**EXECUTIVE REPORT**

*Leanne Murphy*

*Atlantic Regional Representative*

*April 2015 • SGM*

**EXECUTIVE SUMARY:**

As the Atlantic Regional Representative I serve as a connection between Memorial University, Dalhousie University, and the CFMS Executive. Through this role, I have also overseen the following projects in the 2014-2015 term:

* Student Initiative Grants (with Ontario Regional Representative Ali Damji) – evaluated applications and awarded 8 SIGs to very deserving new initiative projects across Canada. Evaluation of the application process, and ideas for improvement of the evaluation of SIGs in future years.
* Development of CFMS Regional Event Funding Process. Form for pre-determined events in each geographical region which the CFMS provides funding to was developed to separate this portion of funding from the tradition SIGs application.

**I. DESCRIPTION OF POSITION:**

The regional representatives serve three main functions. They are primarily the representatives of the region member schools and bring the concerns and issues that arise at the member schools to the attention of the CFMS Executive. As Atlantic Regional Representative, my duty has been to act as the liaison between Memorial University of Newfoundland, Dalhousie University and the CFMS Executive. Within this position on the Executive, I have also overseen projects that are of particular importance to the CFMS and their member schools. This year, those projects are namely: Student Initiative Grants 2014-2015 distribution and evaluation of process, development of a CFMS Regional Event Funding Process, as well as evaluating Nominations Committee applications.

**II. ACTIVITIES:**

**Meetings Attended:**

**Date Meeting Location**

September 19-21 CFMS AGM Kingston, ON

October 17-19 CFMS Fall Executive Meeting Ottawa, ON

November 30 CFMS Executive Meeting Teleconference

January 10-11 CFMS Winter Executive Meeting Toronto, ON

February 22 CFMS Executive Meeting Teleconference

**III. PROJECT AREAS:**

1. Student Initiative Grants (with Ali Damji): The role of SIGs are to aid in the funding of student lead initiatives that will benefit CFMS Member School students, an underserved healthcare population, or a population of interest to the CFMS. This year, Ali and I evaluated a many very strong applications and 8 were awarded funding of their project. In prior years, the low awareness and application of SIGs was an issue, however, this has seemingly been resolved over the last couple years. Ali and I have continued to tweak and improve the SIG evaluation and distribution process with the goal of ensuring a straightforward and streamlined process. An application form specifically for an event in each geographical area was created to separate the award of this funding from the general SIG funding and to ensure proper documentation for budgeting and auditing purposes.

2. New Brunswick Summer Student Preceptorship Program: In March 2013 the New Brunswick Provincial Government announced they were cutting the preceptorship program in which medical students shadow physicians throughout the summer months. After lobbying, the government ensured that the program would continue in summer 2013, but did not ensure the program’s safety beyond that point. The program continued in summer 2014 as an unpaid shadowing program. This issue is an area of interest for future Atlantic Regional Representatives to keep in mind.

3. PEI Return of Service: PEI announced in December 2012 that they were to try a voluntary return of service pilot project for the next 5 years. The program was initiated in response to student lobbying against a mandatory return of service agreement that was originally implemented in the 2011-2012 term. This bursary is open to all medical students to apply, but preference is given to PEI residents. The pilot project is still underway and there has been no further talk of mandatory return of service. However, this is an area of interest for future Atlantic Regional Representatives, and the PEI government has indicated that a future mandatory return of service agreement is not completely off the table.

4. Evaluation of Applications to the Nominations Committee: Overseen by Ontario Regional Representative, Kendra Komsa and Western Regional Representative, John Schulte.

**IV. GOALS:**

For the remainder of my term, I aim to:

1. Continue to oversee the CFMS SIGs
2. Continue to improve the SIG process and ensure clear handover to incoming executive members
3. Continue communication with Memorial University of Newfoundland and Dalhousie through email and teleconferencing
4. Ensure hand over to new Atlantic Regional Representative at AGM 2015

V. FUTURE SUGGESTIONS:

For the incoming Atlantic Regional Representative, awareness of issues that are pertinent to Atlantic Medical Students, including the PEI Mandatory Return of Service Agreement as well as the New Brunswick Summer Preceptorship Program issues are both very important. Both of these issues impact CFMS Member Schools, and have the potential to resurface in the coming years.

Ensuring informative and complete handover of information, processes and guidelines for SIGs is of the utmost importance. The clear handover of this portfolio will allow for a quick call for applications in the Fall of 2015 and earlier dispersal of awards.