

# NATIONAL OFFICER REPORT

*David Wiercigroch, CFMS National Officer of Health Policy  
2019 Annual General Meeting  
September 20-22, 2019, St. John's*



## I. DESCRIPTION OF POSITION

The National Officer of Health Policy (NOHP) chairs the Committee on Health Policy (COHP). The Committee on Health Policy reviews CFMS guiding documents (position papers, policy statements and discussion papers) regularly and updates them as required. The Committee also reviews new policy proposals. The National Officer of Health Policy also responds to emerging policy areas and represents the CFMS on external committees in the realm of health policy as required.

## II. ACTIVITIES

### **Committee on Health Policy**

COHP members were active members of several CFMS taskforces and deeply involved in the development of position papers, many of which were adopted by CFMS members at SGM and AGM 2019. In order to formalize feedback and promote transparency, a new process was piloted. Two reviewers were assigned per paper and they provided feedback to authors. This feedback included a summary statement of strengths and areas of improvement. Authors were given a chance to review and respond to feedback as well as make any changes based on the recommendations. Each review statement was published on the AGM page of the CFMS website alongside the motion and guiding document. The intent of this new process is to support authors in improving their papers and to provide further context for delegates attending general meetings and voting on motions. We hope that this process will provide guidance to students as to where they may target their questions from position papers. Next steps will include evaluating the process and making changes based on feedback.

COHP has pursued other initiatives that seek to improve the position paper process. Notably, towards the beginning of our term, we implemented a new format for our guiding documents with a summary page. The summary allows for readers to quickly get a sense of topics addressed in the paper. We hope that this approach has increased the accessibility of our guiding documents and will continue to promote readership and use.

### **External Representation**

As the National Officer of Health Policy, I had the privilege of bringing together experts from within our membership to respond to Health Canada's public consultation on improving Canada's approach to substance use. Our submission was heavily influenced by the CFMS position papers passed by SGM and AGM including the Opioid Task Force, Cannabis Task Force and Criminal Justice Reform Task Force.

During my term, I had the opportunity to contribute to a Health Canada engagement session on a regulatory approach to the marketing of opioids. I also led the CFMS response to the Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada (FMRAC) Framework on a regulatory approach to physicians who care for patients with acute or chronic pain and/or opioid use disorders and prescribe opioids.

Finally, I represent the CFMS on the AFMC Project Oversight Committee on the AFMC response to the opioid crisis. We are overseeing the development of a pan-Canadian curriculum on pain management and

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substance use. In order to ensure students are well-represented, I will be consulting throughout the development of the curriculum to better understand how we can best meet your needs with this new initiative.



## Co-Chair Federal Election Primer

I co-chaired the Task Force responsible for the development of the CFMS Federal Election Primer alongside the National Officer of Political Action. Our project is ongoing but we have launched our first iteration at [cfmsvotes.ca](http://cfmsvotes.ca) and @cfmsvotes on instagram and twitter.

## III. MEETINGS ATTENDED

Date	Meeting	Location
October 20, 2018	CFMS Federal Election Strategy Taskforce	Teleconference
November 15, 2018	COHP Meeting #1	Teleconference
December 9, 2018	COHP Meeting #2	Teleconference
December 13, 2018	National Officer Orientation	Teleconference
January 20, 2019	COHP Meeting #3	Teleconference
February 2 – 4, 2019	National Day of Action	Ottawa, ON
February 11, 2019	COHP Meeting #4	Teleconference
March 12, 2019	AFMC Project Oversight Committee	Teleconference
April 12-13, 2019	SGM 2019	Niagara Falls, ON
May 5, 2019	COHP Meeting #5	Teleconference
May 15, 2019	Canada's Marketing and Advertising of Opioids Engagement session	Teleconference
June 5-12, 2019	NOHP Interviews	Teleconference
June 9, 2019	CFMS Federal Election Primer Meeting	Teleconference
July 17, 2019	CFMS Federal Election Primer Meeting	Teleconference
July 25, 2019	COHP Meeting #6	Teleconference
September 12, 2019	CFMS Federal Election Primer Meeting	Teleconference
September 20-22, 2019	AGM 2019	St. John's, Newfoundland

## V. CONCLUSIONS

It has been a pleasure serving as the National Officer of Health Policy. I have learned so much from the leaders I have had the opportunity to work with. Special thank you to all the members of the Committee on Health Policy who have done the heavy lifting this year and contributed to the development of excellent CFMS policy. Special thank you to Yipeng, Debbie and Linda for your consistent support and leadership in the Advocacy Portfolio.

## David Wiercigroch

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National Officer of Health Policy | Officier National des Politiques de Santé

Canadian Federation of Medical Students | Fédération des étudiants et des étudiantes en médecine du Canada

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