

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Khalidha Nasiri

Director of Global Health

2023 Spring General Meeting

April 14-15, 2023, Quebec City, Quebec



I. 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 9,000 medical students at 15 Canadian medical schools from coast to coast.

The CFMS Director of Global Health (Dir. GH) is responsible for advancing the global health interests of the CFMS primarily through:

1. representing CFMS medical students at International Federation of Medical Students' Association (IFMSA) meetings as NMO President and Head of Delegation, as well as to external persons and organizations, and
2. overseeing global health and international development projects that develop at a national and local level through the vast network of over 300 National Officers, Global Health Liaisons (GHLs), Local Officers, and committee members.

The Dir. GH oversees a leadership team consisting of the following members, each led by one or two National Officers or Coordinators. The first six (6) National Officers lead committees that parallel the Standing Committee structure within the IFMSA.

- National Officer of Human Rights and Peace (NORP)
- National Officer of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights including HIV/AIDS (NORSH)
- National Officer of Public Health (NOPH)
- National Exchanges Officer (NEO)
- National Officer of Research Exchange (NORE)
- National Officer of Global Health Education (NOGHE)
- National Officer of Indigenous Health (NOIH)
- National Officer of Partnerships (NOP)
- Health and Environment Adaptive Response Task Force (HEART) Co-Chairs
- IFMSA Coordinator
- Global Health Initiative Grant Coordinator

The Dir. GH shall, in addition to other duties within the Board, encourage and facilitate local global health activities at member schools. Occasionally, the Dir. GH will also represent the CFMS to various external committees and organizations as deemed necessary by the CFMS President.

I am pleased to discuss here the activities conducted within the Director of Global Health Portfolio for the term of 2022-2023 as of SGM 2023.

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROJECT AREAS

Specific events and activities:

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Khalidha Nasiri

Director of Global Health

2023 Spring General Meeting

April 14-15, 2023, Quebec City, Quebec



1. IFMSA August Meeting 2022 (IFMSA AM22)
 - a. Attended AM22 as co-Head of Delegation where a 10-person delegation from the CFMS represented the interests of CFMS medical students. Highlights included electing incoming Standing Committee Directors, advancing conversations about international exchanges, voting on important position papers, developing partnerships with medical student associations around the world, and engaging in handover activities with the outgoing Dir. GH..
2. IFMSA Americas Regional Meeting 2023 (IFMSA AmRM23)
 - a. Attended the AmRM23 Presidents' Sessions virtually with our IFMSA Coordinator where we engaged in conversations on issues important to the Americas Region and voted on resolutions. Initially we were planning on sending a 3-person delegation in-person to the meeting, which was hosted by Peru, however due to political instability and a state of emergency in Peru, we canceled our in-person travel and attended virtually instead.
3. IFMSA March Meeting 2023 (IFMSA MM23)
 - a. Represented CFMS medical students as Head of Delegation at MM23 in Estonia. Our 8-person delegation was the most engaged and spirited CFMS delegation in recent years. Highlights included electing an incoming IFMSA President and Executive Board, endorsing statements related to EDI within the IFMSA and human rights issues, presenting at the Activities Fair (shout out to our National Officer of Public Health), promoting the return of our international exchanges program at the Exchanges Fair, developing partnerships with several medical student associations, and serving beaver tails at the National Food and Drink gathering (kudos to Lauren and Angie). On a personal level, I was honoured to make a statement in collaboration with AMSA Afghanistan, which was endorsed by 10+ countries, regarding the ban on female education in Afghanistan including medical students. Check out our CFMS MM23 Delegation Report on the website soon for detailed deliverables, testimonials, and photos.
4. Relaunch CFMS IFMSA international exchanges program
 - a. Our National Exchange Officers and National Officers of Research Exchange have been hard at work this year to plan the comeback of CFMS Global Health's flagship program - international exchanges! The last year we administered exchanges was during the 2019-2020 academic year, so it has been over three years since we have planned and delivered an exchanges program. Our NEOs and NOREs are doing an excellent job planning this program, despite having no formal handover or transition experience with administering the program. In pre-pandemic years, we typically sent over 100-140 CFMS medical students on exchanges and hosted around 30-50 incoming students. We are excited to launch the call for applications in Fall 2023 and send/host the first students since 2019-2020 in Spring/Summer 2024. Stay tuned.
5. CFMS National Global Health Onboarding
 - a. Global health portfolio members requested more communication and clarity on our portfolio's activities and roles this year. Therefore, this year we introduced a national onboarding for all Global Health Portfolio members - National Officers, local officers, and committee members. This was a half-day virtual event that consisted of an anti-oppression training by external facilitators, an overview of the portfolio and everyone's responsibilities, breakout sessions, and presentations by IFMSA standing committee regional assistants. Over 100 members attended and it received highly positive feedback. This will ideally become an annual onboarding at the start of each year, along

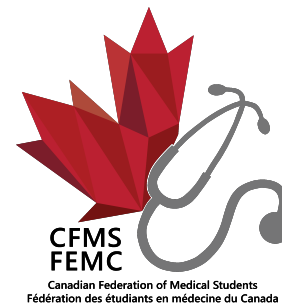
EXECUTIVE REPORT

Khalidha Nasiri

Director of Global Health

2023 Spring General Meeting

April 14-15, 2023, Quebec City, Quebec



with a Global Health Program Handbook.

6. AFMC Global and Planetary Health Committee
 - a. The Dir. GH is the CFMS Global Health representative to the AFMC Global and Planetary Health Committee, formerly known as the AFMC Global Health Network, which meets every 1-2 months where we facilitate national collaboration amongst Canadian medical schools and provide advice/support to the AFMC Board through the AFMC Standing Committee on Social Accountability on strategic and operational matters related to academic medicine and specifically, global and planetary health. The HEART Committee is the CFMS planetary health representative.
7. Global Health Initiative Grant (GHIG)
 - a. First launched in 2022 by then National Officers of Partnership Lauren Wong and Negar Atefi, the GHIG allocated ~\$10,000 in funding to 10 student projects related to a global health equity and EDI lens. During the 2022-2023 year, a GHIG Coordinator was recruited to follow up on project activities and develop a report. The final GHIG Report will be posted on our website soon.
8. CaRMS Financial Assistance Working Group
 - a. As a CFMS Board Member, I attended this working group and engaged in discussions/solutions around financial accessibility and barriers to the CaRMS and residency application process.
9. National Officer and Coordinator specific projects - please see separate National Officer and Coordinator reports in the Drive.

III. UPDATES, PRIORITIES AND ACTION ITEMS

Major priorities and updates

- **Transform and build institutional memory and capacity within CFMS Global Health:** Given events in 2020-2021 that led to mass resignation within the CFMS and in particular the Global Health Portfolio (GHP), there has been a gap in institutional memory within the GHP. This has been addressed through our National Global Health Onboarding, Dir. GH YouTube channel where major training and events are uploaded for future reference, Terms of Reference updates, check-ins with team to elicit feedback and goals, supporting leadership team professional development goals, developing a GHP Handbook, updating transition manuals for handover, developing an IFMSA Handbook with the IFMSA Coordinator outlining IFMSA opportunities, communicating monthly meeting schedule and major deadlines well ahead of time, and ensuring good documentation within the CFMS Google Drive.
- **Empower, engage, and communicate with medical student leaders within CFMS Global Health:** The Global Health Portfolio recognizes the local officers and Global Health Liaisons (GHLs) at each CFMS medical school who execute local activities that advance our portfolio's mission. In recent years, members at the local level have expressed a desire to be better integrated within the national GHP structure. This has been addressed through: Introducing the CFMS Global Health Monthly Pulse Newsletter, regularly monitoring of the CFMS Global Health Facebook group by the National Officer of Partnerships, hosting regular Global Health Roundtables and Local Officer Roundtables, standardizing the GHP onboarding process, developing a more modern and accessible method of disseminating IFMSA opportunities via a CFMS Global Health LinkTree, providing incentives for high levels of engagement, supporting medical student applications to external IFMSA opportunities such as SCORA (Sexual and Reproductive Health) Exchanges, and creating a national hub of GHLs to share resources and collaborate on global health

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Khalidha Nasiri

Director of Global Health

2023 Spring General Meeting

April 14-15, 2023, Quebec City, Quebec



activities.

- **Increase CFMS Global Health involvement with the IFMSA:** A key pillar to achieving this priority was adding the new position of IFMSA Coordinator during the 2022-2023 year. This position is paralleled by the VP Internal Affairs within the IFMSA structure. The IFMSA Coordinator position was trialed this year and has been a major success thanks to Madeleine Kruth, who has taken on the role with ownership and grace. This role will be institutionalized within the GHP to become the internal team expert on all things IFMSA, which will ensure that CFMS Global Health increases its expertise and engagement with the IFMSA at General Assemblies. Other ways this priority has been addressed include: developing an IFMSA Handbook (in progress), restructuring the National Officer of Partnership's role to include IFMSA NMO partnerships, inviting IFMSA Standing Committee Regional Assistants to provide an onboarding to GHP members, promoting external IFMSA opportunities and creating guidelines for future use, working with the VP Finance to seek continued funding for student costs associated with attending IFMSA opportunities, and exploring the allocation of funding support to students seeking IFMSA opportunities endorsed by the GHP.
- **Promote EDI and anti-oppressive practices within the GHP and the CFMS:** This priority is inherently an ongoing reflexive process. We have aimed to incorporate this through hosting an anti-oppression training during onboarding by external facilitators, undergo structured internal team reflections, engaging in open conversations with team members about integrating EDI values within their work, aiming to create a team culture that encourages open discussion of concerns, take a consultative and transparent approach to developing the upcoming CFMS GHP Strategic Plan 2023, and starting to incorporate more inclusive and less hierarchical language in Terms of References (thank you Abby, for proposing this step). This also includes educating and being transparent about the responsibilities of a Board Member in order to demystify the CFMS Board role and encourage individuals from underrepresented backgrounds, who traditionally face more institutional barriers to accessing leadership roles in medicine, to run for higher leadership positions within the CFMS. I am advocating to re-introduce the National Officer of Indigenous Health role to ensure Indigenous perspectives are included on our team; to encourage Indigenous-identifying students to become future leaders within the CFMS; and to ensure Local Officers of Indigenous Health have an institutional liaison, lead, and access to funding support for their crucial activities.
- **Develop key partnerships within CFMS Global Health:**
 - a. We worked closely with our IFMSA Quebec counterparts this year and I have had the pleasure of meeting with Cameo Hao, 2022-2023 IFMSA Quebec President, on several occasions to discuss and align our IFMSA approaches. At MM23, our delegations had joint NMO hours, working dinners, and conversations on IFMSA matters. Cameo gave a presentation at our IFMSA MM23 preparatory meeting and several of our NOs have been in contact with their IFMSA Quebec counterparts on relevant matters.
 - b. Other important partners that we have built relationships with include the Americas Regional Director, Canadian Association for Global Health, and AFMC Global Health Network.
- **Serve and represent CFMS membership through faithfully executing CFMS Board Member responsibilities:** This includes, but is not limited to, exercising fiduciary responsibility by being on track to be within our budget despite absorbing over \$10,000 in over spending from the prior fiscal year; and being an active Board Member providing feedback and insight on major motions and governance changes.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Khalidha Nasiri

Director of Global Health

2023 Spring General Meeting

April 14-15, 2023, Quebec City, Quebec



Action items

1. Wrap up major activities and prepare handover for the incoming Dir. GH, through updating the Director's transition manual, finalizing the GHP and IFMSA Handbooks, updating leadership team Terms of References, and developing standardized GHL and LO Terms of References.
2. Launch Global Health Strategic Plan 2023 by June 2023, including hosting a GHP Town Hall for feedback.
3. Work with the GHP leadership team to update the GHP website, which has not been updated since 2019.
4. Develop a Memorandum of Understanding with IFMSA Quebec on matters related to schools represented at the IFMSA level through both of our associations: McGill and Sherbrooke.
5. Ensure major deliverables for the launch of CFMS IFMSA international exchanges program are prepared by end of June 2023, to ensure the incoming Dir. GH is well positioned to oversee the official launch.
6. Share best practices in handover and transition with the GHP and CFMS Board in preparation for our tentative term ending on June 30, 2023 (pending the Resolution on Board Term Changes vote at SGM 2023), leveraging my personal interest and professional expertise in not-for-profit governance and leadership.

IV. MEETINGS ATTENDED

Please note this list is not exhaustive.

Date	Meeting	Location
April 22-23, 2022	CFMS Spring General Meeting 2022	Calgary
April 24, 2022	Transition meeting with outgoing 2021-2022 Dir. GH	Calgary
April 30, 2022	Transition meeting with outgoing 2021-2022 Dir. GH	Virtual
April 30, 2022	Meeting with 2021-2022 co-National Officer of Human Rights and Peace	Virtual
May 9, 2022	NOP Partnerships Meeting	Virtual
May 12, 2022	CFMS International Exchanges Team Meeting	Virtual
May 15, 2022	NORPs Meeting	Virtual
May 15, 2022	Transition meeting with outgoing 2021-2022 Dir. GH	Virtual
May 15, 2022	NO Public Health Meeting	Virtual
May 18, 2022	NOGHE, NORSH, and Global Health Comms Meetings	Virtual
July 29, 2022	IFMSA August Meeting 2022 Pre-Departure Meeting	Virtual

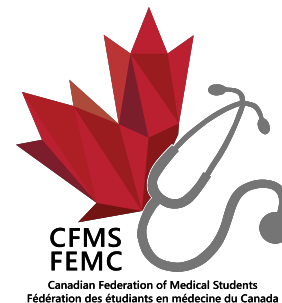
EXECUTIVE REPORT

Khalidha Nasiri

Director of Global Health

2023 Spring General Meeting

April 14-15, 2023, Quebec City, Quebec



August 1-7, 2022	IFMSA August Meeting 2022	Turkey
Sept 15-17, 2022	CFMS Fall Annual General Meeting	Vancouver
Sept 16, 2022	Global Health Roundtable #1	Vancouver
Sept 18, 2022	CFMS Board Transition Meeting	Vancouver
Sept 23, 2022	NORP Check-In	Virtual
Oct 1, 2022	Global Health Roundtable #2	Virtual
Oct 5, 2022	Canadian Youth Delegate Selection Committee Meeting	Virtual
Oct 11, 2022	Meeting with NOPH Sr, NORP Sr	Virtual
Oct 12, 2022	EDI Dyad Meeting	Virtual
Oct 14-15, 2022	CFMS Fall Board Meeting	Toronto
Oct 17, 18, 20, 21, 23, 27, 2022	CFMS Global Health Leadership Team Interviews	Virtual
Nov 2, 2022	CFMS GH mini-Team Meeting	Virtual
Nov 6, 2022	GHA, NORP meeting re: NDoA	Virtual
Nov 14, 2022	Global Health Dyad Meeting	Virtual
Nov 18, 2022	Global Health Onboarding Planning Meeting with NORP Sr.	Virtual
Nov 19, 2022	CFMS Global Health National Onboarding	Virtual
Nov 20, 2022	IFMSA Americas Region Presidents Meeting	Virtual
Nov 20, 2022	Meeting with IFMSA Quebec President	Virtual
Nov 26, 2022	CFMS Board Meeting	Virtual
Dec 8, 2022	NO Partnerships Meeting	Virtual
Dec 8, 2022	GHIG Coordinator Meeting	Virtual

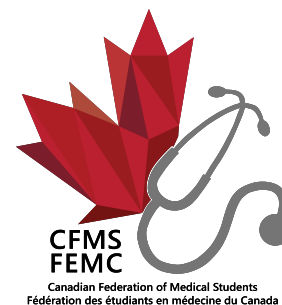
EXECUTIVE REPORT

Khalidha Nasiri

Director of Global Health

2023 Spring General Meeting

April 14-15, 2023, Quebec City, Quebec



Dec 9, 2022	CFMS IFMSA Coordinator Meeting	Virtual
Dec 20, 2022	Global Health Dyad Meeting	Virtual
Dec 22, 2022	Monthly CFMS Global Health Leadership Team Meeting #1	Virtual
Jan 9, 2023	Americas Regional Meeting Check-In with CFMS IFMSA Coordinator	Virtual
Jan 9-12, 2023	Americas Regional Meeting Presidents Sessions	Virtual
Jan 11, 2023	CaRMS Financial Assistance Working Group Meeting	Virtual
Jan 19, 2023	Monthly CFMS Global Health Leadership Team Meeting #2	Virtual
Jan 21, 2023	Global Health Roundtable #3	Virtual
Jan 27-28, 2023	CFMS Winter Board Meeting	Edmonton
Jan 29, 2023	CFMS Exchanges LEO Training	Virtual
Jan 31, 2023	Budget Meeting with VP Finance, CFMS President	London
Feb 5, 2022	McGill Local Officer of Indigenous Health Check-In	Virtual
Feb 15, 2023	Meeting with IFMSA Quebec President	Virtual
Feb 16, 2023	CFMS IFMSA Coordinator Meeting re: IFMSA March Meeting 2023	Virtual
Feb 16, 2023	Monthly CFMS Global Health Leadership Team Meeting #3	Virtual
Feb 16, 2023	HEART Meeting	Virtual
Feb 18-19, 2023	IFMSA NMO Presidents Sessions Meetings	Virtual
Feb 22, 2023	IFMSA March Meeting 2023 Pre-Departure Meeting	Virtual
Feb 25, 2023	Global Health Roundtable #4	Virtual
March 1-7, 2023	IFMSA March Meeting 2023	Estonia
March 4, 2023	NOGHE Jr Midterm Check-in	Estonia

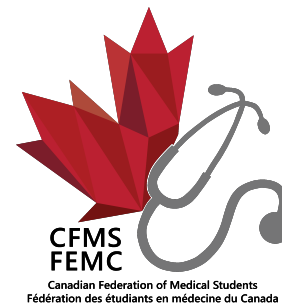
EXECUTIVE REPORT

Khalidha Nasiri

Director of Global Health

2023 Spring General Meeting

April 14-15, 2023, Quebec City, Quebec



March 5, 2023	NOPH Jr Midterm Check-In	Estonia
March 10, 2023	Midterm Check-In with CFMS President and Executive Director	Virtual
March 20, 2023	AFMC Global and Planetary Health Committee Meeting	Virtual
March 23, 2023	NORP Sr, co-NORE Midterm Check-Ins	Virtual
March 23, 2023	Monthly CFMS Global Health Leadership Team Meeting #4	Virtual
March 27, 2023	NORSH, CFMS IFMSA Coordinator Midterm Check-Ins	Virtual
March 30, 2023	GHIG Coordinator Midterm Check-Ins	Virtual
March 31, 2023	NOP Midterm Check-In	Virtual
April 3, 2023	Co-NEO, HEART, NOPH Sr Midterm Check-Ins	Virtual
April 5, 2023	Co-NORE, Co-NEO Midterm Check-Ins	Virtual
April 5, 2023	CAMSA Director of Social Accountability Meeting	Virtual
April 11, 2023	CFMS Global Health SGM Sessions Planning Meeting	Virtual

V. FUTURE LONG-TERM PORTFOLIO GOALS

CFMS Global Health is the largest portfolio within the CFMS. Each CFMS medical school has a global health committee that is overseen by a GHL and has at minimum 6 local officers, usually in a Senior/Junior structure, with the exception of smaller schools where one person may take on several local officer roles. Most NOs oversee a committee. Therefore, at minimum, almost 300 people report to the CFMS GHP. The future of the GHP is to organize the portfolio to better leverage the vast expertise and creativity that lies within these future global health leaders in medicine. While significant progress has been made this year, more work needs to slowly be done. For example:

- Develop long-term national and international advocacy themes (e.g., two- or three- year running themes) that NOs collaborate on, in their unique ways and expertise, to address through campaigns, petitions, a National Week of Advocacy, IFMSA or CFMS AGM/SGM position papers, IFMSA task forces, and so on. This can provide some direction, consistency, and guarantee impact on advocacy initiatives, while also permitting flexibility within NO portfolios to take on other advocacy projects. The international advocacy theme would be drawn from the IFMSA's strategic priority areas and/or the Americas Region strategic priority areas, to align ourselves with the IFMSA. The national advocacy theme would address a domestic global health issue, allowing the GHP to also address issues specific to our context. A consultation process and vote, similar to the NDoA topic process, could be developed to ensure the national advocacy theme reflects the desires of GHP members.

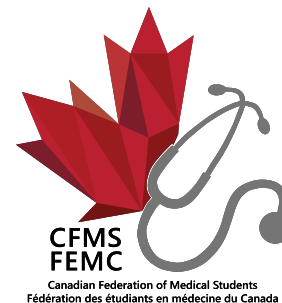
EXECUTIVE REPORT

Khalidha Nasiri

Director of Global Health

2023 Spring General Meeting

April 14-15, 2023, Quebec City, Quebec



- Build the CFMS Social Medicine Certificate Program into a national GHP flagship program where local officers, GHs, committee members, and NOs/Leads coordinate to organize various events and initiatives throughout the year that address the program's core competencies. The program criteria would be defined by the NOGHs and the coordination would be done by the NOP. Our Global Health Advocates are the GHP's in-house advocacy leads, and could lead advocacy training sessions as part of the program, or this could also be done through collaboration with the Government Affairs Political Advocacy Training leads (PAT).

I envision a future where the GHP is more integrated within the IFMSA, such that first- and second- year medical students are provided with “soft” opportunities to become familiar with the IFMSA, such as by attending an Americas Regional Meeting or engaging in an external IFMSA opportunity, and eventually, as third- and/or fourth-year medical students, actively contribute to:

- IFMSA by-law and regulation-law change proposals at IFMSA meetings,
- proposing and leading IFMSA task forces and position papers,
- taking on leadership roles within the IFMSA,
- attending IFMSA training camps and become trainers in areas such as clinical and research exchanges,
- becoming involved in more than one IFMSA opportunity during their medical school career, and
- ultimately, one day, building enough capacity to apply for the CFMS to host an IFMSA Americas Regional Meeting or even a General Assembly - opening our doors to hundreds or thousands, respectively, of medical students from around the world to what we know as Canada.

The above goals require additional funding. It is imperative to note that in pre-pandemic years, the GHP was financially self-sufficient, and did not utilize membership funds for activities. This is because of net revenue from the CFMS international exchanges program. Therefore, as we take a phased approach to relaunching our international exchanges program over the next five years, our funding levels will return to pre-pandemic levels and we will be in a strong position to resume providing funding support to students pursuing GHP-endorsed activities outside of attending IFMSA meetings, as we had regularly done and allocated for during pre-pandemic years.

Lastly, local officers, committee members, and GHP leadership team members are in the funnel to become future Directors of Global Health and CFMS Presidents. The National Officer of Indigenous Health (NOIH) role has been particularly successful. In the past five years, one NOIH went on to become Dir. GH, and another NOIH went on to become CFMS President. The GHP must continue to be a place for medical student leaders to grow and feel safe. Given the inherent nature of global health work - where we must take an approach grounded in cultural humility, anti-oppression, and anti-racism - the GHP has the potential to become a leader within the CFMS on anti-oppressive principles and issues.

VI. REFLECTIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

First and foremost, I want to thank the 2022-2023 CFMS Global Health Leadership Team (listed in no particular order): Abby Christi, Tyara Marchand, Omer Mansoor, Kanwarpreet Karwal, Madeleine Kruth, Sadia Mehmood, Lauren Wong, Ahmad Khan, Yvette Ysabel Yao, Ali Sherazi, Harsukh Benipal, Dana Rajab, Jun Kim, Aanchel Gupta, Julia Sawatzky, and Pardeep Gill. The good work of CFMS Global Health would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of these bright leaders who put in countless volunteer hours to serve and represent CFMS

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Khalidha Nasiri

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2023 Spring General Meeting

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membership on global health matters and on the international stage. Thank you all.

My aspiration has been to listen and learn, while leveraging my four years of experience within CFMS Global Health - as a local officer of global health education during my pre-clerkship years, as a global health education committee member during my first year, as National Officer of Global Health Education during my second year, and now as Dir. GH in my final year - to rebuild and redefine our portfolio, with a focus on its sustainable growth for the years ahead. In doing so, I have strived to strike a balance between welcoming novel ideas and approaches, while also drawing on my experience and passion to restore institutional structure and memory within the GHP, given the crisis our portfolio faced two years ago. I recognize that there is always room for improvement as a leader, and it is my sincerest hope that I have effectively struck a balance between these two approaches.

I am thankful to every single person I have worked with during my four years being involved with the CFMS. I have learned something from each and every one of you. This isn't goodbye yet, because our term formally ends on June 30, 2023, but I'm already feeling the nostalgia.

I am a strong believer of the CFMS. Despite its vastness and complexity, at the end of the day, it works well, and achieves its goals of serving CFMS students. You can be assured of that.

It is worthy of noting that CFMS Board roles and Portfolio Director roles are heavy. I have easily spent over 1,000 hours on my role so far. Board member wellness should be a continued priority for the CFMS.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as the 2022-2023 CFMS Director of Global Health.

In solidarity,

Khalidha Nasiri

Director of Global Health | Directeur de la santé mondiale

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

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I wish to acknowledge that the CFMS main office is located on unceded, unsundered territory of the Anishinaabe Algonquin Nation, colonially known as Ottawa.