

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Anthony Maher, Atlantic Regional Representative
Canadian Federation of Medical Students Spring General Meeting, April 2016

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As the Atlantic Regional Representative on the CFMS Executive, my role is to represent the medical students of the four Atlantic provinces and, in particular, the medical students attending Memorial University and Dalhousie University. Since assuming my role on the Executive in August 2015, I have engaged in the following key activities:

- Coordination of the AGM 2016 Bid Process. In collaboration with Rosemary Conliffe and 4 volunteer reviewers from the Executive, I advertised and facilitated the selection process for the 2016 Annual General Meeting. I subsequently compiled feedback from each of the reviewers and conveyed this to the student leaders who had prepared bids.
- Advocacy for the CFMS-FMEQ Wellness Survey at Memorial University. In response to concerns about the eligibility of students' survey responses from Memorial University, I facilitated a series of discussions between the CFMS Executive, the Lead Investigators of the FMEQ-CFMS Wellness Survey, and the Ethics Director of the NL Human Research Ethics Authority.
- Participation in AFMC Working Groups on a Common Legal Agreement and Immunisation Policy. I joined Franco Rizzuti (VP Finance) on the Common Legal Agreement Working Group and Nebras Warsi (VP Education) on the Working Group on Immunisation Policy. The former resulted in a formal request for transparency in the Master Agreement governing the Student Portal. The latter consisted of assisting with drafting, dissemination and review of a survey aimed at streamlining the immunisations requirements for medical student electives in Canada.
- Initiation of Podcast Partnership. In collaboration with Nebras Warsi (VP Education) and the CFMS Education Committee (EdCom), I proposed the idea of a partnership between the EdCom and The Rounds Table, a weekly podcast about major new research in medicine hosted online at HealthyDebate.ca. In April 2016 this resulted in a partnership in which EdCom members will be featured on future podcast episodes.
- Inclusion of Moncton Campus of the Université de Sherbrooke. In cooperation with the CFMS Quebec Regional Representative, I will be meeting with medical students from the Moncton campus of the Université de Sherbrooke who are planning to attend SGM 2016. This will hopefully result in the formal confirmation of the Moncton campus' membership in the CFMS.

II. DESCRIPTION OF POSITION

As outlined in the guiding documents of the CFMS, the regional representatives serve three main functions. They serve to represent the regional member schools and bring any concerns and issues that may 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, Dalhousie University and the CFMS Executive. As a fully functioning member of the Executive, I have also taken on projects that support the organisation as a whole.

III. ACTIVITIES

A. MEETINGS ATTENDED

CFMS Annual General Meeting, Windsor, Ontario – September 17-20, 2015

CFMS Fall Executive Meeting, Ottawa, Ontario – October 16-18, 2015

Atlantic Regional Teleconference – November 2, 2015

CFMS Winter Executive Meeting, Toronto, Ontario – January 8-10, 2015

Atlantic Medical Students' Conference, Halifax, Nova Scotia – February 12-14, 2015

CFMS Lobby Day, Ottawa, Ontario – February 19-22, 2015

B. PROJECT AREAS

1) Coordination of AGM 2016 Bid Process.

- In collaboration with Rosemary Conliffe and 4 volunteer reviewers from the Executive, I advertised and facilitated the selection process for the 2016 Annual General Meeting. Applications were received from 3 schools from both the Atlantic and Western regions. The successful school was the University of Alberta. I subsequently compiled feedback from each of the reviewers and conveyed this to the student leaders who had prepared bids.

2) CFMS-FMEQ Wellness Survey Advocacy at Memorial University

- In response to concerns about the eligibility of students' survey responses from Memorial University, I facilitated a series of discussions between the CFMS Executive, the Lead Investigators of the FMEQ-CFMS Wellness Survey, and the Ethics Director of the NL Human Research Ethics Authority (HREA). Among the CFMS Executive, this resulted in greater awareness of the specific requirements regarding ethics approval in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. The end result was the inclusion of the survey responses completed by Memorial students. I also facilitated a discussion between Brandon Maser, one of the investigators for the survey, and the Ethics Director for the NLREA regarding translating these specific ethics requirements into a memory document to guide future CFMS-sponsored research.

3) Participation in AFMC Working Group on a Common Legal Agreement for the Student Electives Portal

- I joined Franco Rizzuti (VP Finance) on the Common Legal Agreement Working Group and Nebras Warsi (VP Education) on the Working Group on Immunisation Policy. The Common Legal Agreement Working Group consisted of a teleconference and comprehensive review of the Terms of Use and Student Declaration associated with the AFMC Student Portal. In consultation with other Executive members, I drafted a summary document responding to the documents discussed in the teleconference. In particular, there was a request for greater transparency in the Master Agreement governing the Student Portal.

4) Participation in AFMC Working Group on Immunisation Policy

- As a participant in the Working Group on Immunisations Policy, I have joined Nebras Warsi (VP Education) in representing the concerns of medical students regarding immunisations. We have assisted with drafting, dissemination and review of a survey aimed at streamlining the immunisations requirements for medical student electives in Canada. The VP Education and I will be presenting the findings from this survey at SGM 2016 to provide an update and solicit feedback from the students in attendance.

5) Initiation of Partnership with The Rounds Table Podcast

- In collaboration with Nebras Warsi (VP Education) and the CFMS Education Committee (EdCom), I proposed the idea of a partnership between the EdCom and The Rounds Table, a weekly podcast about major new research in medicine hosted online at HealthyDebate.ca. In April 2016 this resulted in a partnership in which two EdCom members will be featured on future podcast episodes. This will provide an opportunity to share the research being conducted by the EdCom and engage medical students in podcasting as a medium of medical education.

IV. GOALS

1) Update Guidelines for AGM Bid Coordination

- In preparation for the CFMS Summer Executive Meeting, I will be conducting a review of the documents currently used to guide the AGM Bid Selection Process. Any modifications to these forms will be presented to the Executive for discussion at that time.

2) Work towards a Standard Form with AFMC Working Group on Immunisations

- A participant from the Working Group, Dr. Libitch from the University of Manitoba, has prepared a draft standardised immunisations form. This will be the object of discussion at the CFMS SGM and CCME 2016, with the aim of garnering support for the form as a concrete step forward.

3) Develop Podcast Partnership

- Given that the partnership between the CFMS EdCom and The Rounds Table podcast was just recently confirmed, my goal over the coming months is to ensure that this partnership is a fruitful and engaging experience for all involved. This will involve drafting promotional messages and working with the podcast's producers regarding scheduling of the EdCom members.

4) Inclusion of Moncton Campus

- In cooperation with the CFMS Quebec Regional Representative, I will be meeting with medical students from the Moncton campus of the Université de Sherbrooke who are planning to attend SGM 2016. This will hopefully result in the formal confirmation of the Moncton campus' membership in the CFMS.

V. FUTURE SUGGESTIONS

Further Collaboration with Moncton Campus

- Once the participation of Moncton students is confirmed and publicly recognised at SGM, a key area of activity for future Atlantic Regional Representatives will be to ensure the full inclusion of Moncton students in Atlantic regional events and teleconferences. A prime example in this regard will be the annual Atlantic Medical Students' Conference.

Finalise Standard Immunisations Form with AFMC Working Group on Immunisations

- In the wake of discussions surrounding the draft standardised immunisations form at SGM and CCME 2016, a crucial area of advocacy remains the widespread adoption of such a form at each of our member schools. Given the existence of the AFMC Working Group, this work will be greatly facilitated by working in close collaboration with the Group's Chair, Dr. Donald McKay, and all other participants.

Continue Podcast Partnership

- While a CFMS Executive Member in any position or a member of the CFMS EdCom may assume this role, I believe it would be highly valuable to further develop the partnership with The Rounds Table podcast. In addition to providing a medium through which to share interesting and topical research, this could provide an opportunity for the CFMS to engage with learners and clinicians alike through the podcast format.