**CFMS Western Regional Director Position**

Hello All! My name is Cindy Kalenga and I running to be elected for a second term as the Western Regional Director. I’m a currently an MD/PhD student at the University of Calgary (C2024) with extensive experience advocating for students as part of national programs. With 14 publications, 2 manuscripts under review, more than 25 awards and grants, I have demonstrated the ability to manage multiple competing objectives. I am a productive student who can achieve results. Through my doctoral research on women's cardiovascular health, co-investigator role in several national grants, and effective policy changes in EDI, I have developed a deep understanding of health disparities and how to advocate for students. I am confident that if elected to this position, together we can create a more supportive and inclusive environment for all medical students, regardless of their background or circumstances. My platform will focus on the following outputs:

1. **Create structure of collaboration amongst western medical students**: Provide opportunities for mentorship on effective advocacy for student concerns at a provincial and national level.
2. **Western Dean’s Meeting**: Hold UME administration accountable for the promises made at previous Western Dean's meetings and work to ensure that the needs of medical students are being met.
3. **Visiting Electives**: I will also address the issues with the Visiting Elective Portal and work with AFMC to optimize the portal for timely responses regarding electives, as well as appropriate refunds and subsidies when possible.
4. **Advance Calls to Action and establish an anti-racist culture** within CFMS and medical students at large. Foster a safe and respectful culture to facilitate the success of an EDI Network.

In summary, I’m committed to representing the diverse needs of students across Canada and the unique needs and challenges of those within the Western region. I aim to promote unity and cohesiveness and foster lasting trust in the CFMS. Thank you for your consideration!