meetings, and to undertake projects that further the goals of the CFMS. Currently, there are two Ontario Regional Representatives who sit on the CFMS Executive.

One way in which the effort to represent the six Ontario member schools is through participation in and collaboration with the Ontario Medical Students Association (OMSA). OMSA is composed of an Executive Committee as well as two VP Externals from each university. This year, one of the Ontario Regional Representatives (Ali Damji) also held a position of VP External of his university and we found this worked out very well in terms of staying up to date and informed as to the on-goings at OMSA Executive Meetings. Both Ontario Regional Representatives are invited to attend the meetings, and updates from CFMS are delivered by the Ontario Regional Representatives to the OMSA Executive. This year, in addition to presenting an oral update and an opportunity for a Q&A with the Ontario Regional Representatives, a written submission has been developed and included in every meeting package at OMSA. These have been extremely well-received and should be continued in the future.

As members of the CFMS Executive Committee, the Ontario Regional Representatives also initiate projects that fall under the CFMS Strategic Plan implementation process, as well as ensuring all initiatives outlined in the CFMS Organizational Mandate are completed annually. Additionally, Ontario Regional Representatives might also be recruited by other executive members on the CFMS to complete project goals specific to certain portfolios, or to be a part of working groups (ex. Ali and Kendra are both members of the CFMS Wellness Survey working group, under the portfolio of VP Services Brandon Maser).

Specific Tasks and Project Areas

Ontario Representation

- The primary role of regional representation is accomplished through interaction with OMSA. Ali Damji has been present at all but one OMSA Executive Meeting this year, and Kendra Komsa has been able to attend

one meeting in person and one via teleconference. At every meeting, an update on behalf of the CFMS was given by Ali and Kendra to the OMSA Executive. New for this year, a written update is now provided to the OMSA Executive prior to the meeting, so that any questions or discussion points regarding the updates can be prepared by the OMSA Executive. This trial of written updates has been very successful and well-received, and allows for the Ontario Regional Representatives to be more accessible to Ontario's medical students and OMSA. Additionally, updates from the OMSA Executive meetings were presented at the CFMS Executive monthly meetings by Ali and Kendra.

- The Ontario Regional Representatives have been working with OMSA to attempt to coordinate a meeting of the Ontario Medical School Student Presidents. Organization between the six Ontario member school student societies has proven challenging, however working to plan a teleconference in the summer months continues to be a goal of the Ontario Regional Representatives. This will coincide well with the elections of new Medical Student Society presidents across Ontario.
- As mentioned above, this year, as in years prior, one of the Ontario Regional Representatives also served as a VP External on the OMSA Executive Group and therefore received funding to attend all OMSA Executive Meetings from the Ontario Medical Association. This was a huge asset, as it increased communication between OMSA and CFMS as a result. It is the hope of the two current Ontario Regional Representatives to continue to pursue sustainable options for open communication between OMSA and CFMS should there be a year where the Ontario Regional Representative does not also sit on the OMSA Executive. Additionally, Ali is a member of the OMSA Communications Committee and is responsible for managing the organization's social media along with other members of this committee. This allowed for enhanced opportunities to collaborate over social media at CFMS and OMSA events (ex. CFMS Lobby Day).

Nominations Committee

- The Nominations Committee came into being after a resolution to create such a committee was passed at the CFMS Fall 2013 Annual General Meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia. The purpose of this committee is to nominate and select medical students to act as External Representatives to partner medical organizations, or to serve internally on various portfolios and their respective committees. This year, the Nominations Committee was chaired by one of the Ontario Regional Representatives, Kendra Komsa and one of the Western Regional Representatives, John Schulte. The committee itself is composed of all other Regional Representatives on the CFMS Executive, as well as one non-Executive undergraduate medical student representative from each of the CFMS member schools. This was the first year the Nominations Committee ran at full height, and positive outcomes were obtained as a result. One positive change that was implemented was the creation of an online application form to be completed by hopeful applicants, which eliminated the step of emailing in applications to the Nomination Committee Chair, making the application

process more seamless. Both Kendra and John are happy with the workings of the Nominations Committee and are striving to further solidify its existence within the CFMS.

- This year, the Nominations Committee held two specific calls for applications for External Representatives – one in the Fall and one in the Winter. In order to standardize this process, it is the goal of the Nominations Committee moving forward to have two calls for applications annually. The following is a list of the External Committee positions filled with the help of the Nominations Committee to date:
 - Fall 2014
 - Aboriginal Health Liaison
 - Committee on Health Policy
 - Education Committee
 - Finance Committee
 - FMEC PG Implementation Committee
 - CFMS Media Engagement Committee
 - National Blood Drive Chair
 - National IT Officer Junior
 - National Officer of Global Health
 - National Officer of Health Policy
 - National Officer of Human Rights and Peace
 - National Officer of Partnership
 - National Officer of Sexual and Reproductive Health
 - National Wellness Officer
 - Social Media Committee
 - Winter 2015
 - CFMS Representative to the CMA General Practitioner’s Forum
 - CFMS Representative to the CMA Committee on Ethics
 - CFMS Representative to the CMA Committee on Healthcare and Promotion
 - CFMS Jr. Representative to the Committee on the Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools
 - CFMS Representative to the CMA Specialist Forum
 - CMAJ Student Humanities Blog Editor (English and French)
- Early in the spring, the Nominations Committee worked also to mark applications received for the CFMS Travel Awards. Over 60 applications for the awards were received and funding was available to award the top 8 applications received.
- This year, the CFMS is excited to announce a new partnership with the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame. The Canadian Medical Hall of Fame (CMHF) is a national registered charity located in London, Ontario that recognizes and celebrates Canadian heroes, whose work has advanced health in Canada and around the

world. The CMHF inspires the pursuit of careers in the health sciences through national outreach programs and the promotion of the stories of their Laureates. The CFMS has worked with members of the CMHF to secure membership of a Canadian Medical Student on the CMHF Board of Directors. This position will be filled in a special call this spring via the Nominations Committee, which will also include a call for applications for the CFMS Annual Review Editor's position. In the future, both of these positions will be included in the winter general call for applications.

Director of External Representation

- This year, two Directors of External Representation were selected as a combined position with the Nominations Committee Chairs. Therefore, the Directors of External Representation were Kendra Komsa and John Schulte. Since the Chairs of the Nominations Committee become very familiar with the positions available that require CFMS External Representation, the Chairs became a natural fit to also hold the position of the Directors of External Representation.
- The External Representatives represent Canada's Medical students on a number of national partner organizations and serve to further the mission of the CFMS. One of the most challenging parts of having students from all across Canada become selected to be External Representatives is collecting meeting reports from them to ensure the CFMS is kept up to date, as well as to maintain accountability from our External Representatives. The "CFMS External Committees Guide" document was created by last year's Director of External Representation and was given to each new External Representative, outlining their roles and responsibilities. Additionally, as was introduced last year, each External Representative was assigned an Executive Member on the CFMS to act as their Mentor, to help increase communication between the External Representatives and the CFMS Executive. The Mentor's were given the task this year of checking in with their External Reps and it is with hope in the future, the Mentor's will be responsible to collect meeting reports from their External Reps.
- The CFMS is working on creating a visual guide to the Organization of the Executive Group and the Committees that fall under each portfolio. This year, Kendra is working on incorporating the "CFMS External Representatives" Document into the overall organizational guide of the CFMS.
- The General Manager of the CFMS continues to be an invaluable asset to the External Representatives Portfolio. Working with the GM over the year has been essential in obtaining information from External Committees, as she remains to be our first point of contact with our external organizations.
- The CFMS in general this year worked to increase our ties with our current external committees, as well as sought after additional opportunities for CFMS Representation. One successful group that the CFMS now has representation on, as mentioned above, is the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame Board of Directors. This is an on-going process that will continue for the rest of the term and likely in the years to come.

FMEC Leadership Implementation Committee

- The Leadership Implementation Committee is a committee designed to develop a national core leadership curriculum for all residents that is focused on professional responsibilities, self-awareness, providing and receiving feedback, conflict resolution, change management and working as part of a team as a leader, facilitator or team member. As one of her roles as the Ontario Regional Representative, Kendra Komsa represents the CFMS on this committee, who meets regularly via teleconference and annually in person to work on meeting these objectives. Throughout this year, Kendra has participated in discussions surrounding the meaning of the word “leader” and how it will fit into the CanMeds 2015 definitions of essential roles a physician must fill. Additionally, the committee is working to compile a Leadership Resource Repository, which will house leadership resources that all Canadian Medical Schools will have access to in order to further the leadership education of their students and residents. Kendra has enjoyed working on this committee very much and has learned a great deal about the designing and implementation process when it comes to curriculum. She is also happy to bring forth a student perspective to the committee, based on the conversations had at CFMS Executive meetings surrounding leadership and curriculum in particular.

Student Initiatives Grants (SIGs)

Alongside Leanne Murphy, CFMS Atlantic Regional Representative 2014-2015, Ali Damji coordinated the SIGs program. A call for applicants was sent out in Sept-Oct 2014, with applications due in mid October. Over 50 proposals from across the country were received. Applicants were notified of their selection in January 2015 via an email offer or refusal. The grants program has been running quite well, and all of the projects appear to be on task. Opportunities for improvement employ for future iterations of SIGs include: adding additional evaluators for the proposals to reduce the time to reach a decision; creating a standard template for documents, forms, and instructions as this task falls on Regional Reps who may lack deep familiarity with the processes within CFMS and reimbursement protocols; and better communication as to what the grants can and cannot be used for (ex. Attending research conferences). The following are a list of selected projects for the SIGs 2014-2015 cycle.

- What Every Clerk Should Know: Keys for Successful Learning
- Saskatoon Student Wellness Initiative Towards Community Health (SWITCH)
- Mental Health Awareness Week 2015: U of A
- Student Led Clinic in St. Johns, NB
- Partners in Time – An Intergenerational program in the St. John’s Area
- Environment: Health Project: U of A
- HealthstART Afterschool Art Program for Inner-City Students in BC
- Stand Up for Health, Social determinants of health active simulation learning game developed and led by University of Toronto medical student

External Relations with the United States of America

Ali was able to take on a new role within the CFMS, which was providing avenues for collaboration with the American Medical Students Association (AMSA). Ali first met with the AMSA President Ms. Britani Kessler at the American Association of Medical Colleges Meeting in Chicago in Nov 2014 (where he was attending on behalf of the University of Toronto Medical Society as VP External) along with Irfan Kherani, CFMS VP Education who incidentally was at the meeting as well. At this first meeting, the CFMS and AMSA discussed opportunities for international collaboration in the interests of our membership. Representatives from the CFMS Executive were also invited to attend the AMSA Annual Convention & Lobby Day in late February 2015 in Washington, DC. Ali attended this meeting along with Melanie Bechard. A full report is available upon request. This meeting provided ample information and opportunities for collaboration between our two organizations. In particular, AMSA shares student wellness, prevention of learner mistreatment, lessening student debt loads, and fair residency matching processes as critical foci, and this new collaboration and more open lines of communication between our two organizations can allow us to reach those goals more effectively. AMSA has also been extended an invitation to attend our SGM and for students to participate in the AMSA Scholars Program.

CFMS Lobby Day

Ali had the privilege of attending CFMS Lobby Day this year. It was also an opportunity to enhance collaboration with OMSA as Ali is a member of the Communications team and was responsible for managing OMSA's social media during the Lobby Day alongside the CFMS VP Communications, Anthea Girdwood.

CMA Fall Committee on Ethics Meeting

Ali had the privilege of representing the CFMS at the CMA's Committee on Ethics Fall 2014 Meeting in order to fill in for the student external representative who had resigned from the position. The most important deliverable from this meeting was the CMA Policy on Physician-Assisted Suicide, which given the recent Supreme Court Ruling, will have significant relevance to the CMA membership. Ali had the opportunity to share the student perspective on this important topic, and help shape the policy document.

We thank you very much for your attention in reading this report. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at Ontario@cfms.org.

Sincerely,



Kendra Komsa

Northern Ontario School of Medicine



Ali Damji

University of Toronto