



CFMS Member Memo – October 28th

Dear Students,

Yesterday, the AFMC Board met and finalized multiple decisions relating to the 2022 R1 matches. Please find the official new release [here](#) with quotes italicized. We would like to update you on these changes as well as our advocacy work as it relates to these decisions.

2022 R1 Match

Timeline:

The match timeline will be:

- *Application MSPR submission/University transcript: No earlier than Jan. 7, 2022*
- *The File Review Period: January 31 to February 27, 2022*
- *The Virtual Interview Period: February 28 to March 20, 2022*
- *Match Day First Iteration: April 12, 2022*
- *Match Day Second Iteration: May 12, 2022*

The AFMC Board has approved the timeline for the 2022 R1 Match. These dates are roughly 1 week earlier than the timeline for the 2021 R1 Match. In consultation with your Medical Student Society Presidents, we understand that there continues to be delays and interruptions to students schedules from the pandemic, resulting in less time to undergo career exploration through core clerkship and elective rotations. We believe that this new timeline will allow students more time to develop as clinicians and explore their interests.

Visiting Electives:

There have been no updates to visiting electives since our last member memo. We are continuing to advocate for the importance of visiting electives for career planning and exploration. Please see our previous member memo on October 10th for more details.

Virtual Interviews:

Interviews will continue to be in a virtual format for all candidates.

Today, the AFMC announced that the 2022 R1 match interviews will be conducted virtually. The potential of virtual interviews for the 2022 R1 match was discussed by the AFMC Resident Matching Committee..

We have continued to hear mixed opinions from students regarding virtual vs in-person interviews. Support for virtual interviews includes reduced uncertainty regarding the status of interviews given the ongoing pandemic, increased accessibility with reduced costs and need to travel, as well as the ability to offer increased time for electives. Concerns surrounding virtual interviews have included reduced ability to learn about and explore residency programs, including the possibility of ranking programs without ever visiting the site.



As your representative body, we have continued to share these perspectives with stakeholders, particularly given the uncertain status of visiting electives. Considerations overall remained similar to those for the 2021 R1 virtual interview decision which was elaborated on in our Member Memo #7 (which can be found [here](#)). There was overwhelming support for virtual interviews from other stakeholders involved in these discussions.

Moving forward, we will continue raising students concerns and perspectives regarding the interview process and will work to continuously optimize the virtual interviews experience. It is critical that students are able to explore programs and make an informed decision in their rank order lists and we will advocate for continued improvement to virtual interviews and program promotion. Our ongoing advocacy includes:

- Virtual interviews must be implemented for all programs and applicants
- There must be continued efforts to improve opportunities for learners to explore programs, including through the centralized web calendar of events and the one-stop-shop program promotion portal that will be released in November
- Accommodations must be in place to students who have difficulties engaging in virtual interviews and contingency plans must be clearly outlined so that no student is faulted for technological issues

Medical Council of Canada

We understand that there have been many concerns about recent news from the Medical Council of Canada (MCC). This includes their announcement of a new governance structure which has no learner representation on their council, as well as the last-minute cancellation of the MCCQEII. The CFMS stands with our resident colleagues during these difficult times and supports them in their advocacy. We are working to explore additional methods of regularly engaging with the MCC outside of their Council structure to ensure that student perspectives are not lost with this governance change. We also continue to advocate for improved writing conditions for the 2021 MCCQEI writing period including improved technological capabilities, the ability to pre-test the platform, and transparent contingency planning. We know that there are many worries surrounding the MCC exams, particularly given the recent cancellation of the QEII and the many issues that plagued the QEI sitting earlier this year. The experience of the 2020 cohort is unacceptable and we are continuing to advocate for tangible improvements to the remote proctoring platform for the next sitting to ensure that all final year students are able to complete their exams prior to the start of residency.

Safety in Clerkship:

With the increasing number of COVID-19 cases in various areas across the country, we encourage students to continue to stay safe and follow public health guidelines. We are continuing to advocate for the importance of protecting the safety of students training in clinical settings. This is supported by the [Ten Guiding Principles for Medical Education](#) passed by the AFMC Board which includes adequate access to PPE.



The unprecedented times we find ourselves further emphasizes the importance to support physician/learner wellness. We encourage students to access resources provided by your Student Affairs office, your provincial medical association, the CFMS, and the CMA.

As always, should you ever have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at president@cfms.org or communications@cfms.org.

Sincerely,

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