

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Astha Burande

Director of Education

2024 Spring/Annual General Meeting

April 11-15, 2024, Vancouver, BC



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 8000 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.

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROJECT AREAS

From the CFMS bylaws, the Director of Education shall, in addition to the person's other duties within the Board, be responsible for academic issues of importance to Canadian medical students. This includes but is not limited to:

- A. Represent the diverse needs of students as a representative of the Federation at such forums where concerns of a primarily educational nature shall be discussed; and
 - B. Lead member-mandated projects related to medical education that is inclusive of meaningful consultative processes; and
 - C. Coordinate efforts aimed towards advancement of medical education within the Federation and beyond in an effort to achieve desired outcomes. This includes active collaboration with the Director of Government Affairs on issues related to education that require political involvement;
- And

D. Oversee the work of committees under the Education portfolio.

The Director of Education is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the CFMS Education portfolio and having detailed knowledge of all CFMS policy and activities pertaining to medical education. They will speak to the CFMS's positions on medical education issues at strategic settings including via various forms of media. In addition, the Director of Education will serve as the primary contact and spokesperson to several 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. They serve as the CFMS representative to several external learner organizations, including but not limited to the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada (AFMC), Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS), and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

III. MEETINGS ATTENDED

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Astha Burande

Director of Education

2024 Spring/Annual General Meeting

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Date	Meeting	Location
8 – 10 June 2023	Summer Board Meeting – Transition	Halifax
3 Aug 2023	Education Lead Team Meeting	Virtual
5 Aug 2023	Virtual Board Meeting	Virtual
16 Aug 2023	AFMC Portal Steering Committee	Virtual
Aug – Sept	Education Lead Check in Meetings	Virtual
12 Sept 2023	Meeting between MCC and Medical School Organizations	Virtual
14 Sept 2023	AFMC Resident Matching Committee	Virtual
14 Sept 2023	CMA Meeting regarding Interview Prep	Virtual
14 – 16 Sept 2023	Annual General Meeting	Toronto
15 Sept 2023	Portal Electives Network Meeting	Virtual
22 Sept 2023	University of Alberta – CFMS Introduction + Clipboard distribution	Edmonton
27 – 29 Sept 2023	MCC Annual Meeting	Ottawa
4 Oct 2023	AFMC Portal Steering Committee	Virtual
7 Oct 2023	Education Lead Team Meeting	Virtual

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Astha Burande

Director of Education

2024 Spring/Annual General Meeting

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12 Oct 2023	TMU Curriculum Meeting	Virtual
14 Oct 2023	Academic Round Table	Virtual
20-21 Oct 2023	Board Meeting	Montreal
24 Oct 2023	CMA Meeting regarding Interview Prep	Virtual
7 Nov 2023	Fellowship Affairs Committee Meeting – with individual	Virtual
11 Nov 2023	Education Lead Meeting	Virtual
13 Nov 2023	AFMC Electives Network	Virtual
14 Nov 2023	OMSA Initiatives and CFMS's OR Sterilization Support Meeting	Virtual
18 Nov 2023	Academic Round Table	Virtual
3-5 Dec 2023	Family Medicine Education Redesign Retreat	Mississauga
9 Jan 2024	Education Lead Meeting	Virtual
20 Jan 2024	Academic Round Table	Virtual
26 – 28 Jan 2024	Winter Board Meeting	Banff
2 Feb 2024	Academic Round Table	Virtual
23 Feb 2024	AFMC Portal Steering Committee	Virtual

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Astha Burande

Director of Education

2024 Spring/Annual General Meeting

April 11-15, 2024, Vancouver, BC



24 Feb 2024	Education Lead Meeting	Virtual
1 March 2024	Academic Round Table	Virtual
1 March 2024	Match Support Day Meetings – with Education Association	Virtual
5 March 2024	Electives Network Meeting	Virtual
9 March 2024	Virtual Board Meeting	Virtual
13 March 2024	Electives Network Meeting	Virtual
19 March	CFMS Check-In with Helen	Virtual
26 March 2024	AFMC Resident Match Meeting	Virtual
30 March 2024	Education Lead Meeting	Virtual
2 April 2024	Synergy + CFMS Meeting	Virtual

1. Director Priorities

a. Internal/ portfolio committees:

- i. All 5 committees have multiple projects completed with deliverables and more ramping up. You can read their individual reports for more information.
- ii. We had the majority of our recruitment done in Fall but some of the task forces (like the Resources and Mentorship, Match, Evaluation and Accreditation) had winter recruitment done as well.
- iii. I created standardized templates to use for meetings – like a powerpoint updates template, summary template, work-in-progress templates for the task force and our Education Lead Team Meetings to make it more organized.
- iv. Several external representative opportunities were filled for including CFMS reps to attend meetings with AFMC Portal Capacity Working Group, CACMS etc.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Astha Burande

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2024 Spring/Annual General Meeting

April 11-15, 2024, Vancouver, BC



- v. Class of 2024 CaRMS Match Supports:
 - 1. Match Resources (2nd iteration grant, Peer Support Network mentorship and forum, SafeSpaces Session, and more) were launched prior to Pre-Match Day and had fantastic uptake.
 - 2. Collaborated with the Communications Coordinator and NOCs on the social media campaign regarding Match Day Supports and it was a great success. We were able to get the board members involved for our social media campaigns as well and we tried to normalize having conversations regarding the match.
 - 3. With the help of Education Associate and QRD (Quebec Regional Director), we are running the unmatched grad mentorship program. We recruited for mentors with the help of RDoC and the social media campaigns.
 - 4. It would be beneficial to collaborate more with RDoC and the regional resident organizations for more Match Supports. o Working with local academic representatives at each member school through ART:
- vi. Working with local academic representatives at each member school through the ART
 - 1. Concerns about clerkship hours, days-off, maternity/paternity leave, reporting and mistreatment, professionalism penalties
 - 2. Accreditation is happening/has happened at couple of schools
 - 3. Consulted the ART members about AFMC portal capacity model, standardized portal timelines, OR sterilization for people with headcovering, match timelines etc. Advocacy points were raised related to several of the committees that CFMS – they were conveyed accordingly.
- vii. Took on the initiative to promote EDI in education by starting conversation about the OR Sterilization for People with Head Coverings (after hearing some feedback from membership) at the ART and within the internal meetings – to enhance advocacy around this topic. Worked closely with the Advocacy Task Force regarding it.
- viii. External Representation:
 - 1. Lots of advocacy done regarding the AFMC Portal to make it more equitable and standardized. There was a huge push to make the portal a capacity-based model and it seems to be underway with the formation of the AFMC Capacity Based Model Working Group (CFMS Rep chosen to sit on those meetings). The tentative date for the capacity based model to go live is July 2025.
 - a. Several discussions and advocacy attempts were made to lower the portal fees and to standardize elective fees.
 - b. Plans for the upcoming AFMC capacity-based portal is to eliminate the application fee.
 - c. Portal advocacy has really been ramping up – and as more of the C2024 begins planning

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Astha Burande

Director of Education

2024 Spring/Annual General Meeting

April 11-15, 2024, Vancouver, BC



2. I also had the privilege to be in attendance at MCC Meetings, CaRMs Meetings, AFMC Portal Steering Committee Meetings, AFMC Electives Network Meetings, AFMC Residency Match Committee Meetings.
- ix. Strategic Planning:
 1. Our current project is to create/make the draft Terms of Reference for all the newly-created Task Force positions, and then send it to the Governance Committee for Review. The portfolio was re-organized this year so it does not have up-to-date ToRs for it. The goal is to have it done by the end of the term.
 2. Re-organize the CFMS Education Website to make it more comprehensible and easy-to-navigate. Currently working on it with the Education Lead Team and the IT Officer.
2. Education Task Force – Advocacy
 - a. Med Ed Advocacy File
 - i. Position paper on OR Sterilization for People with Head Coverings was started as an initiative to make it into a curriculum proposal in the future as not all schools have a policy regarding it.
 - ii. Position paper on Interprofessional Education in Medical Education – currently underway.
 - iii. Position Paper on Newcomer Health – currently underway.
 - b. Primary Care File
 - i. Huge focus for the MeDoA, as there is currently a primary care crisis. Gathered information from schools to see what can be done to incentivize medicine.
3. Education Task Force – Evaluation and Accreditation
 - a. National Annual Survey
 - i. the 2023 Survey was sent out in the fall (due to some delays). Data is collected. The statistical analysis is currently underway and will be soon released with deliverables.
 - b. Report Card Style Survey
 - i. Collaboration with the Student Affairs Portfolio, specifically the Wellness Reps.
 - ii. Input gained from the Academic Round Table for the survey – underwent several revisions before being released. Currently underway. It is an important tool to use for advocacy efforts once it is filled out and analyzed.
4. Education Task Force – Match
 - a. MatchBook
 - i. Currently underway – to be published in April after all the statistics are released by CaRMs.
 - ii. Focus of the MatchBook is on equity, diversity and inclusivity.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Astha Burande

Director of Education

2024 Spring/Annual General Meeting

April 11-15, 2024, Vancouver, BC



- iii. Reviewed and updated all the financial aspects related to electives, added components about writing the USMLE Step 1, advice from PDs to students, financial bursaries.
- iv. This is the first Match Book post-COVID so it is updated accordingly.
- v. Match Book Cover contest was run with advertising on social media.
- b. Match Stats
 - i. Working with the Match Book team to get the stats sorted – stats will be released in early April, so the team will work on it then to incorporate it into the MatchBook.
- c. CMA Interview Prep Program
 - i. Closely collaborated with the Resources and Mentorship Task force to host these Interview Prep Programs with CMA.
 - ii. This was a new initiative that was undertaken this year but I doubt that it can continue under the Education Portfolio as we have limited capacity and it put some of our other projects on hold.
 - iii. The budget was also a challenge to manage as it was previously not allocated to the Education Portfolio.
 - iv. However, the Match + Resources and Mentorship Task Force did a great job, where over 10 sessions were held with >50 students in each sessions – each having a CFMS representative in attendance.
- 5. Education Task Force – Research in Medicine
 - a. RiM Podcast
 - i. Previous year's podcasts were published (3) before new ones were recorded for the year.
 - ii. Podcast on 'exploring Mental Health Research' (new from this year), 'Path to Hematopathology', 'Experiences in Medical Education', 'Understanding Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain' – released on Spotify.
 - iii. Potentially going to be present in ICAM to record some sessions there.
 - b. CPR Series
 - i. First seminar held in Feb about Mental Health in Immigrant Youth.
 - c. Research Highlights Infographics
 - i. Infographics on Consent, Internal vs External Validity, Statistics etc. are already posted. Goal of having at least 1 infographic posted per month.
 - d. Research Database
 - i. Awards, grants and research opportunities were updated and posted on the website, in collaboration with the IT officer.
 - e. Canadian Medical Student Research Competition
 - i. New initiative that is being done in collaboration with Dr. Kirpalani
 - ii. 1-day virtual research competition that is available nation-wide to medical students, who are part of CFMS.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Astha Burande

Director of Education

2024 Spring/Annual General Meeting

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- iii. Held on May 4-5, 2024. Hopes to expand this effort to an in-person event in the future with some funding/sponsorship.

6. Education Task Force – Resources and Mentorship

a. Final Year Match Mentorship Program

- i. Very successful program with >360 students from C2024 who signed up and >600 mentors. Automated methods for pairing were done for the first-time this year, with hopes to use it for future mentorship programs to make it easier.
- ii. Mentorship Awards will be given out to mentors by nomination – upcoming.
- iii. Feedback forms will also be released to get input about the program.

b. Mentorship Sessions

- i. Sessions held like - CaRMs Info session (for couples match), Day in Life of a Resident Workshop

c. Mentorship Recruitment and Database

- i. Working to get a centralized platform for future mentorship programs/sessions.
- ii. Future plan to have pre-clerk + clerk mentorship sessions – however, we were at capacity for this year so we were not able to do more.

d. Interview Database

- i. Up and running. Revisions were made to make it more up-to-date, in collaboration with the IT Officer.

e. Electives Database

- i. Up and running. Revisions were made (like EDI free-text feedback) to make it more up-to-date, in collaboration with the IT officer.

f. Infographics/Knowledge Translation

- i. Working on an infographic for OR sterilization for people with head coverings – will be released on the website.

g. CMA Interview Prep Program

- i. See above (in the Match Task Force)

V. FUTURE GOALS

The 2023-2024 CFMS term has been busy, but we have had several successful projects. There were lots of advocacy that has been done and is still being done within medical education. The upcoming months will still bring forward a lot of projects such as (but not limited to):

- Canadian Medical Student Research Symposium
- New ToR drafts for the portfolio
- National Annual Survey results
- Report Card Survey
- Match Day Supports and Programs - like the Unmatched Grad program, the Safe Spaces Programs, Match Book etc.
- Electives and Interview Database

EXECUTIVE REPORT

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2024 Spring/Annual General Meeting

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I am in the process of currently looking at the portfolio's website and the ToR so that the transition can be made smoother for the next term. I am working with my team to continue the EDI efforts that are happening with the Education Portfolio itself such as the OR Sterilization for People with Head Coverings.

VI. REFLECTIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

I am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to lead the Education Portfolio this year and contribute to the advocacy efforts that are happening within medical education. I have had the opportunity to sit on many committees and make meaningful contributions to conversations in the field. I would like to thank everyone on the education lead team - Ayma, Nicole, Krisha, Hayley, Jainik and Jovan for their hard work and dedication to the Education Portfolio. Additionally, I am extremely grateful to have met with various students, student leaders, residents, physicians, committee members and many more people. This has allowed me to grow as a person and has taught me that there is so much more to learn! I am incredibly grateful for my education lead team as without them, the education portfolio would cease to exist – they are incredibly hard-working individuals and amazing student leaders.

Astha Burande, BSc, MD Candidate C2026 – University of Alberta

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Director of Education | Directrice de l'éducation

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

education@cfms.org | www.cfms.org

Executive Reports from Education Portfolio Team Leads:

- Ayma Aqib - Education Associate
- Nicole Hemphill - NOE- Resources and Mentorship
- Krisha Patel - NOE- Match
- Jovan Sahi - NOE - Advocacy
- Jainik Shah - NOE - Evaluation and Accreditation
- Hayley McKee - NOE - Research in Medicine