EXECUTIVE REPORT

Yipeng Ge, CFMS Vice-President Government Affairs 2018 Spring General Meeting April 27-28, 2018, Halifax, Nova Scotia



I. DESCRIPTION OF POSITION

The Vice-President of Government Affairs (VP GA) has a variety of duties related to leading and coordinating local, provincial, and national advocacy efforts of the CFMS. More specifically, the VP GA serves as Chair of the CFMS Government Affairs and Advocacy Committee (GAAC) and leads the organization of the annual CFMS Day of Action in Ottawa. In conjunction with the National Officer of Health Policy, the VP GA guides the Committee on Health Policy in a regular review of existing policy documents and the creation of new documents. The VP GA will also actively collaborate with the Vice President Education on issues related to medical education that require political involvement. Finally, the VP GA will represent the CFMS to various external committees and organizations as deemed necessary by the president and executive.

The CFMS Government Affairs and Advocacy Committee (GAAC) exists to both solicit the broader opinion of Canadian medical students on a wide variety of issues as well as to help take action at the local, provincial, and national levels. The CFMS GAAC is composed of the Chair (VP GA) and one to two representatives from each CFMS member school, selected by the individual medical societies. The mandate of the CFMS GAAC includes, but is not limited to:

- 1. Provide a grassroots framework to determine and advocate for the interests of the CFMS and its membership;
- 2. Cultivate leadership and advocacy skills in CFMS membership, and provide further opportunities for involvement with CFMS;
- 3. Assist with and participate in CFMS national advocacy efforts.

II. ACTIVITIES

Meetings attended:

Meeting Name	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
CFMS AGM	September 22-24, 2017	Ottawa, ON
Handover and transition documents with Sarah Silverberg (past VP GA)	September 24, 2017	Ottawa, ON
Meeting with Vivian Tam, OMSA Director of Representation	September 24, 2017	Ottawa, ON
Teleconference meeting with AFMC eHealth Subgroup	September 25, 2017	Teleconference
Partners in Reconciliation: Recognizing and Respecting Indigenous Health	September 27, 2017	Ottawa, ON
Meeting with Henry Annan, (CFMS President)	October 1, 2017	Phone call
National GAAC Teleconference – #1	October 1, 2017	Teleconference
2018 National Lobby Day ResComm Meeting	October 2, 2017	Teleconference
CMA Advocacy Training Call	October 4, 2017	Phone call
Dr. Sud Opioid Summer Studentship Research Projects Call	October 5, 2017	Phone call
AFMC Opioids Proposal Call	October 5, 2017	Teleconference
CCSA JSA Phone Call (Opioids file)	October 10, 2017	Phone call
Phone call with Kriti (Opioid Summer Studentship)	October 11, 2017	Phone call
Dr. Verma, VP Education AFMC Call	October 12, 2017	Phone call
National Officer of Health Policy Interviews	October 12, 2017	Phone call
CFMS Fall Board Meeting	October 13 – 15, 2017	Ottawa, ON
National GAAC Teleconference - #2 (only updates via email)	October 15, 2017	Teleconference - rescheduled
Canadian Medical Association 150th Birthday Gala (NOHP attended)	October 17, 2017	Ottawa, ON – NOHP attended
Cannabis Task Force Meeting	October 26, 2017	Teleconference
Meeting on Tax Changes, with MDFM (Member Relevance, Taxation Services)	October 27, 2017	Teleconference

Meeting with Chair of the Ottawa Public Health Board and Manager of Health	October 31, 2017	Ottawa, ON
Promotion and Disease Prevention		
Meeting with Brandon Chau and Shanza Hashmi, on Resolutions Task Force	November 2, 2017	Teleconference
Committee on Health Policy (COHP) Teleconference Meeting #1	November 4, 2017	Teleconference
National GAAC Teleconference - #2	November 5, 2017	Teleconference
Maclean's Parliamentarian of the Year Gala, with CMA	November 7, 2017	Ottawa, ON
Meeting with Asha (National Officer of Human Rights and Peace)	November 8, 2017	Phone call
Meeting with Willow (National Officer of Indigenous Health)	November 8, 2017	Phone call
Meeting with Sarah Silverberg (Past VP GA)	November 9, 2017	Phone call
Position Paper Task Force Meeting #1	November 11, 2017	Teleconference
2018 National Lobby Day ResComm Meeting	November 12, 2017	Teleconference
Meeting with Henry (CFMS President)	November 13, 2017	Phone call
Meeting with Victoria (CFMS Atlantic Rep)	November 13, 2017	Phone call
Meeting with Kelsey (CMA Political Action team)	November 16, 2017	Ottawa, ON
Meeting with Graham (Day of Action Coordinator)	November 16, 2017	Phone call
Meeting with Legislative Assistant of MP Raj Saini's Office to Discuss Motion M-132	November 17, 2017	Ottawa, ON
Meeting with Brandon Chau and Shanza Hashmi, on Position Paper Task Force	November 17, 2017	Ottawa, ON
CFMS Executive Board T/C	November 19, 2017	Teleconference
AFMC Meeting with CFMS Executive Board	November 19, 2017	Teleconference
National GHA Team Call – NOHP taking place of VPGA	November 19, 2017	Teleconference
Meeting with Special Advisor for Officer of the Minister of Indigenous Services	November 23, 2017	Gatineau, QC
Position Paper Task Force Meeting	November 25, 2017	Teleconference
Committee on Health Policy Meeting	November 26, 2017	Teleconference
President's Roundtable T/C, Brandon to take place for VP GA	November 27, 2017	Teleconference
uOttawa GAAC CMA Advocacy Training Workshop	November 28, 2017	Ottawa, ON
Meeting with Leads of Indigenous Health Advocacy Committee (OMSA committee)	November 29, 2017	Teleconference
CPHA Tobacco Control Working Group Teleconference	December 1, 2017	Teleconference
National GAAC Teleconference - #3	December 3, 2017	Teleconference
CCSA JSA Teleconference - #2	December 4, 2017	Teleconference
Meeting with Office of the Minister of Health, Policy Advisor	December 4, 2017	Ottawa, ON
Parliamentary Reception, Assembly of First Nations, Special Chiefs Assembly	December 5, 2017	Ottawa, ON
CFMS Cannabis Task Force Meeting	December 5, 2017	Teleconference
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Assembly of First Nations, Special Chiefs Assembly	December 5-7, 2017	Ottawa, ON
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Health Research Task Force Meeting	January 17, 2018	Teleconference
ResComm Meeting #9	January 21, 2018	Teleconference
Meeting with Nick and Erin, CMA Cannabis Campaign	January 22, 2018	Phone Call
Opioids Response Team JSA Call	January 25, 2018	Teleconference
Meeting with Asha, National Officer of Human Rights and Peace	January 25, 2018	Phone Call
Position Paper Task Force Meeting	January 25, 2018	Teleconference
Rapid Response Team Meeting	January 28, 2018	Teleconference
Meeting with Graham, Day of Action	January 30, 2018	Phone Call
CFMS uCMG Updates Call	February 3, 2018	Teleconference
CFMS February Board T/C	February 4, 2018	Teleconference
Meeting with Graham, Day of Action	February 5, 2018	Phone Call
Meeting with Special Advisor in the Office of the Minister of Indigenous Services	February 6, 2018	Phone Call
Meeting with Policy Advisor in the Office of the Minister of Crown-Indigenous and	February 7, 2018	Phone Call
Northern Affairs	1 cordary 7, 2010	Thoric Can
Meeting with Legislative Assistant in the Office of MP Bardish Chagger	February 8, 2018	Ottawa, ON
CFMS National Day of Action on Indigenous Mental Wellness Weekend	February 10-12,	Ottawa, ON
of the Hadolia Bay of Hedolf of Indigenous Methal Wellies Weekend	2018	Ottawa, OT
Assembly of First Nations Health Transformation Summit	February 13-14,	Toronto, ON
	2018	
Meeting with Policy Advisors in MP Charlie Angus Office	February 15, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Opioid Response Team National Call	February 20, 2018	Teleconference
COHP Meeting	February 20, 2018	Teleconference
Meeting with Minister Carolyn Bennett's Office (Minister of Crown-Indigenous	February 21, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Relations and Northern Affairs)		
The Lancet Series: Canada's Leadership on Global Health Event	February 23, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Meeting with Vivian Tam, OMSA Director of Representation	February 25, 2018	Ottawa, ON
uCMG Advocacy Teleconference	February 25, 2018	Teleconference
Canadian Club of Ottawa Event: Perspectives on Tax Reform and Innovation	March 1, 2018	Ottawa, ON
The Royal Ottawa's 15th Annual Inspiration Awards Gala	March 2, 2018	Ottawa, ON
National GAAC Teleconference	March 4, 2018	Teleconference
Meeting with policy advisor in Office of the Minister of Health	March 5, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Meeting with Charles Yin, ResComm Lead	March 7, 2018	Phone call
Meeting with Assembly of First Nations Mental Wellness Policy File Lead, Stephanie Wellman	March 8, 2018	Phone call
CFMS Board Meeting – March	March 11, 2018	Teleconference
Debrief with MD Financial Management for Day of Action	March 16, 2018	Phone Call
Pillars of Change: Priorities for Addressing the Opioids Crisis meeting	March 20, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Debrief and feedback session with Graham, Day of Action coordinator	March 20, 2018	Phone Call
Meeting with Deputy Minister Tremblay and Dr. Tom Wong, Indigenous Services	March 21, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Canada	177411 21, 2010	Ottawa, O11
Opioid Response Partners Monthly Call	March 22, 2018	Teleconference
National GAAC Team Teleconference	March 25, 2018	Teleconference
Call with Jessica Bryce, CFMS SGM 2018 Chair	March 29, 2018	Phone Call
CFMS uCMG Lobby Day Planning Call	April 1, 2018	Teleconference
Touch base Meeting with Kelsey Shein, CMA Political Action Team	April 6, 2018	Ottawa, ON
The Past, Present and Future of Private Finance for Medicare in Canada Conference	April 6, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Upstream's the Closing the Gap Conference: The Next 150: Reconciliation and Health	April 6-7, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Ontario Medical Students Association Lobby Day Weekend on Physician Services	April 7-9, 2018	Toronto, ON
Planning and the Unmatched Canadian Medical Graduate	•	·
CFMS Board Teleconference Meeting, April	April 8, 2018	Teleconference

III. PRIORITIES AND PROJECT AREAS

CFMS Day of Action: Indigenous Mental Wellness

A tremendous amount of work and preparation has gone into the 2018 National Day of Action on Indigenous Mental Wellness. Following the passing of the CFMS position paper entitled, Mental Health and Suicide in Indigenous Communities in Canada, in April 2017, the wheels were set in motion. An extensive effort from medical students across multiple portfolios contributed to the discussions and work in making this advocacy effort possible. A thorough community consultation process was implemented to gather

guidance and support from indigenous community leaders, health experts, and institutional/organizational leads. With respect to our government relations, meetings were also held with multiple ministerial offices. This year marks a unique shift in our efforts to communicate extensively and build relationships with community and government, in hopes of a strong, meaningful, and respectful effort to exercise our voices as medical students in a position of speaking from our own truths.

On February 12th, 2018, over 70 medical student delegates from across Canada met with over 60 MPs and Senators across all federal political parties. Student delegates outlined to policymakers the issues facing Indigenous peoples in Canada with respect to mental health and how our policy proposals could help address some of those unmet needs in a manner that supports Indigenous self-determination. Overall, our meetings were met with positive responses. A number of MPs committed to bringing our policy proposals to Indigenous Services Minister Jane Philpott. Several letters have now been sent from MPs we have met with to both Minister Philpott and Leader of the Opposition Andrew Scheer. Other MPs expressed interest in continuing to meet with medical students in their home ridings to discuss our findings and things that can be done at the local level. A further number promised to invite CFMS as a witness in any future government inquires or studies on Indigenous health or mental health. MP Yves Robillard (Liberal, Marc-Aurèle-Fortin) made a Members Statement (Standing Order 31 or SO31) in the House of Commons on February 27, 2018 to recognize the efforts of CFMS in advocating for Indigenous mental wellness. In the media, CFMS had radio interviews with CBC Nunavut and CBC All in a Day with Alan Neal, and multiple student reflections shared online. Our priorities moving forward include the following:

- 1. Work with individual member schools to hold debrief sessions with delegates from each school sharing with their wider medical student bodies their experiences and what they have learned about Indigenous mental wellness. This will involve:
 - a. Ensuring that resources needed by delegates are available.
 - b. Collaborate with local Government Affairs and Advocacy Committee (GAAC) representatives at each member school to develop ongoing advocacy events on Indigenous mental wellness.
 - c. Reporting back to member schools with new developments in our advocacy work at the national level.
- 2. Bringing forward the topic of cultural sensitivity and safety training to the attention of representative and regulatory bodies in medicine, including the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada (AFMC), Canadian Medical Association (CMA), the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) and the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC).
- 3. Implementing a summer studentship opportunity in 2018 funded by the CFMS to support a medical student to work with a scholar and leader in Indigenous health to further research and support work aligning with the topic of Indigenous mental wellness.
- 4. Organizing a virtual forum between the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and Chief Isadore Day and CFMS membership to discuss medical student advocacy in the area of Indigenous health and the Day of Action, to be held in early May.

Our summary report (including our policy asks related to Indigenous mental wellness) can be viewed here: https://www.cfms.org/files/day-of-action/2018-day-of-action-report.pdf

Day of Action 2019

Small working groups at SGM 2018 will provide delegates with an opportunity to provide ideas for the theme and topic of Day of Action 2019. Following SGM 2018, the Day of Action Research Committee will be reassembled to begin preliminary research on ideas gathered. A list of ideas will be brought forward to GAAC and the CFMS Board for input and comment. A short list of approximately 3 ideas will be confirmed during the summer months and brought forward to the AGM in the fall of 2018. A survey of CFMS membership will finally help inform the direction of Day of Action 2019, an extensive advocacy initiative and flagship event of the CFMS.

Physician Resource Planning and the Unmatched Canadian Medical Graduate

The issue of unmatched Canadian medical graduates is an unparalleled priority issue for the CFMS. An enormous amount of work has been undergone by the CFMS Education portfolio on this issue to date. Further to our collective efforts to bring this issue to resolution amongst its many stakeholders, the CFMS sent the federal government a letter advocating for additional residency positions to bring the ratio of medical students to residency training positions closer to 1:1.2. The CFMS was also present in Ontario Medical Students Association's (OMSA) lobby day on this very topic, advocating to Ontario provincial government on the need for transparent, evidence-based physician service planning systems that offers sufficient residency positions for medical graduates.

Local Initiatives

There are many grassroots advocacy events organized by local GAAC reps that allow for tremendous impact at the level of our individual members. Highlights of local events this year include provincial lobby days in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, and Quebec, as well as municipal lobby days. Topics of these lobby days included: improved mental health services and access for youth and children, youth mental wellness funding, universal coverage of an abortion pill (Mifegymiso), family medicine retention, improving immunization coverage, and universal drug coverage. These lobby days continue to demonstrate the strong voice of medical trainees and the impacts we have when exercising our voice collectively and strategically.

Committee on Health Policy (COHP)

The purpose of COHP is to help set the overarching policy goals of the CFMS. Members of COHP are familiar with CFMS policies through reviewing existing position papers and policy statements, and would then be able to identify gaps and areas to focus on in conjunction with medical students within the CFMS membership. Moreover, the COHP is a regular venue whereby CFMS representatives from different constituencies (e.g. global health, education) would regularly liaise between General Meetings, during which resolutions and papers are passed by the assembly. COHP provides support in the preparation and implementation of position statements and policy papers, to be discussed on the floor of these General Meetings. The COHP is chaired by the National Officer of Health Policy (NOHP), Shanza Hashmi.

The COHP has had a number of subcommittees, covering topics of: refugee and migrant health, solitary confinement and health delivery, the position paper task force (formally known as resolutions task force), homelessness strategy, and national seniors strategy. These teams have completed many objectives, and are continuing onwards to further their research, writing, and advocacy. The NOHP accepted new students into COHP throughout the year, to bring forth new ideas and increase productivity on these teams. COHP plans to bring forth a position paper and a policy statement to SGM 2018, as well as resolutions for the formalization of new task forces.

The NOHP worked with our IT team in revamping the website for a new online tool. The webpage will also include new resources created by the Position Paper Task Force. The Advocacy Tracker was updated to reorganize the papers and publicize recommendations, as well as add a platform for papers that were "in progress". This will act to better inform students of the advocacy and policy work happening within CFMS and provide more opportunities for those who would like to get involved. A significant goal of the NOHP was to increase student awareness of these papers and guiding documents, as well as the potential of recommendations and professional consultation in improving student advocacy.

Position Paper Process

Through the Position Paper Task Force (PPTF), the Committee on Health Policy (COHP) took a concerted effort to implement a new process to support writers in development of impactful position papers. Through widespread consultation throughout the CFMS, the PPTF designed a new process, published guides (a protocol document) for authors and evaluators and also developed new website content.

Among its other successes this year, the PPTF also formalized a follow-up process for position papers, clarified definitions in concert with the Ontario Medical Students Association (OMSA), and took steps to make the Advocacy Tracker more user-friendly and inclusive of in-progress writing efforts. Efforts

looking towards the summer months, include commissioning an animated video marketed at interested guiding document writing as well as reassessing the new guiding document writing feedback process at the 6-month mark.

Opioid Crisis

We held our National Lobby Day (now re-branded as Day of Action) on the Opioids Crisis in February 2017, bringing medical students from across Canada to Ottawa to ask the federal government for the passing of Bill C-37, increased access to multidisciplinary chronic pain centres, and increasing investment in research investigating the interactions between mental illness and opioid misuse. We became a proud signatory on Health Canada's and the Canadian Centre for Substance Abuse's Joint Statement of Action in commitment to working on the opioid crisis collectively and collaboratively. Over the past two years, our local leaders at each medical school ran opioids crisis education and naloxone kit training events at nearly every school. We have also contributed to work on competency-based curricula in pain management, substance abuse, and addictions with the AFMC. As an organization, we have also funded two summer studentships to continue addressing the opioid crisis. Most recently, we have formed an Opioids Task Force (OTF) of CFMS medical students to look at creating a formal position paper. We are proud to be part of the national Opioid Response Team meetings of organizations working on the issue at various levels and approaches.

The OTF has developed a position paper in response to the current opioid crisis in Canada. The OTF aims to further the momentum that was created at the 2017 CFMS National Lobby Day on the Opioids Crisis. This team, comprised of medical students from coast to coast to coast, has worked to update the research from Lobby Day, including updated recommendations based on the most recent available data and progress to-date, to produce a position paper representing the stance of the CFMS on the issue.

Most importantly, this document includes specific recommendations for next steps that will be needed to address the opioid crisis at the national level. Moving forward, we will be putting together a letter-writing campaign to Members of Parliament to advocate for these recommendations and to re-emphasize the commitment and responsibility of medical students on this issue. The campaign will be coming to all medical schools later this year.

Pharmacare

The Pharmacare Task Force (PTF) is a pan-Canadian medical student team with a diversity of experiences, including licensed pharmacists, researchers, and advocates. With the creation of the Advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare in February 2018 and expanding national discussion on a universal Pharmacare plan, the task force is currently writing a position paper to synthesize and analyze the continual output of governmental and academic reports. Updating previous CFMS position papers, this paper will respond to the current state, economic challenges, and social inequities of pharmaceutical coverage in Canada, define key benefits of a national and universal Pharmacare plan, and bring forth our vision and long-term recommendations to the federal government.

The PTF is also thinking into the future. Some of the potential work that is being considered for the upcoming year includes: creating a platform in which Canadians can share their own stories on how the lack of adequate prescription drug coverage has impacted their ability to manage their conditions; surveying Canadian medical students about their perspectives on Pharmacare and thus adding our voices to the public conversation; and building partnerships with organizations, such as the Canadian Doctors for Medicare and Pharmacare2020, that are working diligently to promote Pharmacare and to collectively push for the medical system that Canadians want and deserve. The PTF is excited to be part of this conversation.

Recreational Cannabis Legalization

The Task Force on Recreational Cannabis Legalization has been working over the past year to produce a position paper that reflects the considerations from medical students across Canada. This team has identified five areas of concern regarding recreational cannabis legalization (medical education, public consumption,

harm reduction, public education, and minimum age) and has analyzed available literature and produced recommendations for each area.

The task force believes that all Canadians should be able to experience the benefits of cannabis legalization while being protected from any detrimental health and/or social consequences and hope that this position paper can be used as the foundation for CFMS advocacy towards this vision. The task force is looking forward to presenting this position paper at the 2018 CFMS Spring General Meeting.

Health Research

The Health Research Task Force (HRTF) has been working since January 2018 to create a written statement to the Standing Committee on Health (HESA) as they initiate a year long study investigating strategies to increase societal benefits resulting from federally funded health research. HRTF's report focuses on a variety of themes elucidated through research such as: removing silos, supporting physicians/scientists, rethinking career advancement, research in the medical school curriculum and the adoption of frameworks for evaluating research accountability. Translational research and a transition from bibliometric outcome assessments to more robust, industry-influenced outcome frameworks are emphasized throughout the report as strategies to achieve HESA's goals. HRTF's report is expected to be completed by the end of May 2018.

Rapid Response Team

The CFMS Rapid Response Team (RRT) was established under the Government Affairs portfolio to rapidly address time-sensitive, national political and health policy issues. This group of medical students, with representation from across Canada, is responsible for rapidly analyzing, reporting, and responding to policy issues and events that affect Canadian medical trainees and their future patients. The RRT also collaborates with other CFMS committees and task forces to ensure that medical students stay informed on relevant current events in health policy, and that their interests are best represented in a timely and impactful manner. Their work this year has been diverse, ranging from assisting with the CFMS response to the 2018 Federal Budget, to leading an investigation on accommodations for missed residency interviews due to inextricable circumstances. Now that they have an established team and workflow, the RRT will continue advocate on behalf of Canadian medical students by quickly and effectively responding to important political and health policy issues.

IV. REFLECTIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

This report and the work done to date would not have been possible without the dedication and passion of the leaders and the members of the various committees and task forces. I draw so much inspiration and motivation from all those that I have the pleasure to interact and work with.

My deepest appreciation and gratitude to all those that put in the time and effort in the advocacy/government affairs portfolio thus far. This has been a tremendous experience so far to work with everyone. I am truly humbled and ecstatic to continue to work with you all.

With sincere gratitude,

Yipeng Ge, BHSc

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