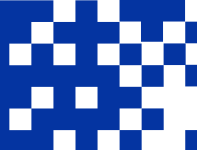


CFMS-MDFM Leadership Awards 2022

Award Winners



Freddy Lee

Dalhousie University

Freddy Lee is a fourth-year medical student at Dalhousie University. As class president and past president of the Dalhousie Medical Student Society, he has showcased a strong commitment to student advocacy and organizational leadership. He has represented the student body on faculty-level and national committees, with a focus on diversity and inclusion, student wellbeing, and supportive learning environments. Recognizing the need for funding available for student innovation and research, he recently created a pilot project to promote extracurricular research and to provide streamlined financial support to reduce out-of-pocket costs for medical students. The Student Innovation and Research Award selection committee also provides consultation and feedback on applications and other potential funding streams. As he leaves medical school, he hopes to have inspired others to harness their own creativity and initiative to make the most of medical school life and to build a sense of community among our peers.

Mitchell Crozier

University of Ottawa

Mitchell Crozier is a fourth-year medical student from the University of Ottawa, who is from Arnprior, ON, a rural town in the Ottawa Valley. He is passionate about leadership, health promotion, community empowerment, and advocacy. During his time as a medical student, Mitchell has applied his passion for writing and his enthusiasm for collaboration as lead or contributing author on eighteen publications, which cover an array of topics, including child health promotion, medical education procedural reviews, and health advocacy papers. While combining his interests in acute care and medical education, Mitchell has been on the planning committee for the Ottawa Student Emergency Medicine Conference since 2018. In 2020 he helped transition the conference to a virtual format to host over 100 medical students from across Canada. More recently, Mitchell has collaborated with his colleagues to co-found Ride to Connect, a cycling fundraiser, awareness, and advocacy campaign addressing social isolation and loneliness in Canadian seniors. To date, this initiative has raised over \$100,000 to help empower at-risk seniors with technology access and technological literacy training. He is very honoured to receive this award and is motivated to continue to apply his leadership skills as a resident.

Tharsini Sivananthajothy

University of Calgary

Tharsini Sivananthajothy (she/her) is a racialized woman of Tamil heritage from Scarborough, Ontario, currently in her second year at the University of Calgary Cumming School of Medicine. Informed by her lived experience, Tharsini feels a deep sense of responsibility, and accountability to her community and strives to create equitable and safe spaces for equity-deserving groups. This led to her co-chairing the "Dismantling Structures of Oppression and Inequity within Medicine" national conference, and her work as co-lead for a national grassroots advocacy initiative, "Calls to Action for Anti-Indigenous Racism Reforms within the CFMS" which was supported by over 1200 medical students. Tharsini is also heavily involved in her local medical school, serving in multiple leadership positions including Vice-President Community and Global Health for the Calgary Medical Students' Association (CMSA), Co-Chair of the EDI in Curriculum Taskforce, and Co-Lead for the Students Organised Against Racism (SOAR) initiative. Through these positions, Tharsini advocated for mandatory anti-racism training in medical education, and helped apply an anti-racist and anti-colonial lens to the CMSA's policies and procedures. She is the lead student investigator on a study exploring undergraduate medical students' sense of belonging, which has been recognized nationally by the Canadian Association of Medical Education.

Kika Otiono

McMaster University

Kikachukwu (Kika) Otiono is a third-year medical student at McMaster University. Prior to medical training, she obtained a Bachelor of Arts with a Minor in Biology from Carleton University as a TD Scholar. Kika believes that a critical aspect of eradicating medical racism in Canada is a commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion in medical education. In her role as the inaugural Director of Advocacy and Representation for the Black Medical Students' Association of Canada (2020-2021), Kika co-authored the "National Demands on Anti-Black Racism to all Canadian Faculties of Medicine." As the Admissions Co-Chair of the Social Justice Interest Group at McMaster, she worked with a team of her peers to advocate for changes to the curriculum, admissions process, and mistreatment policies. Kika also spearheaded the development of the first-ever anti-Black racism session presented to McMaster medical students. She currently serves as a member of the Anti-Black Racism Task Force at McMaster's Department of Psychiatry. For her advocacy work, Kika has received numerous awards, including the Canadian Medical Association 150th Anniversary Award.

