**Background:**

The Canadian Federation of Medical Students (CFMS) is the representative body for over 8,000 medical students in Canada. As part of its activities, the CFMS periodically collects data and publishes reports and position papers on topics of relevance and interest to its membership. To date, more than 30 formal position papers have been researched, written, and adopted by the CFMS. Furthermore, numerous committees such as the Global Health Program, the Wellness Committee, and Education Committee conduct ongoing research in the form of both surveys and written reports.

**A need for change:**

Despite this wealth of data, no formal mechanism exists within the CFMS to support the translation of these projects into peer-reviewed works. Past successes include a wide variety of papers and reports in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal, Canadian Journal of Rural Medicine,* and presentations at the Canadian Conference on Medical Education.

**Proposal:**

Section 4.4 of the CFMS Strategic Plan states that the CFMS should “support CFMS research activities through the creation of a CFMS Research Program.” In accordance with this, we propose the creation of a CFMS Research Program, under the direction of two (2) new National Officers of Research (NOR): the NOR Senior and NOR Junior.

The NOR Jr. shall be selected through the Nominations Committee each Fall. At the completion of their term, the NOR Jr. shall assume the office of NOR Sr., subject to final approval by the CFMS Executive based on prior performance. Both NORs shall report directly to the CFMS President.

**Tasks of the National Officer of Research:**

* Engage, encourage, and support CFMS portfolios in conducting and publishing valuable research for the organization
* Establish an ethics approval process for the CFMS based collection of research data
* Catalyze the formal publication of CFMS research projects in peer-reviewed forums
* Translate collected knowledge and data to general members and appropriate secondary parties
* Develop and maintain templates for CFMS research proposals, abstracts, posters, and papers
* Maintain a list of contacts for appropriate research conferences and peer-reviewed publications
* Maintain a list of and apply on behalf of CFMS to grants and funding opportunities relevant to CFMS research
* Co-ordinate with the National Officer of Health Policy to submit updated position papers to academic conferences and peer-reviewed academic journals
* Co-ordinate with the Global Health Program National Officers to submit global health related positions papers and research to academic conferences and peer-reviewed academic journals

**Financial Cost:**

Attendance at SGM / CCME: $2,000.00

Funding for poster presentations, oral presentations, and journal submissions: $2,000.00