

EXECUTIVE REPORT

*Tavis Apramian, CFMS Vice-President Education
2017 Spring General Meeting
April 28-29, 2017, Winnipeg, Manitoba*



I. DESCRIPTION OF POSITION

The roles of the VP Education (VP Ed) are divided into three inter-related responsibilities. Each of these 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 a virtual community called the CFMS Academic Roundtable. This community has developed over the past three 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.

Representing: The VP Ed represents Canadian medical students to various national medical organizations including the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada (AFMC), the Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS), the Medical Council of Canada (MCC), the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC), and others. 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. The Education Committee is ably co-lead in 2016-2017 by EdCom Vice-Chair Maylynn Ding. Current projects include reimagining the Accreditation Toolkit, developing new education-related position papers, designing the Matchbook, and others.

II. ACTIVITIES

Meetings attended:

Date	Meeting	Location	Hours
9/28/16	International Medical Education Leaders Forum	Niagara Falls, Ontario	8
09/29/16-09/30/16	International Conference on Medical Education	Niagara Falls, Ontario	16
10/9/16	Franco Rizzuti, CFMS President	Teleconference	1
10/9/16	RDoC Past President, Tom McLaughlin	Teleconference	0.5
10/15/16	CFMS Executive	Teleconference	1
10/17/20	CaRMS Application Committee	Kaylynn Purdy, Ontario Rep	Delegated
10/20/16	Royal College Council Meeting	Ottawa, ON	5
10/21/16	AFMC UG Chair, Dr. Gary Tithecott	London, ON	1
10/21/16	CaRMS, John Gallinger	Teleconference	0.5
10/27/16	AFMC Immunizations	Teleconference	1
10/28/16	CaRMS Board	Ottawa, ON	7
11/3/16	Can. Alliance of Health Prof. Students' Associations	Teleconference	1
11/4/16	Choosing Wisely Canada	Teleconference	1

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11/4/16	AFMC Grad Questionnaire Working Group	Ottawa, ON	1
11/4/16-11/06/16	CFMS Fall Executive Meeting	Ottawa, ON	12
11/7/16	AFMC Portal Steering Committee	Teleconference	1.5
11/7/16	Glenn Regher, CFMS NRC	Teleconference	1
11/8/16	CFMS EdCom Interviews	Teleconference	2
11/9/16	CFMS EdCom Interviews	Teleconference	1
11/13/16	CFMS Academic Roundtable	Teleconference	1
11/15/16	AAMC Annual Meeting (non CFMS budget)	Seattle, WA	8
11/15/16	AFMC Portal Data Analysis Working Group	Shreya Jalali, Ontario Rep	Delegated
11/17/16	CaRMS Members Meeting	Teleconference	2
11/19/16	CFMS EdCom 1:1 Meetings	Teleconference	8
11/20/16	CFMS EdCom 1:1 Meetings	Teleconference	3
11/20/16	CFMS, VP Finance, Daniel Peretz	Teleconference	1
11/23/16	CFMS Surveys, Brandon Maser & Rishad Khan	Branavan Manorjaran, NOR	Delegated
11/22/16	CITAC AGM	Patrick Steadman, CITAC Rep	Delegated
11/24/16	Royal College Committee on Specialty Education	Shreya Jalali, Ontario Rep	Delegated
11/24/16	AFMC Immunization Working Group	Kaylynn Purdy, Ontario Rep	Delegated
11/25/16	Royal College Committee Conjoint PGE Meeting	Shreya Jalali, Ontario Rep	Delegated
11/26/16	Robert Chu Memorial Service	St. Catharines, ON	1.5
12/1/16	CFMS EdCom Accreditation	Teleconference	1
12/5/16	Dalhousie Accreditation	Teleconference	1
12/5/16	Ottawa ISA Accreditation	Adam Pietrobon, EdCom	Delegated
12/6/16	CACMS Secretariat, Shannon Venance	London, ON	1
12/11/16	CFMS EdCom Certificate Liaison	Teleconference	1
12/11/16	CFMS EdCom Full Meeting	Teleconference	2
12/13/16	CFMS HHR	Teleconference	1
12/15/16	CFMS EdCom Qbank	Teleconference	1
12/18/16	CFMS Academic Roundtable	Teleconference	1
12/19/16	FMEC Learner Education Handover WG	Teleconference	1
12/20/16	AFMC Working Group on UME Research	Branavan Manorjaran, NOR	Delegated
1/6/17	CFMS Winter Exec Meeting	Toronto	12
1/9/17	CanMEDS Consortium	Teleconference	1
1/16/17	AFMC Portal Steering Committee	Teleconference	1
1/21/17	Saskatchewan ISA Accreditation	Teleconference	1
1/22/17	Alberta MSA HHR Group	Teleconference	1
1/23/17	Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada	Teleconference	1

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1/25/17	CFMS NRC Glenn Regher (W/ NOR)	Teleconference	1
2/2/17	AFMC Portal Immunizations	Kaylynn Purdy, Ontario Rep	Delegated
2/3/17	CAHPSA	Teleconference	1
2/5/17	CFMS EdCom	Teleconference	1
2/6/17	FMEQ VP Education - Olivier Fortin	Teleconference	1
2/22/17	CFMS NRC Glenn Regher (w/ EdCom)	Teleconference	1
2/25/17	CFMS Exec TC	Teleconference	2
2/26/17	CFMS VP Academic Roundtable	Teleconference	1
2/27/01	CMA Strategic Planning	Teleconference	1.5
3/14/17	AFMC Portal Steering Committee	Teleconference	2
3/17/17	AFMC UME Research Working Group	Teleconference	1
3/20/17	CanMEDS Consortium	Teleconference	1.5
3/26/17	CFMS VP Academic Roundtable	Teleconference	1
3/27/17	CFMS Exec Strategic Plan Discussion	Teleconference	0.5
4/3/17	CFMS NRC Glenn Regehr (w/ VP GA)	Teleconference	0.5
4/3/17	CFMS Ed Portfolio Position Paper Authors	Teleconference	1.5
4/9/17	CAHPSA	Teleconference	1.5
4/9/17	CFMS EdCom	Teleconference	1.5
1/10/17	AFMC UME Chair Gary Tithecott	Teleconference	0.5
4/12/17	CFMS MCC Rep transition	Teleconference	1
4/17/17	AFMC Chair Michael Strong	London, ON	0.5
4/18/17	CFMS Exec Teleconference	Teleconference	2
4/28/17	CFMS Exec Spring Meeting	Winnipeg, MB	4
4/29/17 - 4/30/17	CFMS Spring General Meeting	Winnipeg, MB	16
		TOTAL	157.5

III. PRIORITIES AND PROJECT AREAS

Connecting

The connecting portion of the Education Portfolio has grown significantly in recent years. The Education Committee included 14 members and 15 ex officio members. Position papers authors have included an additional 11 students. We've consulted on collaborative discussions with students from all over the country on education-related topics. And the **VP Academic Roundtable** has grown into a robust discussion forum for grassroots initiatives. Many of the 25 VP Academics from CFMS member schools regularly joined our 6 meetings from November to April. The meetings were capably chaired by the Vice-Chair of the Education Committee, Maylynn Ding (a full description of that new position can be found below). We tried to ensure that information on the work of the CFMS Executive and the Education Committee (EdCom)

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made it back to VP Academics. At each meeting, I provided updates on key issues at the executive level, Maylynn provided updates from the EdCom, and one member of the EdCom attended as a guest speaker to present the work happening in their file and to take questions.

More importantly, though, the key topics brought forward by VP Academics included curriculum renewal, curriculum review procedures, administrative transparency around curriculum, and approaches to examination. In addition, VP Academics collected information on global health and social determinants of health education, shadowing and observership policies, rural exposure, and wellness/resiliency curricula. If you or any students at your school have interest in these topics or the minutes of these meetings please do not hesitate to contact me at vpeducation@cfms.org.

I am grateful for the efforts of my predecessor, Nebras Warsi. Nebras created the roundtable during his time on the Education Committee. It then flourished under the hard work and leadership of Nebras and Shreya Jalali in the following year. This year, Maylynn has helped make the Roundtable into one of the key ways that the Education portfolio works to connect members from across the country.

Representing

The **Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada (AFMC)** is the most important organization at which the VP Ed represents the CFMS. The AFMC is composed of the deans of every Canadian medical school and has the primary role in creating and implementing national and local policies in the schools. Much of my time during the year was spent analyzing AFMC policies, writing proposals for student work at the AFMC, and attending AFMC meetings on behalf of the CFMS. Ultimately, the goals of the AFMC and the CFMS remain the same. We both aspire to continually improve Canadian medical education and to give Canadian medical students the best possible learning experience.

Over the course of the year, I had multiple opportunities to advocate for students' interests. I spoke to the importance of fully informed consent around learner handover. I developed a prospectus regarding a National Survey Platform project as a permanent research collaboration with the AFMC and the CFMS that will fill the gaps left by changes to the AFMC Graduate Questionnaire. Lastly, and perhaps most importantly for the short-term impact of CFMS advocacy, I worked with Shreya Jalali and Kaylynn Purdy to represent student interests to the AFMC Electives Portal Steering Committee, Immunizations Working Group, and Data Analysis Working Group. We advocated for improvements to the '8 week rule' for acceptance of electives and leniency around the acceptance of previous immunization form during the transition to the unified form. I especially thank Kaylynn for the tireless work she put in attending multiple meetings a month and advocating strongly for Canada's medical students. What gains we were able to accomplish were thanks to her hard work. I encourage students to attend at least 1 of the 4 open meetings where the AFMC has welcomed your feedback on the Portal during the

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weekend of SGM and CCME. Further details will be available from the SGM website or from me personally.

The VP Ed also represents the CFMS to the **Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada**. This year we received our first invitation to Royal College Council where we discussed the CFMS's interest in research on competency based medical education. We also attended the Postgraduate Education Committee meeting (Shreya Jalali), the International Conference on Residency Education, and the International Medical Education Leaders Forum.

The VP Ed represents the CFMS to the **Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada** (FMRAC). Current discussions at FMRAC largely involve implementing student-led clinics at a national level.

The **Canadian Alliance of Health Professional Student Associations** (CAHPSA) is one of the newest organizations in Canada's medical education environment. This organization is still in its development phase, and has yet to be officially launched. I have enjoyed working with EdCom IPE File lead Brandon Chau this past year to represent the CFMS to CAHPSA and work towards the launch of an organization that will allow Canada's medical students to collaborate on a national level with their peers in multiple health professions.

I have had the pleasure of sitting on the board of the **Canadian Resident Matching Service** (CaRMS) this past year. Maintaining the integral role of the third-party steward of the match remains one of the most important responsibilities of serving in a CFMS executive role. These current times are difficult ones for the relationship between the CFMS, the AFMC, and CaRMS. Residency matching and the unmatched Canadian medical student has become one of our most important areas of advocacy. As the contract between faculties and CaRMS is negotiated, our job in the CFMS is to ensure that a fair and transparent matching process is upheld now and into the foreseeable future.

This year, the CFMS lost an important member of its community. **Dr. Robert Chu** recently graduated from McMaster University and passed away unexpectedly in September 2016. I attended his memorial service on behalf of the CFMS and reiterated the CFMS's support for the concerns of the Chu family about the necessity of transparency in the residency matching process. Working in a leadership role comes with unanticipated responsibilities, and I can think of none greater than supporting one of our own.

The CFMS expressed significant concerns about the medical school accreditation process in a letter to the **Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools** (CACMS) in 2016. Accreditation has become overly expensive, logistically challenging, and burdensome on the students tasked with leading the creation of independent student analyses. While accreditation remains the backbone of a strong medical education system in our country, significant changes must be made to ensure that that progress is not made on the backs of future doctors. This year, I worked to advocate for the improvement of current ISA documents. More importantly,

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under the leadership of EdCom Accreditation File lead Adam Pietrobon, the CFMS is nearing completion of a reimagined accreditation toolkit that will dramatically improve the experience of students navigating the ISA process. We hope that CACMS will take the tools we have developed and support their continual updating in the years to come.

We have been pleased to work together with the **Fédération médicale étudiante du Québec (FMEQ)**. FMEQ VP Ed Olivier Fortin observed one of our VP Academic Roundtables, and has participated in the development of the accreditation toolkit. We look forward to continuing to consult with the FMEQ on important topics such as the implementation of pass/fail assessment and toward deepening the relationship between our organizations at the national level.

I have had the pleasure of representing the CFMS to the **Canadian Medical Association (CMA)** on multiple education-related matters. Those matters have included the strategic planning of the CMA's engagement with learners and analysis of education related CMA policy. The policies analyzed by myself and members of the EdCom included CMA policies on student debt and tuition; flexibility in training; principles for the protection of patient privacy; direct to consumer genetic testing (Adam Pietrobon); and advance care planning (Jason Elzinga).

Ex Officio Representatives

The task of representing the CFMS to educational organizations has grown bigger than the VP Ed over the last 4 years. I tried to spend an early part of the year tracking down all of the CFMS representatives to these organizations and welcoming them back to the Education Committee. The following is a list of students who have proudly represented the CFMS:

Medical Council of Canada – Cynthia Min, Yipeng Ge

Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools – Cynthia Min, Doulia Hamad

Canadian Association for Medical Education – Gurmeet Kaur, Simran Lehal

Choosing Wisely Canada – Yaeesh Sardiwalla

Clinician Investigator Trainee Association of Canada - Patrick Steadman, Sara Mirali

International Conference on Residency Education – Kaylynn Purdy, Jaymie Walker

The Canadian medical education landscape is full of organizations with incredible people trying to do their best for the medical system and for Canadian society as a whole. It has been an honour to represent the organization and I look forward to working with these important stakeholders for the remainder of the year.

Supporting

I began to recognize a need for a different approach to committee work after serving on many different Education Committees at the national and provincial level. Therefore, I chose to create 11 files for the Education Committee and have students apply to work directly on a project they

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found themselves interested in. The goal of this restructuring was to address the frequent occurrence of students volunteering to sit on a committee without being interested in taking on projects to serve the CFMS membership. The effort partially worked. The successes of the EdCom (about which you can read below) are many. Many more projects look to be on the road to completion. All of these successes can be attributed to the incredible, dedicated, and inspiring students I have had the pleasure of working with this year. One of those students to fill a new role was Maylynn Ding, the EdCom Vice-Chair. I charged Maylynn with the responsibility to keep track of the increasingly complex work of the EdCom and coordinating our meetings. Maylynn helped immensely to keep the EdCom on track and the descriptions of their work below, as written by her and the file leads, are a testament to her incredible efforts.

Anish Naidu – Question Bank

This is the CFMS National Medical Student Question Bank's first year as an education committee file. The project, originally conceived by Tavis, is overseen by Anish Naidu. The vision is to create a student-run question bank that medical students across Canada can use for preparing for exams and the LMCC. Work on the file began with researching existing question banks to confirm a need for an LMCC-focused question bank, and generating a list of features the question bank should have. An IT and business plan for the project was created, and feedback from the CFMS executive as well as the VP Academics present at the February 2017 CFMS Academic Roundtable was obtained. The IT development of the question bank is currently underway, with the tentative release of the beta version scheduled for June 2017. The major challenges this project faced include concerns about its success (i.e. student uptake) and its technological complexity. These concerns resulted in a few months delay as we decided on how to proceed. Based on feedback that we have received, it would be very important to advertise the Question Bank aggressively to incoming medical students to maximize student uptake. Moving forward, the plan is to complete the IT development of the Question Bank and populate it with some questions by the end of this term. The goal is to ensure that the bank does not require continued IT support to operate, and can be run by 1-2 moderators who will be a part of next year's CFMS Education Committee. Anish has expressed willingness to provide IT support until July 2018 to ensure the project has transitioned and is running smoothly.

Branavan – Survey Platform / National Officer of Research

Branavan transitioned into the role of Survey Platform file lead partway through the term after the former lead withdrew from the position. Given the overlap in responsibilities between this role and that of the National Officer of Research, he was able to successfully step in as the interim Survey Platform lead. The previous lead was tasked with developing an IT plan and identifying survey delivery tools that may be utilized by the CFMS for administering the organization's National Annual Survey. There was some progress in identifying survey delivery tools other than Survey Monkey, although the major limitation was that all these platforms required an annual fee. Branavan was tasked with implementing a collaborative REB approval

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process with the AFMC. To address this point, an REB amendment detailing the survey methodology that may be used for all future survey-based CFMS-directed projects was written. As National Officer of Research, in collaboration with Tavis, a prospectus was drafted describing a collaborative review process between the CFMS and AFMC for all CFMS-sponsored medical student-directed research. The major challenges encountered included the ongoing struggle in establishing a strong working relationship with stakeholders involved in medical education and university-affiliated research ethics boards. The prospectus piece hopefully will greatly aid in overcoming some of these challenges as it clearly outlines a stepwise and standardized process through which student research by the CFMS can be supported. In moving this file forward, future efforts should prioritize the identification of secure, sustainable survey delivery platforms.

Andrew Perrella – Health Human Resources

This year, the CFMS Education Committee saw the addition of the Human Health Resource (HHR) portfolio under the leadership of Andrew. Traditionally, student-led HHR research and publication has been limited to Quebec and Ontario medical schools. By opening the dialogue to other students and schools on the importance of HHR planning and physician distribution, in addition to providing key insight into the workings of other sub-committees, this file has grown to become central to the CFMS's work. The challenges faced were likely attributable to the recent addition of this file. The conversations regarding HHR at the provincial level have not yet permeated all medical schools across Canada. Therefore, although initiatives are currently being undertaken at various schools (e.g. Alberta), it certainly does not involve everyone. It is our hope that the HHR file lead in future years will be able to act as a stronger advocate and partner in these conversations. The HHR portfolio has also aligned itself closely with the Committee on Health Policy, and is currently working on creating policy papers that will drive these initiatives within the CFMS, from both the perspectives of government affairs and medical education. Moving forward, this file should continue its dual strategy – amassing student partnerships across Canadian medical schools and collecting evidence-based data to create informed documents – in addition to remaining in close communication with the Physician Resources Planning Advisory Committee (PRPAC).

River Jiang and Sheliza Halani – Publications

This year, River took over as the Publications file lead and Sheliza joined him as co-lead in February 2017. The focus of the Publication file this term is the creation and publication of the CFMS Matchbook. In addition to analyzing data from this year's match, this file involves securing sponsorship, coordinating with external groups regarding advertisements and letters, and collecting testimonials and advice from residents and recently matched students. Thus far, River and Sheliza have approached MedSKL, CSIM, AFMC, and CCFP for funding, pricing a half-page ad for \$500 and full page for \$1000. They will be incorporating ads (pro bono) from VirtualHospice and UptoDate, as well as letters from MD Financial and CaRMS. They are in the

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process of actively reviewing last year's Matchbook and deciding on changes that can be made. One proposed change is incorporating the results of a survey of graduating students distributed as part of the CFMS National Elective and Interviews Database project. A few challenges were encountered during the course of working on the Matchbook. At the beginning of the term, there was difficulty recruiting and retaining student interest in the Matchbook. There have also been delays hearing back from potential sponsors—different methods of communication in addition to email should be explored. There is also ongoing discussion regarding the distribution medium of the Matchbook—specifically if an electronic format only is sufficient and a physical medium (USB or paper-copy) can be omitted altogether. Moving forward, there are plans in place to work with the translation committee to roll out the French translation of the CFMS Matchbook. Once the CaRMS data is released, River and Sheliza will begin working on the first draft of the English-version of the Matchbook.

Farhang Jalilian – Education Research Grants

The Education Research Grant (ERG) file is a new initiative undertaken this year by the CFMS Education Committee and is overseen by Farhang. The grant programme was introduced to facilitate the involvement of Canadian medical students in high-quality medical education research. A document outlining the purpose of the programme, selection process, and length and cost of the agreement was created. More than ten non-profit organizations were identified and contacted for interest in contributing to grant funding. Unfortunately, to date, a definitely positive response has yet to be received. The Royal College of Physician and Surgeons of Canada is still considering the funding request. A few areas of improvement have been identified. Despite Farhang's familiarity with the grant selection process, he has limited experience with the process of inquiring and securing funding. Therefore, support from individuals who have experience in this area would be helpful. Different mediums and methods of communication, outside of formal written requests, should have been explored. Moving forward, there are plans to approach potential sponsors at the upcoming Spring General Meeting in Winnipeg. The funding release date for ERG was initially scheduled for May 2017. Given the difficulty securing funding, the grant will likely be postponed until the 2017-2018 academic year with a release date in Sept-Oct 2017. This will allow some time for re-strategizing and finding potential sponsors without having to delay the project for a year.

Peter Gregory – Competency Based Medical Education

This year, Peter oversaw the competency-based medical education (CBME) file. Their goal is to work on a literature review and policy analysis of CBME as it pertains to undergraduate medical education. Toward achieving this goal, Peter has reviewed a vast amount of literature relevant to the CBME proposal and assembled a CBME paper writing team. He also met with researchers who expressed interest in collaborating on this project, including the CFMS National Research Chair. Currently, Peter is waiting to hear back from a potential mentor suggested by the research chair. The predominant challenge Peter identified, as the CBME file lead, is an initial lack of clarity on the direction of the project. Tavis, who has a background in

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CBME, has been helpful throughout the year providing guidance. They have agreed it is best to have formal leadership in the CBME community backing the publication proposal. Moving forward, Peter plans to contact more mentors who can fill this role and continue to work with the National Research Chair.

Adam Pietrobon – Accreditation

The goal of the Accreditation portfolio this year, under Adam's leadership, was to improve the student experience the accreditation process, specifically for the Independent Study Analysis (ISA). To achieve this goal, the portfolio sought to identify key student concerns and develop more comprehensive resources. The term began with meetings with student accreditation leads across the country who have recently completed an accreditation cycle at their school in order to determine common concerns and barriers during the ISA process. After identifying recurring themes, the process of redesigning the CFMS Accreditation Toolkit was initiated. Currently, the toolkit is near the end of its first draft and will be circulated for student feedback over the coming months. In addition, a thorough assessment of the documents provided by the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS), such as the Guide to the ISA and the Data Collection Instrument (DCI), was completed. The Accreditation team has been working closely with CACMS to ensure their document analyses are considered during the design of the newer document editions. This portfolio has not faced major challenges, other than the occasional difficulty of scheduling meetings with student accreditation leads. Effective methods have included meticulous assessment of published documents, comprehensive resource curation, and a positive collaborative relationship with CACMS. Moving forward, the team will complete the first draft of the Toolkit, solicit for feedback, and then make any appropriate changes. Following this process, the team will connect with student leads at schools with an upcoming accreditation cycle to ensure they receive the appropriate resources and support in a timely manner.

Dongho Lee– Policy Liaison

As the Policy Liaison, Dongho, has been assisting with six education-related CFMS position papers. At the start of the year, four of the papers were being written from scratch, whereas the other two were at varying stages of completion. The four new papers cover topics on competency-based medical education, support for unmatched Canadian medical graduates, curricular advocacy guidelines, and socioeconomic diversity policies in medical school admissions. The two papers being edited include the learner privacy paper and the service learning curricula paper. Dongho has helped assemble the writing team for each of the papers and gave feedback on the drafts when appropriate. He has kept in touch with the various writing teams to try to help them adhere to their timelines, and troubleshoot issues as they arose. Currently, of the four new papers, most have a solid backbone established and simply require further fine-tuning and or supplementation with literature searches. The goal was to present each of the papers at the upcoming CFMS Spring General Meeting (SGM); however, it appears

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that these papers will all need more time to be ready for the student membership. A significant challenge for a lot of the papers is maintenance of ongoing communication and getting student contribution to the writing process. Efforts have been made and largely successful in maintaining communication with at least the lead author of each writing team. However, a few teams have struggled to maintain interest from their student writers. If the time commitment and expectations of student writers were made clearer at the beginning, perhaps only those willing and able to put in the required effort will sign up. Another major challenge Dongho identified is being unable to help each writing team to the extent he would have liked due to a limited background on each of the subjects.

Lawrence Yau – Certificate Liaison

Lawrence acted as the CFMS Certificate Liaison on the CFMS Education Committee this year, working closely with both the Global Health Committee and Dylan Ginter, the CFMS National Officer of Global Health Education. The team is currently in the process of developing a national social medicine certificate program, which will be made available to all medical students across Canada. The idea for a national program was first pitched two years ago, leading to a CFMS global health certificate program piloted at Western University. In light of its success, the goal this year was to expand this program. A major challenge was uncertainty surrounding the need for a certificate program and questions about its applicability at other Canadian medical schools. In order to ensure the program will best meet the needs of students, it is important to understand the current state of global health concentrations in Canadian medical schools. Feedback from student leaders on the challenges and barriers they may encounter when implementing such a certificate program will also be valuable. As the Certificate Liaison, Lawrence developed a survey to explore these issues. With Dylan's help, a survey was sent out to Local Officers of Global Health Education (LOGHE) and Global Health Liaisons (GHL) across the country. The survey elicited a lot of excellent feedback. Moving forward, the team plans to use the results of the survey to support the development of a CFMS national social medicine certificate program that is sustainable and can benefit all medical schools across Canada.

Tharshika Thangarasa – Curricular Advocacy

This year, Tharshika, the Curriculum file lead's mandate was to create a set of guidelines for students who wish to create position papers aimed at curricular advocacy. So far, she has been successful in collecting information through interviewing several key individuals at the University of Ottawa and University of Toronto. Upon realizing that CFMS position papers are more useful as tools for students to advocate for change within their individual institutions rather than curriculum developers, the focus of the data collection process turned to the population who will likely be the position paper's main-users: student leaders. Tharshika collected information from students across the country who have or is currently engaged in curricular advocacy efforts. Based on this information and insight, a set of general guidelines was drafted, which includes a template for future position papers and an outline of the process students can follow to advocate

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for curricular change. A few challenges were encountered. One major challenge is recruiting student and faculty informants at medical institutions across Canada. Furthermore, curricular advocacy efforts are largely driven by external factors unique to each case (e.g. the individuals involved and circumstances), making it difficult to create a standardized outline students can reference to write a curricular change proposal. However, generally, both faculty and students valued a well-researched, thought-out proposal. Another challenge was taking into account each medical school's unique curriculum format and style. Moving forward, Tharshika plans to strengthen the guidelines created and incorporate findings from a literature review on curricular advocacy. She also plans to collect feedback from student leaders, and submit their recommendations and/or comments on the applicability of the guidelines at their institutions.

Brandon Chau – Interprofessional Education

The sole remaining file from previous EdComs was the Interprofessional Education (IPE) file. Brandon, the file lead, took this opportunity to contribute to ongoing projects relevant to IPE and improve CFMS's presence on national IPE committees. He acted as the liaison with the Canadian Alliance of Healthcare Professional Student Associations (CAHPSA), helping the organization define its goals, and rebuilt the National Healthcare Student Societies Association (NaHSSA). He successfully compiled a database of interprofessional association contacts from schools across the country and, last month, held the first meeting with faculty and student contacts. He also updated the CFMS/OMSA Student-Led Clinic Toolkit—filling in information gaps, improving readability, and obtaining endorsement from the CPSO. Brandon encountered some challenges in his work, notably in student engagement and creating change at the local level. Students who previously indicated an interest in IPE didn't respond to emails and there was difficulty getting the CFMS to put out a call to recruit more students. A potential solution is to include IPE committees at each school in the initial call for CFMS Education Committee members. Moving forward, a threat will be the loss of Noam Berlin who has been an incredible sounding board and resource for many initiatives. It is more important than ever to keep the momentum on ongoing projects. Brandon suggests that the incoming IPE file lead establish a stronger working relationship with VP Academics/Eds to encourage students to push for IPE curricular change at their schools.

Summary

If you managed to read all of those file updates I congratulate you on your dedication to Canadian medical education and the work of the CFMS. Moving forward, my goal is to foster an increasingly outcomes-oriented Education Committee that takes on students motivated to complete projects and passes on their progress from year to year. I created a new EdCom Task Matrix and an Orientation Manual that I hope will make these transfers of institutional memory more feasible.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

*Tavis Apramian, CFMS Vice-President Education
2017 Spring General Meeting
April 28-29, 2017, Winnipeg, Manitoba*



IV. FOLLOW UP, VISION, GOALS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS POSITION

The CFMS Education Portfolio finds itself at an interesting juncture. The portfolio has grown far too big for one person to manage. The initial years of the EdCom entailed a small group of student-experts meeting to discuss policy on a monthly basis. Only a few years ago the VP Ed attended a handful of meetings during the year. Today, the EdCom meetings are often attended by almost 20 people where over 10 file leads discuss the progress they have made on tangible long-term projects. Today, even after delegating some meetings, the VP Ed generally attends over three meetings per week. While a great deal of progress has been made, I think it is time to begin formalizing the Education Portfolio, delegating more responsibility, and creating a stronger terms of reference for the EdCom.

We have a great deal to learn from our colleagues in Global Health. The Education Portfolio should aspire to the level of organization that Global Health shows year after year. I am hopeful that the increased staffing and organizational governance changes that will be included in this year's strategic planning process will take significant steps to help us to fully deliver on our promises to represent and serve the CFMS membership.

I continue to enjoy working as VP Education to advocate in the best interests of Canada's medical students on educational matters. I hope the infrastructure we have created this year will solidify the portfolio long after my tenure in the role.

With thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'T. Apramian', written in a cursive style.

Tavis Apramian, MA, MSc, PhD

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