

NATIONAL OFFICER REPORT

Angie Hu, National Officer of Research Exchange, Incoming
Theshani De Silva, National Officer of Research Exchange, Outgoing
Jamilia Skinner, National Exchange Officer, Incoming
2022 Spring General Meeting
April 21-24, Calgary AB



I. ACTIVITIES

National Officer & Committee Description:

The CFMS National Exchange Officers (NEOs) and National Officers of Research Exchanges (NOREs) are responsible for facilitating and managing both incoming and outgoing exchange opportunities through the International Federation of Medical Student (IFMSA) Exchange program. Exchange opportunities include clinical placements through the IFMSA Standing Committee on Professional Exchange (SCOPE) and research placements through the IFMSA Standing Committee on Research Exchange (SCORE). NEOs and NOREs collaborate with National Officers in IFMSA partner countries to develop exchange partnerships and work with Local Exchange Officers (LEOs) at CFMS-member schools to coordinate exchange programs at the local/university level. The Exchange Committee (EC) is composed of NEO/NOREs, LEOs, and other medical students interested in supporting the CFMS exchange program.

Exchange Updates as of April 2022:

The CFMS exchange program has been paused since 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since January 2022, the NEO/NOREs have been focusing on reviewing exchange policies and protocols, evaluating the status and operation of exchange programs in other IFMSA-member countries, and examining the feasibility of re-starting and running an exchange program during current global circumstances. Based on learnings so far, the exchange team aims to re-initiate the research exchanges for summer 2023.

The NEO/NOREs were in attendance for the IFMSA Americas Regional Meeting (January 2022) and IFMSA General Assembly (March 2022). The NEOs/NOREs attended the Exchange Fairs of both meetings, which showcased the exchange programs of different IFMSA-member countries. The Exchange Fairs also provided an opportunity to make contacts with National Officers from several countries. The contacts made and insights gained from the Exchange Fairs will facilitate the negotiation of exchange contracts in the coming months. The NEO/NOREs have met with previous NEO-Outgoing and NEO-Incomings for the transition of knowledge and resources. A meeting was held with members of the IFMSA SCORE International Team that provided the NEO/NOREs with training on IFMSA policies and procedures as well as guidance on the process of re-initiating research exchanges.

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Over the next few months, the NEO/NOREs will also be conducting a review of the 2021 SCOPEn Pals program (a virtual pen pals program that connects CFMS medical students to peers in different countries). Feedback from previous participants will be collected and integrated into a new model for the 2022 program.

How CFMS medical students can get involved:

The exchanges team will be recruiting members to join Exchange Task Forces focused on establishing contracts with IFMSA partner countries and reviewing the application process for exchange programs. Please reach out to the NEOs and NOREs for more information.

Additionally, if students are interested in being involved with coordinating exchanges at the local/university level, consider applying to become a LEO (the application process is dependent on each medical school).

II. MEETINGS ATTENDED

January 4 2022	IFMSA Overview Meeting	Online
January 5-9 2022	IFMSA Americas Regional Meeting	Online
January 7 2022	Global Health National Officer Meeting	Online
January 12 2022	Global Health National Officer Orientation	Online
January 19 2022	IFMSA AmRM Debrief Meeting with IFMSA Quebec	Online
January 24 2022	GH NO - Weekly Planning Meeting #2	Online
January 31 2022	GH NO - Weekly Planning Meeting #3	Online
February 7 2022	GH NO - Weekly Planning Meeting #4	Online
February 9 2022	Global Health National Officer Monthly Meeting	Online
February 12 2022	IFMSA Delegation Co-Leads Meeting	Online
February 15 2022	Exchanges Team Meeting	Online

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February 27 2022	IFMSA Delegation Co-Leads Meeting	Online
March 1st - 6th 2022	IFMSA General Assembly	Online
March 6 2022	Global Health National Officer Monthly Meeting	Online
March 22 2022	IFMSA General Assembly CFMS-Canada Debrief	Online
March 29 2022	Global Health National Officer Monthly Meeting	Online
March 30 2022	Exchanges Transition Meeting with Past NEO	Online
April 2 2022	Exchanges Meeting with SCORE RA AP	Online
April 4 2022	CFMS Spring General Meeting Discussion	Online
April 5 2022	Exchanges Transition Meeting with Past NEO	Online

III. CONCLUSIONS

Future Directions:

- Host discussions with LEOs to provide updates on the exchange program and integrate ideas and perspectives on the re-initiation of research exchanges
- Continue building and following up on contacts with NEO/NOREs in IFMSA-member countries in preparation for August 2022 exchange contract negotiations.
- Recruit Exchange Task Forces focused on establishing contracts with IFMSA partner countries and reviewing the application process for exchange programs.
- Collect feedback on the 2021 SCOPEn Pals program and integrate into a new model for the 2022 program

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