

## **EXECUTIVE REPORT**

*Avrilynn Ding & Felipe Fajardo, CFMS Ontario Regional Directors  
2020 Spring General Meeting  
April 16-19<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Vancouver, BC*



### **DESCRIPTION**

The Ontario Regional Directors of the CFMS represent medical schools and students of Ontario on the Board and are cross-appointed in the CFMS Dyad governance model. In practice, the Ontario Regional Directors serve as liaisons between the Board and the Ontario Medical Student Association, as well as medical society representatives and presidents of each medical school in Ontario: the University of Toronto, University of Ottawa, McMaster University, Queen's University, Western University, and Northern Ontario School of Medicine. Felipe Fajardo is cross-appointed with the Global Health portfolio. Avrilynn Ding is cross-appointed with the Education portfolio.

### **I. ACTIVITIES OF ONTARIO REGIONAL DIRECTORS**

#### ***1. Nominations Committee***

- a. Completed fall and winter nomination committee calls for Dyad portfolios.
- b. Submitted positions to the spring nomination committee for Dyad portfolios, applications to be released on April 20th, 2020.

#### ***2. Meeting with Ontario Schools***

- a. All Ontario medical societies were interviewed and consulted over the course of the year. Each was given the opportunity to voice their concerns and barriers to engaging with the CFMS. Issues discussed with each school included student wellness, barriers to participating and engaging with the CFMS, and specific school priorities within the larger portfolios such as Global Health, Governmental Affairs and Advocacy, Communications, Education, and Student Affairs
- b. During the second half of our term, we were unable to meet with the individual Med Socs due to COVID-19, however we attended meetings with the Ontario Med Soc Presidents

#### ***3. Ontario Medical Students Association (OMSA)***

- a. Attended each OMSA Board meeting representing CFMS, providing CFMS updates, national perspective on discussions, and liaising with the OMSA Executive Committee.
- b. Wrote a joint letter to the Council of Ontario Faculties of Medicine (COFM) with the OMSA Director of Education, sent to COFM's Undergraduate Education (UE) committee on April 3rd, 2020. Letter requested greater student representation at the Ontario UE Dean's meetings, including the invitation of one Ontario Regional Director as a CFMS representative to the COFM Undergraduate Education committee.
- c. Working with the OMSA Education Committee on a policy paper outlining best practices for preceptors to support the wellness of clinical clerks. Aim to present paper at 2021 SGM.
- d. Attended the Ontario Medical Student Weekend (OMSW). The Ontario Student Medical Education Research Conference (OSMERC) was canceled, and OMSA Day of Action was postponed until further notice due to COVID-19.

#### ***4. Royal College Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) 3 Meeting***

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- a. Represented Ontario medical students to the Royal College in Nov. 2019 with plans to attend the second meeting in May 2020. Discussed engagement with medical students by the Royal College and proposed the creation of a Medical Student Section to aid in the engagement and voice of medical students within the Royal College. As well, we learned about CBME initiatives/feedback, and how the Royal College is working on tackling climate change.
- b. Next RAC 3 Meeting will be virtual, being scheduled for May 27th or 28th, 2020.

### **5. 2020 Annual General Meeting**

- a. 2020 AGM will be held at Western University in London, Ontario September 18-20, 2020.
- b. Liaising between CFMS Board/administration and Representatives from Western University to organize AGM.

### **6. Strategic Innovation Grant**

- a. Assisted in the call for SIG for the year 2019-2020 SIG application rounds
- b. The applications closed on February 11th, and the successful applicants have been contacted

### **7. Travel Awards**

- a. Scored applications for the 2020 Day of Action travel awards, selecting 2 winners from Ontario and nominating 1 applicant for the Wild Card.
- b. Scored applications for the 2020 SGM MD Financial Travel Award, selecting 2 winners from Ontario.

### **8. COVID-19 Updates**

- a. Have not been able to meet with each Med Soc during the second half of the year due to the COVID-19 pandemic; attending bi-weekly Ontario Presidents' meetings to provide national perspective and understand Ontario schools' concerns
- b. Relay CFMS resources and updates to Ontario medical schools through OMSA meetings and direct dissemination to Presidents and VP External

### **9. Next Steps**

- a. Continue attending Ontario Presidents' meetings and plan to meet with individual Med Socs prior to AGM 2020
- b. Continue attending OMSA Board meetings and liaising between the CFMS Board and OMSA Executive
- c. Advance collaborations with OMSA
  - i. Follow up on letter submitted to COFM UE; if successful will attend the Full COFM UE meeting in May 2020
  - ii. Recruit and continue supporting authors of the policy paper on preceptor best practices for promoting student wellness
- d. Meet with new OMSA Chair and Co-chair following elections at the OMSA AGM to discuss an informal MOU

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## II. ACTIVITIES OF THE GLOBAL HEALTH ATTACHE - FELIPE FAJARDO

### 1. *Global Health Roundtable (GHRT) Chair*

- i. In prior years, there were three GHRT Meetings which did not allow for significant communication between the GHLs. We have increased the number of GHRTs to bi-monthly, with the hopes of making them monthly to improve communication and collaboration across the country
- ii. We updated the ToR for the GHRT to emphasize the importance of attendance, of frequent meetings, and of engagement of both GHL Jrs. and Srs.
- iii. Chaired five meetings allowing for students to discuss the different work occurring across the country
- iv. Created a Week of Education to complement the Day of Action and engage students nationwide of the DoA topic, this year being Universal Access to Contraception
- v. Will use the GHRT to receive information for the National Advocacy Project Database, in particular for global health-related projects

### 2. *IFMSA Regional Meeting Attendee*

- i. In Curitiba, Brazil
- ii. Representatives of different national medical societies from across the Americas were represented to discuss various concerns from global health topics, to capacity building and advocacy

### 3. *Indigenous Health Exploratory Working Group*

- i. Have met to discuss a timeline for properly looking into how to best increase Indigenous Representation within the CFMS
- ii. Are tasked to operate for 6 months with a possible extension

### 4. *Indigenous Week of Action*

- i. Have organized an Indigenous Week of Action, wherein we will assist in the organization of local students to discuss the AFMC Joint Commitment to Action on Indigenous Health and advocate for their implementation by schools
- ii. This Week of Action was postponed given the COVID Pandemic, although it is ready to go

### 5. *Restructuring of the GH Portfolio*

- i. In discussion with the Director, we have come up with ways to restructure the Portfolio to help make the Portfolio more straightforward and centrally organized
  1. NOP - As Officer of Partnerships, this NO will be given greater responsibility in IFMSA relations. To achieve this, we have made the Attaché the official Chair for the GHRT, as well as removing the Communications responsibilities for the NOP and having communications be fully managed by the GH Communications Assistant

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2. GHRT - Updated the ToR for more frequent meetings and updated responsibilities for the GHs
3. Indigenous Health - The Exploratory Working Group is assessing the best way to improve Indigenous Representation in the CFMS as well as Indigenous Health
4. HEART - For next year to look at how to improve communication/collaboration within the GH Portfolio

### **6. Day of Action Database & Advocacy Projects**

- i. Created a Google Form for both Day of Actions and Nation-wide Advocacy Projects that was given to VP GA to disseminate amongst the GAACs
- ii. Will also distribute the Nation-Wide Advocacy Projects amongst GHRT to receive those advocacy projects as well
- iii. Have communicated with Communications to set a timeline for release of this database at AGM 2020

### **7. COVID-19 Updates**

- i. The Indigenous Week of Action was delayed given the pandemic, however all of the resources are ready for an appropriate time
- ii. All IFMSA Exchanges up to August have been cancelled (incoming and outgoing). Students have been refunded.
- iii. No medical student will be representing the CMFS at the IFMSA August 2020 General Meeting

### **8. Next Steps**

- i. The Global Health Attaché will continue to work with the Director of Global Health to provide assistance in the Portfolio where it is most needed
  1. The role of the GH Attaché is not circumscribed which allows for room to assist in different areas within the portfolio as needed
  2. Act as the Chair of the Global Health Roundtable
  3. Assist in the Fall/Winter/Spring/Summer Nom Com
- ii. General Priorities for Global Health include:
  1. Explore Indigenous Representation at the CFMS
  2. Increase advocacy for Indigenous Health
  3. Increased CFMS collaboration with external organizations including IFMSA
  4. Increased GH collaboration with internal CFMS Portfolios
    - a. This is notable in our collaboration with GA in the Day of Education
    - b. Collaboration with Communications through our GH Communications Assistant
  5. Increase General Member Engagement with GH
  6. Improved organization and structuring of GH

## **III. ACTIVITIES OF EDUCATION ATTACHE - AVRILYNN DING**

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### **1. Chair of Academic Roundtable (ART)**

- a. Co-chaired with the National Officer of Education (NOE), Alex Cohen.
- b. ART occurs every 1st Sunday of the month.
- c. ART Google Drive Folder can be found [here](#), which includes all minutes from meetings this year and surveys.
- d. The purpose of this roundtable is to provide a platform for VP Academics/Education from the various member schools to communicate with one another and the CFMS. Member schools use this forum to survey other schools on particular topics to guide their advocacy efforts at their home schools. Additionally, it is also an opportunity for the CFMS to update the various schools on national education related initiatives as well as gather feedback from the schools regarding major changes in the education portfolio.
- e. Some key discussion points included curriculum and assessments during COVID-19, career planning supports, CaRMS profiles for BPAS, wellness curriculum, etc.
- f. Guided discussions and informed representatives of updates from the CFMS Board.
- g. Recruited VP Academics/Education to sit on the Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF) Task Force and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity (EDI) Task Force.

### **2. Education Committee**

- a. Collaborated with the Director of Education, Rishi Sharma, to select new file leads for the 2019-2020 Education Committee:
  - i. Accreditation – Nilasha Thayalan
  - ii. uCMG – Lucas King & Nathan Baron
  - iii. CBME – Daniel Lu & Irene Zivkovic
  - iv. Matchbook – Chloe Lim & Adree Khondker
  - v. Policy Liaison – Vivesh Patel & Takhliq Amir
  - vi. IPE – Kathleen MacMillan & Gladys Bruyninx
  - vii. Tech & Innovation – Vinyas Harish
- b. 2019-2020 Education Committee Ex Officio members:
  - i. Choosing Wisely – Ethan Zhang
  - ii. CITAC – Cory Lefebvre
- c. Collaborating with the Director of Education to create work plans for each file that outline key initiatives aligning with Education portfolio's strategic goals, and optimize work plans throughout the year
- d. Collaborating with the NOE to set up and advance file projects
- e. The main initiatives of file leads and Ex Officio members 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 Unmatched Scenario section for Matchbook, update backgrounder for mini Day of Action following CaRMS R1 Match iterations
  - iii. Competency Based Medical Education – create a new Transition to Residency Guide
  - iv. Matchbook – update and re-design Matchbook 2019-2020

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- v. Policy Liaison – review Education position papers from past 15 years and action items needing to be addressed, collaborate with NOHP to update Advocacy Tracker, assist with position papers 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
- f. Education Communications Liaison: Connect the Education portfolio with the Communications Team to accomplish tasks related to publishing on the CFMS website, posting on social media, and the Communiqué

### 3. *Research Committee*

- a. Collaborating with National Officers of Research (NORs) and Director of Education to advance the research direction and initiatives of the CFMS
- b. Research Committee consists of:
  - i. NOR Sr. - Lia Huo
  - ii. NOR Jr. - Eagan Peters
  - iii. Research Committee Members - David Li, Caleb Sypkes, Margaret Sun
- c. Current tasks include:
  - i. Research Podcast Series
  - ii. Research Spotlights
  - iii. Publication of infographics on research methods for medical students
  - iv. Research scholarships for medical students database

### 4. *Representation to External Organizations*

- a. AFMC Electives Business Network
  - i. Advance steps to improve electives response time, enforce the AFMC electives diversification policy, and facilitate electives for unmatched students
- b. AFMC Response to Opioids Transition Advisory Committee
  - i. Provide feedback on the development and implementation of a nationwide curriculum for pain and substance use/addiction for medical students, residents, and physicians
  - ii. Promote modules and other resources to medical students
- c. AFMC Student Questionnaire
  - i. Provide feedback for the creation of the pre-clerkship survey
  - ii. Protect student interests including confidentiality and survey length
- d. CaRMS Application Review Committee
  - i. Continue to advocate against mandatory MINCs on CaRMS applications
  - ii. Improve online platform for students

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- e. Royal College
  - i. Work with the Royal College to create a Medical Students section and increase engagement of medical students
  - ii. Collaborate with FMEQ to plan videos of specialties that medical students have little exposure to

### **5. Other Projects**

- a. Match Response
  - i. Collaborating with the uCMG file leads and Student Affairs portfolio to compile supports and resources for unmatched students
  - ii. Collaborated with Communications to update the CFMS website and promote supports to students
- b. National Annual Survey
  - i. Collaborating with the Director of Education to create the inaugural National Annual Survey to survey the CFMS general membership
  - ii. The purpose is to collect data to generate a report on CFMS initiatives and for use in advocacy to external organizations

### **6. COVID-19 Updates**

- a. Virtual learning: Canadian medical schools transitioned pre-clerkship curriculum to a virtual platform
  - i. Discussing creation of a position paper to outline best practices learned from this experience
  - ii. Support schools in the transition and advocating for interests of students
- b. Clerkship: All clerks removed from clinical environments
  - i. We are working closely with the AFMC to determine how clerkship should best be restructured and when students can safely resume clinical duties
- c. Visiting electives: All visiting electives are currently canceled and the AFMC Student Portal closed until further notice
  - i. The status of visiting electives are tied to CaRMS discussions (see below)
- d. CaRMS R1 Residency Match: Due to disruptions of clerkship, there is significant concern regarding the 2020-2021 application cycle
  - i. We are in ongoing conversations with AFMC, CaRMS, UGME, and PGME on various issues including the 2021 CaRMS timeline, the 2021 CaRMS interview process, and application requirements
- e. MCC Examinations
  - i. All examinations have been suspended until further notice
  - ii. We are working with MCC to advocate for sufficient notice to students and reducing cost for students
  - iii. If exams are delayed into residency, we will work with PGME to advocate for adequate support/accommodations for exam preparation and writing

### **7. Next Steps**

- a. Meet milestones for Education and Research Committee projects, among them:



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- i. Publication of the Matchbook in mid-July
- ii. Publication of the Transition to Residency Guide prior to AGM 2020
- iii. Position papers on IPE and AI in UGME for presentation at AGM 2020
- iv. Medical research studentships database posted by end of August
- b. Finalize the National Survey, disseminate and promote to the CFMS general membership
- c. Continue working with the Director of Education and President to advocate for the interests of medical students in changes to medical education and CaRMS in the setting of COVID-19

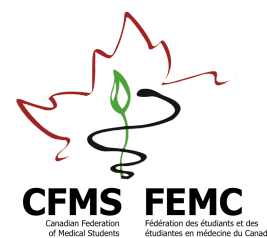
## IV. MEETINGS ATTENDED

Date	Meeting	Location
Sept 27- Sept 28, 2019	Ontario Medical Students' Weekend	Avrilynn
Oct 4, 2019	TC Planning for Ontario Director roles	Both
Oct 6, 2019	Ontario Regional Director Transition Meeting w/ Debbie Brace and Rishi Sharma (outgoing ORDs)	Both
Oct 6, 2019	TC with Dir of GH, Achieng	Felipe
Oct 9, 2019	TC with NOP for GHRT	Felipe
Oct 10, 2019	GH TC Meeting with NOs #1	Felipe
Oct 19, 2019	OMSA Meeting #3	Felipe
Oct 20, 2019	CFMS On-board TC with Victor Do	Avrilynn
Oct 20, 2019	CFMS Board TC #1	Both
Oct 23, 2019	GHRT TC #1	Felipe
Oct 25-27, 2019	CFMS FBM	Both
Oct 28, 2019	Meeting with NOE	Avrilynn
Nov 3, 2019	Education Committee On-board TC Meetings: Matchbook, Tech Innovation, CITAC	Avrilynn
Nov 3, 2019	ART TC #2	Avrilynn
Nov 4, 2019	Education Committee On-board TC Meeting: Choosing Wisely	Avrilynn
Nov 7, 2019	Education Committee On-board TC Meetings: Policy	Avrilynn



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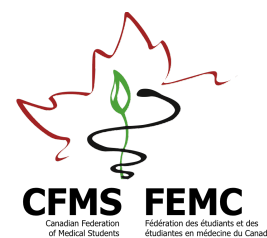
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	Liaison, uCMG, CBME	
Nov 10, 2019	Education Committee On-board TC Meetings: IPE, Accreditation	Avrilynn
Nov 12, 2019	GH National Officer TC #2	Felipe
Nov 21, 2019	CFMS CaRMS Strategy TC with Victor Do and Rishi Sharma	Avrilynn
Nov 22, 2019	OMSA Meeting #4	Felipe
Nov 24, 2019	GAAC TC Meeting for DoA Database	Felipe
Nov 24, 2019	Regional Directors TC	Both
Nov 24, 2019	CFMS Board TC #2	Both
Nov 25, 2019	CFMS Discussion of MCC issues TC	Avrilynn
Nov 26, 2019	McMaster Med Soc Meeting #1	Felipe
Nov 26, 2019	GHRT TC #2	Felipe
Nov 28, 2019	RAC3 Meeting #1	Felipe
Nov 28, 2019	CaRMS Members' Annual Meeting	Avrilynn
Nov 30, 2019	NOSM Med Soc Meeting #1	Felipe
Dec 1, 2019	ART TC #3	Avrilynn
Dec 2, 2019	Ontario Medical Association Insurance TC	Both
Dec 4, 2019	Indigenous Health Exploratory WG TC #1	Felipe
Dec 11, 2019	Queen's Med Soc Meeting #1	Avrilynn
Dec 15, 2019	CFMS Ontario Director and Education Attaché Check-in with Victor Do TC	Avrilynn
Dec 15, 2019	CFMS GH Attaché & Portfolio Check-In with Victor Do	Felipe
Dec 15, 2019	CFMS Board TC #3	Both
Dec 15, 2019	Education Committee TC	Avrilynn

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Dec 20, 2019	Future of Admissions in Canada Think Tank (FACTT) TC	Avrilynn
Jan 4-5, 2019	CFMS WBM	Both
Jan 5, 2020	OMSA Meeting #5	Avrilynn
Jan 6-10, 2020	IFMSA Americas' Regional Meeting	Felipe
Jan 9, 2020	Research Committee TC	Avrilynn
Jan 10, 2020	Match Communications with AFMC TC	Avrilynn
Jan 12, 2020	ART TC #4	Avrilynn
Jan 20, 2020	GHL TC #3	Felipe
Jan 21, 2020	UOttawa Med Soc Meeting #1 TC	Avrilynn
Feb 9, 2020	ART TC #5	Avrilynn
Feb 10, 2020	GHL TC #4	Felipe
Feb 12, 2020	GH National Officer TC # 3	Felipe
Feb 16, 2020	CFMS Board TC #4	Both
Feb 21, 2020	AFMC Response to Opioid Crisis Transition Advisory Committee TC	Avrilynn
Feb 29, 2020	Indigenous Health Exploratory WG Chair TC	Felipe
Mar 3, 2020	Royal College TC - Indigenous Health Collaboration	Felipe
Mar 8, 2020	GHL TC #5	Felipe
Mar 8, 2020	ART TC #6	Avrilynn
Mar 15, 2020	CFMS Board TC #5	Both
Mar 17, 2020	TC with OMSA Chair and Education Committee	Avrilynn
Mar 19, 2020	Ontario Med Soc Presidents Meeting TC #1	Felipe
Mar 21, 2020	GH National Officer TC # 4	Felipe
Mar 28, 2020	GH/IFMSA Restructuring Meeting	Felipe

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Mar 29, 2020	Ontario Med Soc Presidents Meeting TC #2	Felipe
Mar 29, 2020	OMSA Meeting #7	Avrilynn
Apr 2, 2020	Meeting with OMSA Dir of Ed	Both
Apr 3, 2020	CFMS Education Portfolio Strategic Meeting with Rishi Sharma	Avrilynn
Apr 5, 2020	CFMS GH Attaché Portfolio Check-In with Victor Do	Felipe
Apr 5, 2020	CFMS Board TC #6	Both
Apr 6, 2020	CFMS Education Portfolio Check-In with Victor Do	Avrilynn
Apr 11, 2020	Ontario Med Soc Presidents Meeting TC #3	Felipe
Apr 12, 2020	Indigenous Health Exploratory WG TC #2	Felipe
Apr 13, 2020	GHL TC #6	Felipe

## V. REFLECTIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

The first half of the year has been an incredible journey. From meeting and working with amazing student leaders across Ontario, to the goals we accomplished in our Dyad models, we have been humbled and feel honoured to have the opportunity to serve as Ontario Regional Directors. We are proud to have strengthened CFMS's collaboration with OMSA through our joint endeavours of advocating to increase student representation on COFM and improving medical student wellness. Thank you in particular to Debbie Brace (OMSA Chair), Sharon Yeung (OMSA Co-Chair), and Victoria McKinnon (OMSA Director of Education) for sharing our vision and making this possible. We will continue striving to improve our connection with Ontario medical students, and to inform them of the amazing resources and opportunities from CFMS.

Within Global Health, I (Felipe) have been fortunate enough to work with the wonderful GHRT in discussing the particularities of global health advocacy across the country, and increasing collaboration across the country. The GHRT has taken on new projects, in providing a complement to the CFMS Day of Action with the GH Day of Education. As well, there has been increased communication and collaboration within the GHRT with a greater frequency of teleconferences and opportunities to communicate. There has been increased activity within the Indigenous section of Global Health, and we will continue to work on assessing how the CFMS can best address Indigenous health and representation. Currently, we are waiting to host an Indigenous Week of Action to advocate to medical schools to follow the AFMC Joint Commitment to Action on Indigenous Health. As well, representing Canada at the IFMSA in Brazil was an incredible opportunity that allowed me to participate in high-level discussion

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surrounding organization, capacity building, and advocacy potential for countries within the region., as well as collaboration opportunities.

Within Education, I (Avrilynn) am continually inspired by the passion, engagement, and work ethic of the members of ART and our Education Portfolio. In addition to advancing the projects undertaken by the Education and Research Committees, I look forward to advancing our efforts to advocate for policy change relevant to uCMGs, improve the AFMC Electives Portal, and release the inaugural CFMS Annual National Survey to empower CFMS's representation. The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in significant disruptions to our medical education, for which the CFMS will continue to ensure medical student interests are protected in the development and implementation of solutions. None of this work would be possible without the phenomenal Education team. Alex Cohen, our National Officer of Education keeps ART and the Education Committee running smoothly with her top-notch organization. Lia Huo and Eagan Peters, our National Officers of Research Sr. and Jr. have driven many new initiatives to support and encourage medical student research. I would like to thank Rishi Sharma, our Director of Education, for his constant support and mentorship, and Victor Do, our President, for pushing me to think bigger as a student leader.

Lastly, we are grateful to our fellow Board members for their support throughout this year, and whose dedication motivates us to tackle and embrace our own work as Ontario Regional Directors and Attachés. We look forward to all that we will accomplish!

Sincerely,

**Avrilynn Ding & Felipe Fajardo**

Medical Student | Queens University & McMaster University

Ontario Regional Directors | Directrice Régionale/Directeur Régional de l'Ontario

Canadian Federation of Medical Students | Fédération des étudiants et des étudiantes en médecine du Canada

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