

# REPORT ON GLOBAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES

*Chris Briggs, CFMS VP Global Health  
Annual General Meeting Report  
September 21 – 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018. Montreal, Quebec*



## I. DESCRIPTION OF POSITION

From the CFMS bylaws:

*The Vice President of Global Health shall direct the delivery of the Global Health Program and support the activities of the constituency on matters pertaining to global health, international development, and public health. These include but are not limited to:*

- 1. Leading the team of Global Health Program National Officer portfolios; and*
- 2. Representing the CFMS internationally, acting as National Member Organization (NMO) President to the International Federation of Medical Student Associations (IFMSA); and*
- 3. Collaborating with the VP Government Affairs to organize the annual Federal Lobby Day.*

National Officers (NOs) provide specific services and/or representation on behalf of Canadian medical students.

- National Exchange Officers (NEOs): *Hillary Pearson & Montana Johnston*
- National Officer of Reproductive and Sexual Health (NORSH): *Ben Cassidy*
- National Officer of Partnerships (NOP): *Michelle Quaye*
- National Officer of Human Rights and Peace (NORP): *Asha Behdinan*
- National Officer of Global Health Education (NOGHE): *Ruth Habte & Dylan Ginter*
- National Officer of Indigenous Health (NOIH): *Willow Thickson*

## II. MEETINGS ATTENDED

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Person</b>	<b>Location</b>
November 27, 2018	LORSH Teleconference	LORSHs	Teleconference
January 7, 2018	LOGHE Teleconference	NOGHEs and LOGHEs	Teleconference
January 21, 2018	National Officer Teleconference	All NOs	Teleconference
January 25, 2018	Introduction Meeting with Dr. O'Hearn (Co-Chair of AFMC Global Health Network)	NOGHE and VP GH	Teleconference
January 30, 2018	GHL Teleconference	NOP and GHLs	Teleconference
February 8th,	LORSH Teleconference	LORSHs	Teleconference

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2018			
February 18, 2018	LOGHE Teleconference	NOGHEs and LOGHEs	Teleconference
February 18, 2018	Canadian Medical Learners for Gender and Sexual Diversity	Committee members	Teleconference
March 1-7, 2018	IFMSA March meeting	NEO Incoming, CFMS members	Hurghada, Egypt
Sunday March 25	GHL Teleconference	NOP and GHLs	Teleconference
April 8, 2018	LOGHE Teleconference	NOGHEs and LOGHEs	Teleconference
April 8, 2018	National Officer Teleconference	All NOs	Teleconference
April 27, 2018	AFMC joint meeting with the networks of Social Accountability and Equity, Diversity and Gender, Global Health, and Distributed Medical Education	NOGHE, NOP, NEO incoming	Halifax, NS
May 20, 2018	National Officer Teleconference	NOGHE, NOP, President, NORP,	Teleconference
August 1-7, 2018	IFMSA August Meeting	President, NORP, NEO incoming, CFMS members	Montreal, QC

### III. PORTFOLIO SPECIFIC UPDATES

#### ***NATIONAL EXCHANGE OFFICERS***

The National Exchange Officer portfolio was managed by Montana Johnson (for outgoing students) and Hillary Pearson (for incoming students) over the 2017-2018 academic year. The summer 2018 contracts were signed & sealed at the IFMSA August Meeting in Arusha, Tanzania. Along with CFMS general delegates, we discussed health and medical education around the world with hundreds of medical students. In the fall we welcomed a new group of LEOs and launched the call for outgoing Canadian exchange students. A new algorithm allowed us to streamline the process and create a fairer and sustainable way to allocate a limited number of exchanges among many deserving students. Meanwhile, we began hosting incoming research and clinical students through the hard work of our Local exchange officers and social committee

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leads. So far we have welcomed 37 students to Canada and are expecting more! The NEO Incoming headed the CFMS delegation heading to Egypt for the March meeting where we made our mark in the plenary proceedings and learned more about how the CFMS might rekindle our relationship with the IFMSA. In the summer of 2018, over 110 Canadian students flew across the world to learn as medicals students in other countries. The portfolio is trailing a new position of CFMS Lead on SCORE Recruitment to liaise with researchers and LEOs across the country to recruit more research projects for exchanges. We are looking forward to broader discussions on equity in exchanges and how we can engage our faculties to support students travelling abroad.

## ***NATIONAL OFFICER OF GLOBAL HEALTH EDUCATION***

The National Officer of Global Health Education portfolio was managed by Ruth Habte and Dylan Ginter over the 2017-18 academic year. Throughout this period, they directed their efforts towards three main projects. First, the Social Medicine Certificate Toolkit is a resource that provides a framework for students attempting to implement a global health certificate program at their school. Second, the portfolio successfully applied for a student initiatives grant to electronically publish the first eight chapters of Selected Cases in Global Health (SCGH). SCGH is an educational resource on various global health topics structured similarly to the Case Files series written by medical students and reviewed by expert faculty. The first edition includes chapters on Immigrant and Refugee Health, Political and Health, as well as Ethical Global Health Practices. Lastly, the portfolio completed a survey of student perceptions regarding global health education at each school. After multiple revisions, the project will be formally released prior to AGM 2018. In addition to the aforementioned projects, Dylan and Ruth attended multiple meetings with other national officers, local officers as well as various AFMC networks.

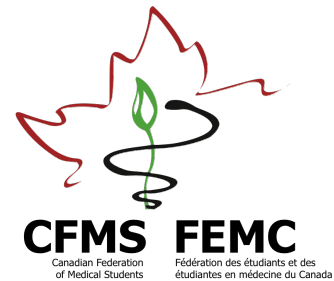
## ***NATIONAL OFFICER OF PARTNERSHIPS***

The National Officer of Partnerships portfolio was managed by Michelle Quaye over the 2017-18 academic year. Throughout this period, the portfolio focused on three main priorities:

1. **Public Health Exchanges.** The portfolio collaborated with the NEO-Incoming to discuss the feasibility of signing IFMSA public health exchange contracts for future years. The portfolio has also been working on a template GHLS can use to contact local public health units, public health departments at universities and public health-related NGOs to find Canadian institutions that are potentially willing to accept IFMSA exchange students for a 4 week placement. Furthermore, this template is intended to be adaptable for GHLS interested in increasing availability of placements at their home institutions for Canadian medical students interested in public health work.
2. **Cross-Canada GHIL Initiative.** At SGM 2018, an open discussion was held with GHLS to discuss ways to make use of the global health budget by collaborating in a Canada-wide initiative. The idea that had the most support from GHLS was an event that would be complementary to National Day of Action, addressing advocacy on a more practical level, and also potentially involving community action events, either through inviting members of the relevant community to engage in a dialogue with medical students, or by

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having GHs establish a long-term relationship with the relevant community and have students participate constructively within the community.

3. **Partnership Building.** The portfolio has explored and reached out to a number of global health-related organizations to discuss the possibility of partnering to offer exposure for the organizations while in turn increasing availability of global health opportunities for interested CFMS members.

Additionally, NOP represented the CFMS Global Health portfolio at the AFMC joint meeting with the networks of Social Accountability and Equity, Diversity and Gender, Global Health, and Distributed Medical Education, which took place at the 2018 Canadian Conference on Medical Education in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

NOP also served as acting VP Global Health and Official CFMS Representative to the IFMSA from May to September 2018. In this capacity, NOP communicated with CFMS members interested in global health opportunities and referred them to relevant resources. She also served as liaison between the IFMSA and the CFMS Global Health Portfolio, fulfilling all tasks required by the IFMSA to keep its membership in good standing. NOP coordinated the selection process for incoming Global Health National Officers, as well as the selection and registration of fourteen delegates to the IFMSA August Meeting 2018 which was held in Montreal, Canada. This was the largest delegation the CFMS has sent to an IFMSA meeting in recent years.

## ***NATIONAL OFFICER OF REPRODUCTIVE & SEXUAL HEALTH***

The National Officer of Reproductive and Sexual Health portfolio was managed by Benjamin Cassidy over the 2017-18 academic year. In this role, he focussed on trying to improve networking between schools to facilitate idea sharing and collaborations. LORSHs were encouraged to participate in a Photo Campaign for World AIDS Day this year as a national effort that could then be complimented by local approaches. He liaised with IFMSA-SCORA as well as other organizations such as the National Abortion Federation. In tandem with the CMA presidential elections and International Women's Day, he organized a Letter Writing Campaign with LORSHs from across the country bringing the CMA's attention to current issues in Canadian Women's Health. Continued efforts were made to bring the new Canadian Medical Learners for Gender and Sexual Diversity (CML4GSD) committee into fruition.

### **Chris Briggs**

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