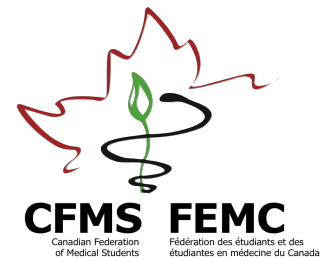


NATIONAL OFFICER REPORT

*Raechelle Gibson, NOR Sr
2019 Spring General Meeting
Niagara Falls ON, April 12-13 2019*



I. DESCRIPTION OF POSITION

The National Officer of Research (NOR) position was created to support the translation of CFMS projects into peer reviewed works. The NOR will be responsible for organizing the agenda of the CFMS Research Program and to provide support to all portfolios of the CFMS to coordinate research initiatives.

II. ACTIVITIES

Survey Policy

My focus this year has been developing a survey policy for the CFMS. I have been working on this policy at the request of the Director of Education on behalf of the Board. Policy development so far has involved research regarding optimal survey technique, with a focus on strategies to minimize survey fatigue because this is what was communicated to me as the primary purpose of the policy from the Board. I have utilized primary literature to this end and have also recently been in contact with the survey coordinator for the Resident Doctors of Canada (RDoc) organization for additional mentorship. RDoc administers a regular survey of resident physicians in Canada, and the organization has kindly provided me with some information about the challenges they've faced and the strategies they employ in their surveys.

I have been working closely with the Director of Education and the Ontario Regional Director in developing the survey policy. Together, we have also recently begun to discuss the possibility of organizing a regular (perhaps every second year) survey of the CFMS membership to be administered by the Research Committee. I understand that the Director of Education and Ontario Regional Director will be communicating this possible regular CFMS survey to the Board, and I am currently awaiting their feedback. Likewise, I have communicated with my two overseeing members about some challenges that I have encountered in the development of the survey policy, including some uncertainty regarding the goals of the policy from the Board's perspective. I am awaiting their feedback before I finalize the policy.

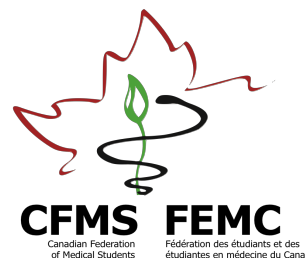
Research Committee Activities

As a committee, the Research portfolio has been further developing our Research Highlights program to showcase medical student research. This project was initiated last year by a member of the Education Committee. We faced some initial challenges related to handover from last year and some problems with the CFMS website, but we are currently on track with an anticipated first publication shortly after the SGM. The NOR Jr has been working to develop a database for internal organization of research projects (see NOR Jr report for details on the database project). As the NOR Sr., I also developed an updated TOR for the NOR position and an inaugural TOR for the Research Committee.

After the SGM, the committee will be focusing on developing resources to support medical student research. Some of our planned resources include templates for writing research proposals, indices of conferences for medical students, and strategies to help medical students find protected research time.

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Inaugural Research Committee

A final item worth highlighting for the Board is that this is the first year that the CFMS has had a research committee. We are a small group (four people in total, excluding the Director of Education and Ontario Regional Director), and we are still striving to define our role and place within the CFMS. As the NOR Sr., I have served as committee chair, but it was not clearly communicated with me that a committee was being formed this year. I trust that the transition will be smoother next year, as the current NOR Jr. will take on the role of NOR Sr. armed with familiarity of the role and the committee. It is also worth mentioning that the NOR position itself is still relatively new to the CFMS; I am the second person to hold the role and the first person to compose a year-end report to share with the incoming officer. The goals and expectations of the NOR and Research Committee in general are not yet clearly defined, and there is some potential overlap with respect to the preparation of publications from the various CFMS portfolios. For these reasons, we have chosen to define ourselves as a portfolio that supports CFMS members who are interested in research and assists the CFMS with internal activities related to research. If not in line with the expectations of the Board, we will happily adjust these definitions and aims; we simply ask that the Board communicate any proposed changes in writing and provide opportunities for discussion with us.

III. MEETINGS ATTENDED

Date	Meeting	Location
Nov 17 2018	NOR Jr Interview Debrief #1	Teleconference
Nov 18 2018	NOR Jr Interview Debrief #2	Teleconference
Jan 12 2019	Research Committee Oversight Meeting	Teleconference
Jan 30 2019	Research Committee Teleconference #1	Teleconference
Apr 12-13 2019	CFMS SGM	Niagara Falls
April 24 2019	Research Committee Teleconference #2	Teleconference

V. CONCLUSIONS

Overall, the Research Committee is on track to produce the following items this year:

- (1) a CFMS Internal Survey Policy
- (2) a database to assist in the organization of internal CFMS research projects
- (3) an informal publication to showcase medical student research, “Research Highlights”
- (4) additional resources to support medical student research as previously discussed.

We had a rocky start as a new committee with our goals and purpose still being delineated, but our group has risen to the challenge. We are currently on track for a productive and successful inaugural year.

Raechelle Gibson, NOR Sr.