

Candidate Bio

Hi! I'm Zili, a rising third-year at USask. I hope to have the opportunity to serve you as Director of Government Affairs and Advocacy (Dir. GA).

With a BHSc from McGill and an MPH from Yale, I've long been passionate about advocacy that is strategic, evidence-informed, and grounded in health equity. My path to medicine began with grassroots advocacy, and over the years, I've fought to expand Medicaid access in Connecticut, partnered with shelters and crisis lines to support survivors of gender-based violence, and helped bring a petition for inclusive mental health care to the House of Commons with >10,000 signatures.

At CFMS, I've found my home within the GA portfolio. I served as one of two Associate Directors of GA this past year, working closely with our incredible Dir. GA and our amazing National Officers on planning and leading the National Day of Action (NDoA, November 2024) and the Medical Education Day of Action (MEDoA, April 2025). One year prior, I was also a member of the 2023 NDoA Follow-Up and 2024 NDoA Partnerships Committees. From interviewing physician leaders and building community support, to drafting petitions and meeting Members of Parliament in Ottawa, my time alongside our superstar GA colleagues has been the greatest highlight of medical school.

If elected, I will bring the same energy, commitment, and collaborative spirit to the role of Dir. GA. I would be honoured to continue serving the GA portfolio and to keep building on the momentum of our national advocacy efforts!

Platform

Relevant Experiences

1. (2024-25) I served as Associate Director of GA, working closely with our incredible Dir. GA and our amazing National Officers on planning and leading the National Day of Action (NDoA, Ottawa) and the Medical Education Day of Action (MEDoA, Halifax).
2. (2023-24) I worked on the 2023 NDoA Follow-Up and 2024 Planning Committees. With support from a Member of Parliament, we published a petition on the House of Commons website calling for government action on food insecurity. To inform our 2024 advocacy on healthcare spending, we consulted physician leaders, medical associations, and policy experts.
3. (2021-2023) I led a team of 37 volunteers within the student-run free clinic at Yale. I worked on campus outreach to advocate for the expansion of Medicaid to include all children in Connecticut, regardless of insurance or immigration status. In 2023, we expanded the Medicaid coverage limit from 12 years old to all children under the age of 15.
4. (2021) With the support of an MPP, our petition to include mental health care in the Ontario Health Insurance Plan gathered >10,000 signatures and was presented to the House of Commons.
5. (2021) I built partnerships with women's shelters, crisis helplines, and universities to create a nationwide network of NGOs targeting gender-based violence. Our coalition provided GBV survivors easier access to free resources and support.

Goals

1. Strengthen National Advocacy Capacity.

I will expand hands-on advocacy training across schools by encouraging GAAC reps to a) actively promote LATS, and b) coordinate advocacy training sessions with PAT for students partaking in their Provincial Day of Action.

2. Increase participation equitably across schools.

I aim to grow the team representation in a geographically equitable manner across GA Committees. Building off of our amazing successes of this year, I will continue to seek Day of Action funding from past partners like the CMA such that students from across the country can lead or participate in NDoA, MEDoA, and PDoAs with minimal financial strain.

3. Facilitate Inter-provincial Knowledge Sharing.

I plan to build a centralized, accessible platform where GAAC reps and MEDoA participants can

share the outcomes, challenges, and themes of their provincial Days of Action as well as their provincial amedical education. This will allow us to recognize regional priorities, align our efforts, and amplify impact through shared learning.

4. Improve Continuity and Strategic Planning.

I will formalize our documentation and knowledge-transfer systems, including centralized tracking of advocacy priorities and updated onboarding materials. Our goal is to make institutional memory a strength, so future GA teams can have efficient turnover each July.

Conclusion

Having spent the past two years working in the GA portfolio, I know this is the place I want to contribute to for years to come. As Director, I'll bring experience, structure, and heart to this role—and continue building a GA Division that is inclusive and impactful for every student involved. I would be honoured to serve you next year as Director of Government Affairs.