**Resolution: Adoption of the Policy Paper entitled “Trauma Informed Pelvic Examinations and Gynecological Practice in Canadian Medical Education Curricula - A Policy Paper. *Developing and Instituting Evidence Based Gynecological Curricula for Medical Students Centered on Patient Focused Teaching and Care”***

**Whereas** the Canadian Federation of Medical Students (CFMS) presently has no position or policy paper on the issues surrounding provision of compassionate and evidence based gynecological care to women who have experienced sexual violence or sexual abuse;

**Whereas** a safe pelvic examination has significant impacts on women’s health, including but not limited to allowing screening and management of malignant cervical lesions, physical examination of the ovaries for masses or abnormalities, and examination of the uterus to delineate anatomy and identify structural abnormalities;

**Whereas** the prolific rate of sexual violence and trauma amongst women has significant impacts with respect to gynecological health, psychiatric health, and exposure to infectious diseases;

**Whereas** medical students are required to learn and perform safe pelvic examinations for women in need, including but not limited to a speculum examination for visualization of the cervix, swabs for sexually transmitted infection screening, Pap smears, and palpation of the uterus and ovaries through a bimanual examination;

**Whereas** medical students can serve as effective advocates for vulnerable populations in need;

**Whereas** there is an abundance of evidence surrounding the need for providing compassionate gynecological care in light of the risks faced by survivors of sexual abuse;

**Whereas** there is presently no evidence surrounding a characterization of trauma-informed gynecological care teaching to medical students via surveys of faculties and students;

**Whereas** there is presently no clear standard or set of guidelines for an evidence based trauma-informed approach to pelvic examinations;

**Whereas** there is presently no evidence based evaluation of such guidelines or approaches to determine the effectiveness and relevance of the aforementioned in clinical practice or with respect to impact on the patient experience;

**Whereas** developing such research will ensure that there is sufficient evidence to evaluate present teaching standards across Canadian faculties of medicine, development of new teaching guidelines informed by evidence, and that recommendations to curricula changes are evidence based;

**Be it resolved that** the CFMS formally adopt the policy paper titled: “Trauma Informed Pelvic Examinations and Gynecological Practice in Canadian Medical Education Curricula - A Policy Paper. *Developing and Instituting Evidence Based Gynecological Curricula for Medical Students Centered on Patient Focused Teaching and Care*.”

**Financial Cost:** $0

**Level of Effort**: 50 hours to provide support for this proposal as follows: distributing emails regarding the proposed research, letters of investigations, and encouraging student and faculty participation on a national level; providing connection to interested faculty or students with respect to development of the research; supporting the research proposal (contingent on REB approval) with respect to collaboration with other organizations and agencies, including but not limited to, Canadian faculties of medicine and the Society of Obstetrics and Gynecologists of Canada.

**Moved By:** Emma Ali, Schulich School of Medicine (Western University)

**Seconded By:** Vivian Ng, Michael DeGroote School of Medicine (McMaster University)