

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Rishi Sharma

CFMS Director of Education

Spring General Meeting 2020

April 16-19, 2020, Vancouver, BC



DESCRIPTION

The Director of Education is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the CFMS Education portfolio and have detailed knowledge of all CFMS policy and activities pertaining to medical education. They will speak to CFMS' positions on medical education issues at strategic settings including through media. In addition, the Director of Education will serve as the primary contact and spokesperson to a number of external national organizations and stakeholders in medical education. They will attend external meetings on other boards, committees, task forces and working groups pertaining to medical education as the representative of medical students in Canada.

As Director of Education, I had the pleasure of overseeing all Canadian Federation of Medical Student (CFMS) activities pertaining to medical education issues. In this role, I help oversee the monthly Academic Roundtable, CFMS Education Committee, and CFMS Research Committee. I work closely with other CFMS portfolios on priority areas such as advocacy around the unmatched Canadian Medical Graduate (uCMG). I also work closely with the attaché to the Education portfolio, which is Avrilynn Ding this year who serves as one of the Ontario Regional Directors. I also serve as the CFMS representative to a number of external learner organizations including the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada (AFMC), Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS), and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

I. ACTIVITIES OF DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

1. Education Committee

- a. Selection and onboarding of incoming National Officer of Education for 2019-2020 – Alex Cohen
- b. Collaborating with Education attaché in supervising the nominations committee process to select new file leads for the Education Committee. New Education Committee members are:
 - i. Accreditation – Nilasha Thayalan
 - ii. Unmatched Canadian Medical Graduate – Nathan Rider & Lucas King
 - iii. Competency Based Medical Education – Daniel Lu & Irena Zivkovic
 - iv. Matchbook – Chloe Lim & Adree Khondker
 - v. Policy Liaison – Vivesh Patel & Takhliq Amir
 - vi. Interprofessional Education – Gladys Bruyninx & Kathleen MacMillan
 - vii. Tech & Innovation – Vinyas Harish
 - viii. Choosing Wisely – Ethan Zhang
 - ix. CITAC – Cory Lefebvre
- c. Assisting in the design of work plans for each file lead, providing feedback and direction based on strategic goals to outline key initiatives to complete for the year
- d. Following up on the main initiatives of each file lead & guiding their work moving forward
- e. Main initiatives for file leads are as follows:
 - i. Accreditation – review/update ISA, gather feedback from members on efficacy of toolkit
 - ii. Unmatched Canadian Medical Graduate – recruit for Peer Mentorship Network, update uCMG Task Force membership, draft uCMG section for Matchbook, update backgrounder following CaRMS R1 iterations
 - iii. Competency Based Medical Education – creation of Transition to Residency Guide
 - iv. Matchbook – update and re-design of Matchbook 2019-2020
 - v. Policy Liaison – review Education position papers from past 15 years and review action items needing to be addressed, collaborate with NOHP to update Advocacy Tracker, assist

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- with position papers being generated within the portfolio
- vi. Interprofessional Education – update CFMS IPE position paper, collaborate with external organizations to develop IPE initiatives
 - vii. Tech & Innovation – prepare position paper regarding AI within UGME, synthesize resources/grants for students interested in pursuing projects that relate to Tech & Innovation
 - viii. Choosing Wisely – connect with Choosing Wisely and outline initiatives/projects students can partake in
 - ix. CITAC – develop relationship with CITAC, find opportunities for MD/PhD students

2. Research Committee

- a. Selection and onboarding of National Officer of Research Jr. for 2019-2020 – Ethan Peters
- b. Selection and onboarding of Research Committee members
- c. Research Committee consists of:
 - i. NOR Sr. – Lia Huo
 - ii. NOR Jr. – Ethan Peters
 - iii. Research Committee – David Li, Caleb Sypkes & Margaret Sun
- d. Collaborating and providing strategic input into initiatives for the year, which include:
 - i. Research Podcast Series
 - ii. Research Spotlight
 - iii. Creation of research resources for students interested in conducting research
 - iv. Infographics
 - v. Medical Education Database

3. Academic Roundtable

- a. Co-chaired by National Officer of Education, Alex Cohen & Education attaché and Ontario Regional Director, Avri Lynn Ding
- b. CFMS was able to promote collaboration amongst member organizations and VP Academics on topics such as:
 - i. Assessment feedback mechanisms for pre-clerkship/clerkship students
 - ii. Incorporation of POCUS curriculum in UGME
 - iii. Lecture attendance policies and strategies
- c. ART was also an effective platform for schools to share information and discuss key topics this year such as the AFMC 8-week Electives Diversification policy, policies on time off for Match Day, BPAS changes on CaRMS program descriptions, and the wellness curriculum task force work
- d. Plan to implement bi-monthly updates from Education portfolio to ART, which would include updates on key advocacy initiatives, updates regarding work conducted by Education Committee & Research Committee, and any other pertinent news

4. Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada (AFMC)

- a. Steering Portal Committee:
 - i. Promoting and advocating for recommendations outlined within the position paper published by the AFMC Portal Working Group that was approved at AGM 2019, which included:
 1. Standardizing response times for electives

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2. Continuing to advocate for a shorter window for booking electives, AFMC made the change from 28 to 26 weeks, seeking 24 week window
 3. Standardizing elective reimbursement policies and ensuring that all anticipated costs are clearly communicated
 4. Providing transparent data/information regarding electives, such as stating capacities, dates when electives are not likely to be accepting students, flagging electives that are completely booked
- b. Application Fees/Refunds Working Group
- i. National electives fee reimbursement policy
 1. Currently exploring different models of reimbursement via the AFMC Working Group on Application Fees and Refunds
 2. Based on conversations from most recent meeting, most likely will
 - ii. Decreasing the electives application window to 24 weeks in advance of elective start date
- c. Electives Business Network
- i. Discussed means of improving electives response time. Specific changes brought up for further deliberation:
 1. An automatic 7-day cancellation for electives that are offered but not accepted by a student
 2. Capping the number of concurrent applications students may submit for a given period
 3. Piloting automatic home school verification process to streamline elective confirmation process
 - ii. Tool for anonymous reporting of violation of policies listed in the school profiles (e.g. securing electives outside the portal)
 - iii. Explore how the portal may be leveraged to enforce the AFMC electives diversification policy
 - iv. Ensuring a special designation for previously unmatched students to allow them to apply for electives sooner without severely compromising elective opportunities for current-year students
- d. Future of Admissions in Canada Think Tank
- i. Provided feedback on AFMC position paper on diversity, equity, and inclusivity
 - ii. Discussion on the following topics in medical school admission:
 1. Central Application Service (similar to OMSAS) with goal of decreasing costs of medical school application
 2. Use of co-efficients/ multipliers in the admission process to admit more students from disadvantaged backgrounds and under-represented groups
 3. Re-examining markers used in medical school admission: GPA, MCAT score thresholds
 4. How best to link medical school applicant, matriculant, and graduate data with a common identifier to analyze how students from different demographic groups fare
 - iii. Finalized a paper that is set to be presented at AMEE
- e. Entry Routes Working Group
- i. Discussion about decreasing the number of direct-entry route disciplines offered via the CaRMS R-1 main residency match to graduating medical students, and alternatives
 - ii. Completed report that was distributed to PGME
 - iii. Work of this group has been transferred to PG Governance Council as that venue is best suited to discuss the implementation of the various possible solutions
 - iv. Creation of Entry Routes Task Force to address actionable items that are proposed from

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PG GC

5. Canadian Residency Matching Service (CaRMS)

- a. Application Review Committee
 - i. Met with committee to address online application concerns and improvements
 - ii. Developed 4 priority ideas to implement:
 1. Notification of program description changes by PDs to students in a timely manner
 2. Tracking progress of document uploads on CaRMS and placing space holders so students know which documents are needed for each program rather than confirming back with program descriptions
 3. Making bilingual platform more accessible and accurate
 4. Providing additional word processing options for personal letter section
- b. Best Practices in Applications and Selection
 - i. Implemented new R-1 main residency match program description template with more details on selection criteria
 - ii. Collaborating with PGME and program directors to ensure selection criteria sections are complete and thorough
 - iii. Will utilize example program descriptions that are superior to identify as model examples for other programs
- c. Interview Communications Tool
 - i. Implemented for R-1 residency match 2019-2020
 - ii. Will monitor outcomes and liaise with programs to see if there are any concerns/items needing to be troubleshooted
- d. Joint Match Violations Policy Committee
 - i. Provided feedback on revision of the match violations policy, advocating for more accountability by programs
 - ii. Currently discussing financial repercussions by programs that violate match contracts

6. Royal College

- a. Committee on Specialty Education
 - i. Ongoing conversation with the Entry Routes Working Group co-led by the AFMC and Resident Doctors of Canada
 - ii. Supported Royal College decision to create working group to examine how Indigenous health teaching may better be integrated into all post-graduate education programs

7. Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS)

- a. Consultation Group
 - i. Member of consultation group that is tasked with exploring some of the challenges to the medical schools posed by the accreditation elements, documents and processes and to possibly find efficiencies and solutions
- b. Implementation of ISA suggested changes
 - i. Collaborating to implement the suggestions outlined by the work of last year's Accreditation File Lead, Cynthia Min

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8. Medical Council of Canada (MCC)

- a. Represented by Victoria Januszkiewicz, who is the CFMS MCC Representative
- b. Overall, continuing advocacy to decrease fees/cost of completing MCC examinations for medical students
- c. Collaborating with Global Health portfolio, specifically HEART, in the creation of objectives regarding climate change and its impacts on health into UGME
 - i. Initial draft of objectives created and circulated to FMEQ for review
- d. Working with MCC regarding concerns that have arisen due to COVID-19 pandemic

9. Canadian Medical Association (CMA)

- a. Participated in introductory conference call regarding Education section of task force on Virtual Care
- b. Drafted sections of report regarding Education component of virtual care that was sent to task force for integration into overall report
- c. Virtual Care Task Force Report has been published by CMA

10. Other Projects

- a. Match Supports
 - i. Collaborating with SA portfolio to house supports for students entering residency match in one location on website
 - ii. Improved access of resources and updated website layout to ensure ease of access
 - iii. Assisting uCMG File Leads in the recruitment and implementation of the Peer Support Network for students that may go unmatched
 - iv. Collaborating with MD Financial Management to ensure that \$150 reimbursement for unmatched students is secured and provided
- b. National Annual Survey
 - i. Creation of inaugural National Annual Survey, the aim of which is to survey the CFMS General Membership on key organizational issues
 - ii. Purpose will be to generate a report that will be utilized to assess the initiatives of the CFMS, but also to aid in advocacy with external organizations
 - iii. Goal is to have this initiative continue on an annual or bi-annual basis to collect data and generate reports for the CFMS

11. COVID-19 Updates

- a. Virtual Learning
 - i. Due to the effects of this pandemic, medical schools across the nation have transitioned pre-clerkship curricula to a virtual platform for learning
 - ii. We are working closely with representatives from each school to understand the effects of this transition and how best to support them
 - iii. This may lead to the creation of a position paper to highlight best practices when it comes to

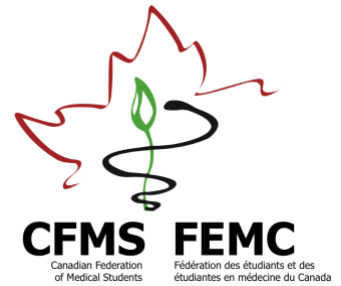
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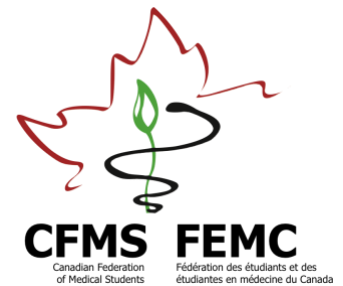


virtual learning and lessons learned from this experience to prepare for the future

- b. Effects on Clerkship
 - i. With the removal of medical students from clinical environments, all clerkships across the nation have been halted until further notice
 - ii. We are working closely with representatives from each medical school to determine how best to transition students back into the clinical environment
 - iii. We are also working closely with AFMC to determine how best to re-structure clerkship and ensure students achieve core competencies but also ensure they have sufficient time to pursue visiting electives
 - iv. Ongoing discussions are being had on a national level to determine the best next steps and when students are most safe to return to the clinical environment
- c. Visiting Electives
 - i. All visiting electives have been cancelled until further notice, this will also have significant impacts on students both from a career-planning perspective but also financially
 - ii. We are working closely with AFMC to ensure that students receive refunds
 - iii. As per latest communication, each school has implemented a refund measure to ensure students are not financially penalized as a result of all visiting electives being cancelled
- d. CaRMS Residency Match
 - i. With the delay to clerkships and the cancellation of visiting electives, there is a significant concern with regards to students applying for CaRMS in the 2020-2021 application cycle
 - ii. We are in communications with AFMC, CaRMS, and both UGME/PGME to determine the best solution moving forward
 - iii. There have been discussions about delaying the CaRMS timeline, but no final decision has been made and conversations are ongoing
- e. MCC Examinations
 - i. All examinations have been suspended until further notice (both LMCC Part 1 & 2)
 - ii. As a result, graduating medical students have lost their appointments and will have to complete the examination at a later date
 - iii. The CFMS is continually communicating and collaborating with MCC to determine feasible solutions
 - iv. We are advocating for there to be sufficient notice to students (at least 4 weeks), making practice resources more cost-friendly if not free, and also working on implementing a free re-write for students that do not pass the exam
 - v. We recognize that delaying the exam into residency will have its own challenges and we will work with PGME to advocate that students are given adequate support and time off to prepare for the examination

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II. NEXT STEPS/PLANS FOR YEAR

1. *Education Committee*

- a. Review/edit Matchbook with aim for publication in mid-July
- b. Continue to advise on Transition to Residency Guide in preparation for publication at AGM 2020
- c.

2. *National Annual Survey*

- a. Complete roundtable consultations & finalize survey
- b. Dissemination and promotion of survey to CFMS general membership

3. *AFMC*

- a. Portal Steering Committee
 - i. Continue to work on improvements to AFMC Portal
 - ii. Provide feedback on Automatic Home School Verification Process
- b. Electives Network
 - i. COVID-19 effects & changes to electives
- c. Fees/Refunds WG
 - i. Established current method of refunds, work to improve implementation
 - ii. Collaborate with UG Deans to advance initiative to remove elective fees altogether

4. *CaRMS*

- a. Application Review Committee
 - i. Ongoing discussions regarding MINC
 - ii. Improving online platform for students, continuing to advocate for student needs
- b. Interview Communication Tool
 - i. Provide feedback on implementation of tool

5. *Royal College*

- a. Specialty Videos
 - i. Collaborate on creation of specialty videos to help educate students on specialties that do not have significant exposure in medical school
 - ii. Will collaborate with FMEQ to design blueprint for videos

6. *COVID-19*

- a. Collaborate with local medical societies to improve transition to virtual learning
- b. Consult students to determine lessons to be learned from this transition to improve virtual learning processes in the future
- c. Continue to work towards ensuring students return to clinical duties in a timely and safe manner

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- d. Continue to work with external organizations (AFMC, CaRMS, MCC) to ensure that the effects of the pandemic on students are mitigated and reasonable solutions are developed to address the changes to medical education/residency match/graduation on students

III. MEETINGS ATTENDED

Meetings listed below are those that fall within the purview of the Director of Education portfolio.

Date	Meeting	Location
Oct 6, 2019	Academic Roundtable Meeting	Teleconference
Oct 6, 2019	Ontario Regional Director Transition Meeting w/ Debbie Brace (outgoing ORD), Felipe Fajardo & Avrilynn Ding (incoming ORD)	Teleconference
Oct 7, 2019	AFMC Working Group Meeting w/ AFMC Working Group members	Teleconference
Oct 8, 2019	CaRMS Interview Communication Tool WG Meeting	Teleconference
Oct 15, 2019	AFMC Electives Network Meeting	Teleconference
Oct 15, 2019	AFMC Portal Steering Committee Meeting	Teleconference
Oct 15, 2019	ARMC Definitions Meeting	Teleconference
Oct 20, 2019	Call w/ Victor Do (President)	Teleconference
Oct 20, 2019	CFMS Board Teleconference	Teleconference
Oct 25, 2019	CaRMS Application Review Committee Meeting	Ottawa, ON
Oct 25 - Oct 27, 2019	CFMS FBM	Ottawa, ON
Oct 28, 2019	CFMS Education Portfolio Strategic Meeting w/ Avrilynn Ding (Ed Attaché) & Alex Cohen (NOE)	Teleconference
Oct 29, 2019	ARMC Definitions Meeting	Teleconference
Nov 3, 2019	EdComm – Matchbook File Lead Onboarding	Teleconference
Nov 3, 2019	EdComm – Tech & Innovation File Lead Onboarding	Teleconference
Nov 3, 2019	EdComm – CITAC File Lead Onboarding	Teleconference
Nov 3, 2019	Academic Roundtable Meeting	Teleconference
Nov 4, 2019	EdComm – Choosing Wisely File Lead Onboarding	Teleconference
Nov 7, 2019	EdComm – Policy Liaison File Lead Onboarding	Teleconference
Nov 7, 2019	EdComm – CBME File Lead Onboarding	Teleconference
Nov 7, 2019	EdComm – uCMG File Lead Onboarding	Teleconference
Nov 10, 2019	EdComm – IPE File Lead Onboarding	Teleconference

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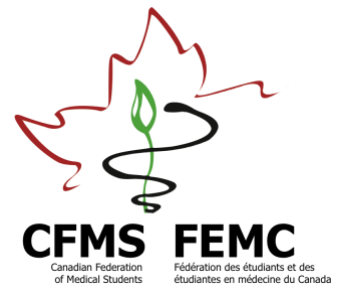
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Nov 10, 2019	EdComm – Accreditation File Lead Onboarding	Teleconference
Nov 22, 2019	CaRMS Learner Meeting	Ottawa, ON
Nov 25, 2019	CFMS Research Committee Strategic Planning Meeting w/ Avri Lynn Ding (Ed Attaché), Lia Huo (NOR Sr.) & Eagan Peters (NOR Jr.)	Teleconference
Nov 25, 2019	MCC Strategic Planning Call w/ Victor Do (President), Avri Lynn Ding (Ed Attaché) & Victoria Januszkiewicz (MCC Representative)	Teleconference
Nov 28, 2019	CaRMS Members Meeting	Teleconference
Dec 1, 2019	Academic Roundtable Meeting	Teleconference
Dec 1, 2019	CFMS Education Portfolio Strategic Meeting w/ Avri Lynn Ding (Ed Attaché) & Alex Cohen (NOE)	Teleconference
Dec 12, 2019	Board Check-In w/ Victor Do (President)	Teleconference
Dec 15, 2019	CFMS Board Teleconference	Teleconference
Dec 15, 2019	CFMS Education Committee Teleconference	Teleconference
Dec 17, 2019	Entry Routes Working Group Teleconference	Teleconference
Dec 20, 2019	Future Admissions of Canada Think Tank (FACTT) TC	Teleconference
Jan 3 - Jan 5, 2020	CFMS Winter Board Meeting	Toronto, ON
Jan 10, 2020	Match Communications w/ AFMC	Teleconference
Jan 12, 2020	Academic Roundtable Meeting	Teleconference
Jan 14, 2020	AFMC Portal Steering Committee Meeting	Teleconference
Jan 17, 2020	CaRMS Application Review Committee Executive Committee Meeting	Teleconference
Jan 21, 2020	AFMC Application Fees/Refunds WG Meeting	Teleconference
Feb 12-13, 2020	FACTT Meeting	Ottawa, ON
Mar 8, 2020	Academic Roundtable Meeting	Teleconference
Mar 9, 2020	Royal College Specialty Video Meeting w/ Dr. Ken Harris	Teleconference
Mar 13, 2020	CaRMS Application Review Committee Executive Committee Meeting	Teleconference
Mar 15, 2020	CFMS Board Teleconference	Teleconference
Apr 3, 2020	CFMS Education Portfolio Strategic Meeting w/ Avri Lynn Ding (Ed Attaché)	Teleconference
Apr 6, 2020	CFMS Education Portfolio Check-In w/ Victor Do	Teleconference

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V. CONCLUSIONS

I am incredibly honoured and humbled to serve as the CFMS Director of Education. The Education portfolio is vast in scope and filled with many advocacy initiatives for medical students. I am proud to represent the medical student perspective on a national stage and continue to improve the medical education experience for each Canadian medical student. I could not be doing this without the excellent support of the Education portfolio team. Firstly, Avri Lynn Ding has been instrumental as the attaché to the Education portfolio and brings her vast experience to the table. Alex Cohen, our National Officer of Education, has been very organized and ensures that ART & the Education Committee are functioning effectively. Lia Huo and Eagan Peters, our National Officer of Research Sr. & Jr. respectively, have really hit the ground running with several key initiatives to help support students interested in conducting research.

Significant changes have occurred to the medical education system as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The CFMS will continue to advocate for student needs and collaborate with the various key stakeholders to ensure that student-prioritized solutions are devised and implemented. We recognize this disruption has long-lasting impacts and a significant effort will be made to ensure that both short-term and long-term implications are taken into consideration.

Lastly, I would also like to thank my fellow board members, who continue to inspire me and motivate me to become a stronger student leader. It has definitely been an unconventional year for us board members with a pandemic, but I am sure we will persevere. I look forward to all that we will accomplish in the coming months!

Rishi Sharma, BSc, MSc
MD Candidate - Class of 2020
Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine, McMaster University
Director of Education – Canadian Federation of Medical Students
T: 226-972-1126 | E: education@cfms.org