



Executive Report  
 Achieng Tago, CFMS Director of Global Health  
 2020 Spring General Meeting  
 April 15-17, 2020

**1. Description and Introduction:**

The Canadian Federation of Medical Students (CFMS) is the representative voice of Canadian medical students to the national medical organizations, to the federal government, to the public, and to other external bodies. The CFMS represents over 8000 medical students at 15 Canadian medical schools from coast to coast. It is the mission of CFMS to represent, support, and connect its members. CFMS aims to communicate within its membership, as well as from its membership, to the world at large. As an ever-expanding organization, CFMS continually strives to meet the consistent and changing needs of Canadian medical students.

**Brief Description**

The CFMS Global Health Director is responsible for representing the global health interests of the CFMS member schools and the CFMS. Global Health within the CFMS is made up of six different pillars:

- Indigenous health
- International exchanges
- Human rights and peace
- Reproductive and sexual health
- Global health education
- Partnerships

There is a National Officer that oversees the different pillars, with two National Officers overseeing exchanges (incoming and outgoing); as well, there are Local Officers for each pillar at each member school. The Director of Global Health oversees the Global Health Portfolio including the National Officers, roundtables, and task forces. As well, the Director of Global Health represents the CFMS to the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) and is the National Member Organization President for Canada within the IFMSA.

**2. Selected Meetings Attended**

| Date                            | Meeting                                      | Location       |
|---------------------------------|--|----------------|
| Sept 19-22, 2019                | AGM  | St John's NFL  |
| Sept 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2019    | Intro to CFMS Board and Dyad pairing         | Teleconference |
| October 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2019  | Check in with past Director of Global Health | Teleconference |
| October 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2019  | Intro meeting with Dyad                      | Teleconference |
| October 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2019 | National Officer meeting #1                  | Teleconference |
| October 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2019 | Pulse check in with Victor                   | Teleconference |



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| October 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2019  | CFMS Board Teleconference #1                                   | Teleconference |
| October 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2019  | Check in with Dyad   | Teleconference |
| October 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2019  | Global Health Communications interview                         | Teleconference |
| October 25-27, 2019              | CFMS Fall Board Meeting  | Ottawa         |
| October 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2019  | Global Health Communications interview                         | Teleconference |
| November 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2019  | Meeting with IFMSA Quebec #1                                   | Teleconference |
| November 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2019  | Global Health Communications meeting                           | Teleconference |
| November 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2019  | Global Health Communications meeting                           | Teleconference |
| November 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2019 | National Officer meeting #2                                    | Teleconference |
| November 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2019 | CFMS Board Teleconference #2                                   | Teleconference |
| November 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2019 | GHL Roundtable #2  | Teleconference |
| December 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2019  | Check in with past Director GH                                 | Teleconference |
| December 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2019  | Selection committee: World Health Organization Youth Council   | Teleconference |
| December 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2019  | Indigenous Representation Exploratory Working Group meeting #1 | Teleconference |
| December 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2019  | Global Health/Government Affairs collaboration meeting         | Teleconference |
| December 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2019  | HEART meeting  | Teleconference |
| December 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2019 | IFMSA Regional Meeting delegation interviews                   | Teleconference |
| December 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2019 | Pulse check in with Victor                                     | Teleconference |
| December 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2019 | Meeting with IFMSA Quebec #2                                   | Teleconference |
| December 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2019 | Check in with Dyad   | Teleconference |
| December 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2019 | CFMS Board Teleconference #3                                   | Teleconference |
| December 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2019 | Global Health Communications meeting                           | Teleconference |
| January 4-5                      | CFMS Winter Board Meeting                                      | Toronto        |



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| February 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2020 | GHL Roundtable # 4  | Teleconference |
| February 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2020 | IFMSA March AGM<br>Delegation Meeting #1                                      | Teleconference |
| February 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2020 | National Officer Meeting #3   | Teleconference |
| February 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2020 | Check in with National<br>Exchange Officers                                   | Teleconference |
| February 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2020 | Check in with National Officer<br>of Global Health Education                  | Teleconference |
| February 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2020 | Check in with National Officer<br>of Partnerships                             | Teleconference |
| February 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2020 | CFMS Board Teleconference<br>#4   | Teleconference |
| February 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2020 | Check in with National Officer<br>of Human Rights and Peace                   | Teleconference |
| February 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2020 | Check in with National Officer<br>of Indigenous Health                        | Teleconference |
| February 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2020 | Meeting with IFMSA Quebec<br>#3   | Teleconference |
| February 22 and 23 <sup>rd</sup> | National Day of Action<br>meetings  | Ottawa, ON     |
| February 24 <sup>th</sup>        | National Day of Action  | Ottawa, ON     |
| February 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2020 | Meeting with Dr. Marcia<br>Anderson re: Indigenous Week<br>of Advocacy (IoWA) | Winnipeg, MB   |
| February 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2020 | IFMSA March AGM<br>Delegation Meeting #2                                      | Teleconference |
| February 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2020 | Indigenous Representation<br>Exploratory Working Group –<br>Chair meeting     | Teleconference |
| February 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2020 | Presidents Round Table – re:<br>Indigenous Week of Advocacy                   | Teleconference |
| March 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2020     | Meeting with the Royal<br>College re: Indigenous<br>representation            | Teleconference |
| March 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2020     | IoWA Meeting – Sask   | Teleconference |
| March 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2020     | GHL Roundtable #5   | Teleconference |
| March 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2020    | IoWA Meeting – MB   | Winnipeg, MB   |
| March 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2020    | IoWA Meeting – Calgary  | Teleconference |
| March 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2020    | IoWA Meeting – Toronto  | Teleconference |
| March 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2020    | IoWA Meeting – Alberta  | Teleconference |



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| March 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2020 | IoWA Meeting - McMaster                     | Teleconference |
| March 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2020 | IoWA Meeting – BC                           | Teleconference |
| March 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2020 | IoWA Meeting – Western                      | Teleconference |
| March 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2020 | IoWA Meeting – Mun                          | Teleconference |
| March 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2020 | IoWA Meeting – Queens                       | Teleconference |
| March 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2020 | IoWA Meeting – McGill                       | Teleconference |
| March 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2020 | CFMS Board Teleconference #5                | Teleconference |
| March 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2020 | National Officers Meeting #4                | Teleconference |
| March 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2020 | GH/IFMSA restructuring meeting              | Teleconference |
| April 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2020  | Check in with Victor                        | Teleconference |
| April 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2020  | GH portfolio meeting with Victor and Felipe | Teleconference |
| April 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2020  | CFMS Board Teleconference #6                | Zoom           |

### 3. Priorities and Project Areas

#### a. Increased Collaboration

This year the Global Health National Officers will be collaborating on a national global health initiative. The goal of this project is to strengthen the portfolio by properly utilizing the human resources within the portfolio to increase effectiveness. As well, the portfolio will also be working with other portfolios within the CFMS and has begun collaboration with the IFMSA Quebec.

#### b. Increase General Member Engagement

The Global Health Local Officers do many grassroots initiatives that resonate with the General members. As well, many General Members are involved with the CFMS through global health. We therefore hope to increase engagement by highlighting global health initiatives via the CFMS website. We will also ensure that General Members are aware of global health opportunities by collapsing the Global Health Newsletter into the CFMS Communique.

#### c. Enhance the Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Portfolio

We will do this by updating the Terms of Reference for the various Roundtables within the Global Health portfolio in a way that outlines clear responsibilities for the Roundtable members. By doing so we will be able to streamline the work done within the portfolio.

#### d. Improve IFMSA Exchanges

- i. We plan to undertake an overview of the International Exchanges done by the CFMS through the IFMSA. We hope to improve feedback and engagement with these exchanges by having a deeper understanding of the circumstances that take place



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when students go on an exchange. We also plan on having discussions on this issue with other National Member Organizations within the IFMSA.

- ii. We will update the Exchange Cancellation Policy with the goal of clearly outlining situations in which refunds are able to be given to students and situations in which exchanges need to be cancelled (eg, such as with COVID-19).
- e. **Clearly Outline the Role of the CFMS within the IFMSA**
  - i. We would like to increase engagement of CFMS General Members with the IFMSA by ensuring that various IFMSA opportunities are communicated via the Global Health portion of the CFMS Communiqué.
  - ii. We will increase collaboration and communications with IFMSA Quebec and the wider IFMSA.
- f. **Positively Impact Indigenous Health within Medical School**

We plan to undertake initiatives that are based on the AFMC Joint Commitment to Action on Indigenous Health including the ‘CFMS Indigenous Week of Advocacy’. The goal of this week will be to increase Indigenous representation within medical schools. As well, we have initiated an Indigenous Representation Exploratory Working Group, the task of which will be to enhance Indigenous representation within the CFMS and within the CFMS member schools.

#### 4. Future Plans and Action Items

##### COVID-19 Implications to CFMS Global Health:

Due to the spread of COVID-19 and the travel advisories that have been put into place, IFMSA International exchanges (both incoming and outgoing) will not be taking place this year. We have given refunds to all students who were scheduled to take part in an exchange. As a consequence, the Global Health portfolio and the CFMS have had a small financial impact; however, the health and safety of Canadian medical students during this time is a higher priority than any financial implications that have occurred due to the loss of exchanges. We will continue to closely monitor the COVID-19 policies and ensure that students are made aware as soon as exchanges are deemed safe. We appreciate the patience and understanding of the many students who have had to cancel their summer plans.

As well, the CFMS will no longer be sending delegates to the IFMSA August meeting. IFMSA meetings foster collaboration between the CFMS and the wider IFMSA and they are also a great way to get general members involved with the IFMSA. When the situation with COVID-19 begins to settle, we hope to once again send delegates to the three annual IFMSA meetings.

##### Increased diversity within medicine:

The CFMS Indigenous Week of Advocacy (IoWA) has been postponed due to COVID-19. However, we are grateful for the large amount of engagement that medical students across Canada had with this initiative. We are continuously monitoring the COVID-19 situation for the best time to launch IoWA, and we are hopeful that we will get even more engagement with the



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initiative. As well, we will continue to work on finding ways to increase Indigenous representation within the CFMS and within Canadian medical schools.

**5. Reflections and Conclusions**

The Global Health Portfolio within the CFMS is a vast portfolio that spans many areas. The aspect that I appreciate the most about the portfolio is not only the reach it has to students across Canada, but also its potential for collaboration with other CFMS portfolios and external organizations. I have appreciated working with the Global Health National Officers, other portfolios within the CFMS, and with external organizations such as IFMSA Quebec. I hope that the work done by the Global Health Portfolio this year will resonate with medical students across Canada, increase CFMS member engagement, and will help enhance diversity within the CFMS and Canadian medical schools.

Sincerely,

Achieng Tago  
M.D. Candidate (2020), Max Rady College of Medicine  
CFMS Director of Global Health  
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