

# EXECUTIVE REPORT

Nebras M. Warsi, VP Medical Education  
2016 Spring General Meeting  
April 14-17, 2016, Montreal, Quebec



## I. DESCRIPTION OF POSITION

The VP Medical Education (VP Ed) role has developed significantly over the past few years, particularly since the adoption of the CFMS 2014-2017 Strategic Plan. Its roles can be divided into three inter-related responsibilities, all of which are centred on the advancement of student and patient interests in the area of medical education.

**Connecting:** The VP Ed connects local medical student education leaders (typically medical student society VP Educations or VP Academics) through an online community called the CFMS Academic Roundtable. This community has developed over the past two years into a forum for VP Academics across Canada to share information, learn from successes across the country, and engage with both the CFMS and their counterparts at other Canadian medical schools. In addition, the VP Ed is often present at meetings of the CFMS Representatives and Medical Society Presidents in order to share the latest developments in the portfolio and gather critical feedback.

**Representing:** The VP Ed represents all Canadian medical students to various national medical organizations including various committees of the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada (AFMC), the Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS), the Medical Council of Canada (MCC) and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC). The VP Ed may also represent students on various working groups and task forces established internally by the CFMS or externally by our partners for short-term medical education projects.

**Supporting:** Finally, the VP Ed, through leadership of the CFMS Education Committee (EdCom) coordinates a series of projects aimed at supporting our medical students. Current projects include creation of a standardized immunization form for the AFMC Electives Portal, the Match Book, restoring funding to MD/PhD programs, interprofessional education, global health education, medical school accreditation, student mistreatment, renewing the CFMS Electives and Interviews databases, and advocating for improvement to the entry disciplines available in the first round of the CaRMS match.

## II. ACTIVITIES

Selected meetings attended:

Date	Meeting	Location
September 17 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	CFMS Annual General Meeting	Windsor, ON
September 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	CaRMS Board Meeting	Ottawa, ON
October 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	CITAC Discussion regarding MD/PhD Funding	Teleconference
October 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	CFMS Academic Roundtable	Teleconference
October 16 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	Fall Executive Meeting	Ottawa, ON
October 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	AFMC Portal Steering Committee	Teleconference
October 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	Canadian Graduates Questionnaire	Teleconference
October 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	AFMC Immunizations Working Group	Teleconference

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October 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	FMEC-PG Accreditation Implementation Committee	Ottawa, ON
November 5 <sup>th</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	Royal College Summit on Physician Employment	Ottawa, ON
November 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	CaRMS Board Meeting	Teleconference
November 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	CanMEDS Advisory Committee	Teleconference
November 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2015	CFMS Executive Meeting	Teleconference
November 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	FMEC – The Next Ten Years Summit	Ottawa, ON
November 26 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	Royal College Committee on Specialty Education	Ottawa, ON
November 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	Education Committee Meeting	Teleconference
December 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	Strategic Partnerships Meeting	Teleconference
December 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	Meeting with CFMS VP Finance	Teleconference
December 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	Education Committee Meeting	Teleconference
January 8 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	Winter Executive Meeting	Toronto, ON
January 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	AFMC Electives Groups	Teleconference
January 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	AFMC Electives Portal Steering Committee	Teleconference
January 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	CFMS Representatives Meeting	Teleconference
January 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	Education Committee Meeting	Teleconference
January 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	Meeting with CaRMS CEO	Teleconference
January 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	Meeting with McGill Medical Student Society	Montreal, QC
January 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	FMEC-PG Learner Education Handover Meeting	Teleconference
January 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2016	CFMS Academic Roundtable	Teleconference
February 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	Education Committee Meeting	Teleconference
February 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	Presidents' Roundtable	Teleconference
March 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2016	CFMS Executive Meeting	Teleconference
March 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	CFMS Executive Conference regarding Accreditation	Teleconference
March 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	Entry Disciplines Meeting with RDoC	Teleconference
March 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	Meeting with NOGHES	Teleconference
March 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	Meeting with IMG Primer Working Group	Teleconference
March 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	Education Committee Meeting	Teleconference
March 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2016	CaRMS Board Meeting	Teleconference
March 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	AFMC Immunizations Working Group	Teleconference
March 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	IFMSA – SCOME Meeting	Teleconference
March 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	IFMSA – SCOME PAMSA Meeting	Teleconference
March 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	FMEC-PG Accreditation Implementation Committee	Ottawa, ON
April 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2016	Entry Disciplines Working Group	Ottawa, ON
April 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	AFMC Immunizations Working Group	Teleconference

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April 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	Education Committee Meeting	Teleconference
April 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	IPE Alliance Meeting	Teleconference
April 14 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	CFMS Spring General Meeting	Montreal, QC

### III. PRIORITIES AND PROJECT AREAS

Over the past few months, the VP Ed, in conjunction with the EdCom, has focused on a number of key priority areas for the CFMS. Attached below is a summary of some of the major projects and committees that have been served by the position this year.

#### Selected National Committees:

##### **Electives Portal Immunizations Committee:**

A critical priority for the CFMS, since the creation of the national electives portal, has been the development of a unified immunization form for all visiting electives across Canada. At present, the process is highly complicated, and requires students to fill out a different, and labour-intensive, form for each program they choose to apply to. At SGM 2015, the CFMS General Membership voted to work with the AFMC on this issue, which led to the creation of this committee.

Over the past few months, this committee released a survey to all students registered in the National Electives Portal and discovered significant dissatisfaction among students with the current process. As a result, a proposal for a single, unified, immunization form will be presented to both the CFMS membership and the Undergraduate Medical School Deans at SGM / CCME 2016.

##### **Electives Portal Steering Committee:**

The Steering Committee of the AFMC Electives Portal consists of representatives from the AFMC, the Undergraduate Deans, and both the CFMS and FMEQ. The goal of this group is to ensure that the National Electives Portal best serves the needs of Canadian Medical Students. In particular, discussions at this committee have focused on enhancing the portal interface and ensuring refunds to students with cancelled electives.

##### **AFMC Electives Co-ordinators:**

This group is composed of the Visiting Electives Co-ordinators from across the country, and has been a key ally of the CFMS throughout the year. A number of fruitful discussions have been had at this committee, particularly with regards to allowing exemptions to regular deadlines for students with late elective cancellations, ensuring fair access to electives for students across Canada, and implementing standards of timely communication from visiting elective programs.

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## **FMEC-PG Accreditation Implementation:**

This group focuses on creating a standardized accreditation system for both undergraduate and postgraduate medical education programs. In addition to working on all aspects of this committee, the CFMS has keenly advocated for the continuation of reciprocal accreditation between the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS) and the American Liaison Committee for Medical Education (LCME). This allows Canadian trainees to pursue postgraduate training and potential careers in the United States without the need for additional certification in the United States. Committee members have been in agreement with the CFMS regarding the importance of maintaining this reciprocity.

## **FMEC-PG Learner Education Handover:**

This is a project that aims to create a standard information document that follows each medical student through medical school to residency. The aim of this document has been to produce a standard document that includes strengths, weaknesses, and desired areas of further training for each medical students as they enter residency.

The CFMS has firmly advocated for the release of voluntary information only on these forms, and at present the draft forms will only include self-identified information from each student. We have also worked to ensure confidentiality of the information shared.

## **Working Group on Entry Disciplines:**

This new working groups is a joint initiative between Resident Doctors of Canada (RDoC), the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada (AFMC), and the Royal College to examine the entry disciplines available in the first round of the CaRMS Match. The CFMS has been keenly engaged in this discussion, and has officially endorsed the RDoC position paper on entry disciplines. As this committee matures, we will continue to advocate for the interests and values of our membership as they relate to the entry disciplines available through CaRMS.

## **Education Committee Projects:**

The VP Ed serves as the chair of the EdCom. Each individual project of the EdCom is lead by a group of committee members with a specific interest in the area. Attached below is an update from each of these working groups.

**Communications & Best Practices:** The Communications portfolio just chaired another VP Academic Roundtable with representatives from medical student societies across Canada, where discussion items ranged from research in the curriculum to clerkship responsibilities. The portfolio continues to work on optimizing communications and keeping up to date with the

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creation of the new CFMS website's Education page. Furthermore, this working group has released its first "quarterly update" to keep the CFMS membership in the know of all of the EdCom's projects. This is regularly circulated to CFMS Reps and Medical Society Presidents, as well as posted on the CFMS website under "Education."

**Accreditation:** The Accreditation portfolio is in the process of sending out a survey to two groups (those who have used our accreditation toolkit and those who did not) to best determine students needs. Furthermore, they are participating in ongoing advocacy with CACMS regarding the needs of Canadian medical students.

**Match Book:** The Match Book portfolio is working on a feedback survey and sponsorship for the Match Book. A French version of the CFMS Match Book is also coming soon, thanks to a strong partnership with the CFMS bilingualism taskforce. Finally, we are working to design a new cover for the 2016 Match Book.

**Advocacy Toolkit:** The Advocacy Toolkit portfolio has also drafted a survey to be sent out soon, which will determine student needs for this toolkit. Survey timelines and mode of dissemination is currently being optimized.

**Databases:** The CFMS Databases portfolio is working on focus groups for students to determine what needs to be done in order to update the Electives and Interviews databases. Making lists of residents available to contact for information, and a feedback system for the electives portal are among the current considerations.

**MD/PhD:** The MD/PhD Funding portfolio has submitted a position paper to support MD/PhD program funding in Canada to the Spring General Meeting of the CFMS.

**IMG Advocacy:** The IMG Primer portfolio has submitted a Backgrounder document to the CFMS Spring General Meeting for consideration by the general assembly.

**Interprofessional Education:** The Interprofessional Education portfolio has spearheaded two major projects, in collaboration with the Ontario Medical Students' Association (OMSA).

The first is a toolkit to support students across the country in developing Student Led Clinics. The toolkit contains valuable background information regarding these clinics, and inventory and contact information for existing clinics in Canada, and key pieces of advice for students interested in developing initiatives such as these on a local level.

The second is the creation of an Interprofessional Alliance between the CFMS and peer healthcare student organizations.

**Global Health:** The Global Health Advocacy portfolio is currently identifying the gaps in global health curricula across Canada. Subsequently, they will pick a common theme and develop an education module for all CFMS members to address said gaps.

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**Mistreatment:** The Mistreatment portfolio has gathered data from various schools across Canada on this topic, including meeting with “Be In The Know” and Wellness committee reps. They are further analyzing this information to identify where to act with this project.

**MSPR:** The MSPR portfolio has submitted a position paper for consideration at the Spring General Meeting.

The above represents many of the key activities of the Education Portfolio since AGM 2015. None of this work would have been possible without the hard work and collegiality of the CFMS executive and the education committee, as well as the continued feedback and input of our membership.

Respectfully submitted,

Nebras M. Warsi,  
Vice-President Medical Education 2015 – 2016  
Canadian Federation of Medical Students