

EXECUTIVE REPORT

*Wendy Yao, CFMS Director of Global Health
2021 Spring General Meeting
April 17-18, 2021*



1. Description and Introduction:

The Canadian Federation of Medical Students (CFMS) is the representative voice of Canadian medical students to the national medical organizations, to the federal government, to the public, and to other external bodies. The CFMS represents over 8,000 medical students at 15 Canadian medical schools from coast to coast. It is the mission of CFMS to represent, support, and connect its members. CFMS aims to communicate within its membership, as well as from its membership, to the world at large. As an ever-expanding organization, CFMS continually strives to meet the consistent and changing needs of Canadian medical students.

The CFMS Director of Global Health is responsible for overseeing global health projects that develop at a national level via National Officers, and supporting projects at the local level via Global Health Liaisons. The Director of Global Health is a liaison between these parties, as well as external persons and organizations such as the International Federation of Medical Students' Association (IFMSA). As per the CFMS bylaws, the Director of Global Health shall, in addition to the person's other duties within the Board, direct the delivery of the Global Health Program (GHP) and support the activities of the constituency on matters pertaining to global health, international development, and public health. I am pleased to discuss here the activities conducted within the Director of Global Health Portfolio for the term of 2020-2021.

2. Overseeing Global Portfolio

Traditionally, the national officers have been very independent in carrying out the great work being done in their respective portfolios. This year, due to the resignation of National Officers, much work was placed on hiatus. That being said, the portfolio maintained nimble in the times of virtual collaboration. The Health and Environment Adaptive Response Task Force (HEART), has been doing great work on climate change and health advocacy over the past year. For instance, the task force has partnered with Emerging Leaders for Environmental Sustainability in Healthcare (ELESH) and Healthy By Nature Canada to launch a social media campaign leading up to Earth Day to encourage medical students to engage in land-based healing and experience the restorative capacity of nature by taking and sharing photos of natural spaces. HEART has also strengthened the CFMS relationship with IFMSA-Quebec through our combined advocacy for climate change and health inclusion in the medical curriculum. The work of HEART was also highlighted at the IFMSA March Meeting 2021 as examples of how medical students can advocate for inclusion of climate change in the medical curriculum in their own countries.

3. Serving as CFMS NMO President to the IFMSA

CFMS has continued engagement with the IFMSA throughout my term as CFMS-Canada NMO President. My main responsibilities in this role are to participate with other National Member Organizations (NMOs) on the IFMSA server, and to represent CFMS to the International

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Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA). In this role, I led the CFMS delegation to the IFMSA March Meeting, where our delegation provided extremely valuable contributions on behalf of the CFMS, representing Canada in standing committees, activity fairs, and voting sessions for IFMSA executives. We worked closely with our IFMSA-Quebec colleagues to represent Canada on the international stage. If you have any questions regarding the events that transpired, please do not hesitate to reach out. Additionally, in previous years, CFMS-Canada has played a vital role in IFMSA Exchanges program, unfortunately, this was placed on hold due to the COVID19 pandemic. We will continue to liaise with IFMSA colleagues to discuss the feasibility of exchanges.

4. Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Work

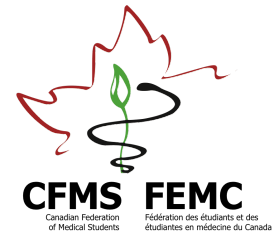
The CFMS is committed to doing better and re-examining processes to better reflect EDI and anti-racism principles. Over the past few months, I have been involved in facilitating discussions with the EDI Task Force and re-examining processes within the CFMS to promote these principles. We have been able to formulate an action plan moving forward for the incoming leadership based on the consultation process. We have also participated in town hall meetings to address membership's concerns and promote greater transparency within the system. At the current time, we are pending the results of formal investigation, but our ongoing EDI work is accessible on our website.

5. Selected Meetings Attended

Date	Meeting	Location
Jan 31st, 2021	Board meeting	Virtual
Feb 5th, 2021	Debrief meeting with CFMS President Henry Li	Virtual
Feb 20th, 2021	Board meeting	Virtual
Feb 23rd, 2021	EDI committee meeting	Virtual
Feb 24th, 2021	March Meeting Preparatory meeting	Virtual
Feb 26th, 2021	IFMSA March Meeting Plenary and Presidents' Session	Virtual
Feb 28th, 2021	IFMSA-Qc and CFMS Meeting	Virtual
Feb 28th, 2021	Board meeting	Virtual
Mar 2nd, 2021	Facilitated Town Hall	Virtual
Mar 5th, 2021	IFMSA March Meeting Plenary and Presidents' Session	Virtual
Mar 5th, 2021	Facilitated Town Hall	Virtual
Mar 6th, 2021	IFMSA March Meeting Plenary and Presidents' Session	Virtual
Mar 12th, 2021	IFMSA March Meeting	Virtual
March 28th, 2021	Board meeting	Virtual
Apr 11th, 2021	Board Meeting	Virtual

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6. Conclusion and Reflections

The Global Health Portfolio is one of great breadth and depth and it has been an honor to serve as Director of Global Health over the past few months. Coming into this position under the circumstances of a tumultuous year certainly brought unique challenges, but also has been a tremendous learning experience. I have been committed to championing equity, diversity, and inclusion processes at the CFMS and there are several promising initiatives currently in progress within this portfolio and I am excited to see the outcomes of these initiatives. I am particularly looking forward to the continued growth that occurs in the portfolio as my successor takes on the role.

Sincerely,

Wendy Yao

Class of 2021, University of Calgary
CFMS Director of Global Health

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

International Federation of Medical Students' Associations
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