

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Laura Butler
Atlantic Regional Representative
April 2014 • SGM



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

As the Atlantic Regional Representative I serve as a connection between Memorial University, Dalhousie University, and the CFMS Executive. Through this role, I have also overseen the following projects in the 2013-2014 term:

- Student Initiative Grants (with Ontario Regional Representative David Linton) – evaluated a record-high number of applications, and awarded 11 SIGs to very deserving new initiative projects across Canada. Evaluation of the application process, and ideas for improvement of both the evaluation and distribution of SIGs to facilitate this project in future years.
- Development of CFMS Guidelines for Donations to Medical Student Memorials – a guideline paper as well as motion to be brought forward at SGM 2014 to institute practice going forward for the CFMS and outline guidelines to follow when arranging donations for medical student memorials.

I. DESCRIPTION OF POSITION:

The regional representatives serve three main functions. They are primarily the representatives of the region member schools and bring the concerns and issues that arise at the member schools to the attention of the CFMS Executive. As Atlantic Regional Representative, my duty has been to act as the liaison between Memorial University of Newfoundland, Dalhousie University and the CFMS Executive. Within this position on the Executive, I have also overseen projects that are of particular importance to the CFMS and their member schools. This year, those projects are namely: Student Initiative Grants Fall 2013 distribution and evaluation of process, Development of a CFMS Guidelines for Donations to Medical Student Memorials, as well as Evaluating Travel Funding Awards.

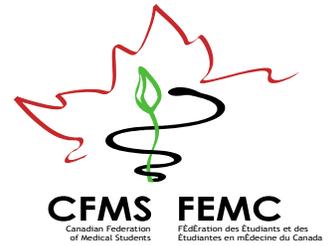
II. ACTIVITIES:

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting	Location
September 20-22	CFMS AGM	Vancouver, BC
October 18-20	CFMS Fall Executive Meeting	Ottawa, ON
November 30	CFMS Executive Meeting	Teleconference
December 10	Atlantic Regions Teleconference	Teleconference
December 16	CFMS Executive Meeting	Teleconference
January 10-12	CFMS Winter Executive Meeting	Teleconference
February 5	CFMS Executive Meeting	Teleconference
March 18	CFMS Executive Meeting	Teleconference
April 24-27	CFMS SGM	Ottawa, ON

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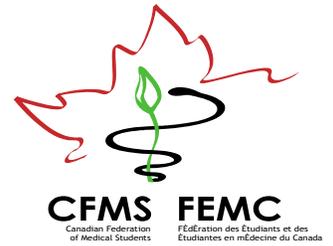


III. PROJECT AREAS:

1. Development of CFMS Guidelines for Donations to Student Memorials: in response to the death of a second-year medical student at the University of Ottawa, the CFMS Executive proposed a financial commitment on its behalf to share its condolences and support to the loss of the family, the medical student's class and the student population of CFMS member schools. The CFMS has been unsure of how to respond most appropriately, it has been proposed that the most meaningful support would be to existing efforts. This proposal will institute a practice for the CFMS on a go-forward basis and outline guidelines to follow when arranging donations for medical student memorials. The proposed guidelines are to be brought to a motion at the CFMS SGM 2014 in Ottawa before the general assembly.
2. Student Initiative Grants (with David Linton): The role of SIGs are to aid in the partial to full funding of student lead initiatives that will benefit CFMS Member School students, an underserved healthcare population, or a population of interest to the CFMS. This year, David and I evaluated a record-high number of 68 applications to the CFMS SIGs. Amongst these very strong applications, 11 were awarded partial to full funding of their project. In prior years, the low awareness and application of SIGs was an issue brought forward by the CFMS Executive, this has seemingly been resolved, and new difficulties with the evaluation process were brought to light. David and I did a critical analysis of the SIG evaluation and distribution process, in hopes to increase transparency of the application process, and make the SIGs more accessible to more medical student-lead initiatives in the upcoming years.
3. New Brunswick Summer Student Preceptorship Program: In March 2013 the New Brunswick Provincial Government announced they were cutting the preceptorship program in which medical students shadow physicians throughout the summer months. After lobbying, the government ensured that the program would continue in summer 2013, but did not ensure the program's safety beyond that point. This issue did not get brought to light in the 2013-2014 term as of yet, however it is an area of interest for future Atlantic Regional Representatives to keep an eye out for.
4. PEI Return of Service: PEI announced in December 2012 that they were to try a voluntary return of service pilot project for the next 5 years. The program was initiated in response to student lobbying against a mandatory return of service agreement that was originally implemented in the 2011-2012 term. This bursary is open to all medical students to apply, but preference is given to PEI residents. While this seems to be at bay for this year, again, this is an area of interest for future Atlantic Regional Representatives, and the PEI government has indicated that a future mandatory return of service agreement is not completely off the table.
5. Evaluation of Applications for Travel Award Funding to CFMS SGM 2014: Overseen by Quebec Regional Representative, Bryce Durafourt.

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IV. GOALS:

For the remainder of my term, I aim to:

- i. Continue to oversee the CFMS SIGs
- ii. Continue to improve the SIG process and implement improved guidelines for incoming executive members
- iii. Implement a CFMS Guideline for Donations to Medical Student Memorials
- iv. Continue communication with Memorial University of Newfoundland and Dalhousie through an end of year teleconference
- v. Ensure hand over to new Atlantic Regional Representative at AGM 2014 in Kingston, ON

V. FUTURE SUGGESTIONS:

For the incoming Atlantic Regional Representative, awareness of issues that were pertinent to Atlantic Medical Students, including the PEI Mandatory Return of Service Agreement as well as the New Brunswick Summer Preceptorship Program issues are both very important. Both of these issues impact CFMS Member Schools, and have the potential to resurface in the next few years. In response to these issues, a position paper outlining Physician Recruitment and Retention Strategies was written and passed. This resource will be important on a go-forward basis should these issues resurface.

Furthermore, the hand over of the Student Initiative Grants project to the incoming CFMS Executive should be smooth, following some improvements in both the evaluation and distribution processes. This will allow for more transparency for both the executive tasked to evaluating this project, and the CFMS members who are applying.
