

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Ian Brasg

VP Education

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I. DESCRIPTION OF POSITION/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The CFMS VP-Education is responsible for academic issues of national importance to Canadian medical students. These include the quality and content of medical education, accessibility to undergraduate and post-graduate medical education, factors affecting career decision-making, tuition and student debt. Addressing these issues involves CFMS-initiated projects as well as collaboration with external organizations such as the CMA, AFMC, RCPSC, CaRMS and others.

Key projects for this year include completion of the CFMS social media guidelines, presentation of leadership survey results at CCME, participation in the national electives portal management system steering committee, participation in the Task Force on Medical Education Terminology, participation on the FMEC Transitions Sub-Committee and general representation to the CMA Committee on Education and Professional Development, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Education Committee, and the Canadian Residents Matching Service (CaRMS). CaRMS involvement has included an appointment to the finance committee.

II. ACTIVITIES

Meetings Attended

Sept 20-22	CFMS AGM	Vancouver, BC
Oct 1	Electives Portal Steering Committee Meeting	Teleconference
Oct 18-20	Fall CFMS Exec Meeting	Ottawa, ON
Oct 20-21	CMA CEPD Meeting	Ottawa, ON
Nov 12	Electives Portal Steering Committee Meeting	Teleconference
Nov 13	Clerkship Wellness Discussion	Teleconference
Nov 14	CFMS-CaRMS Discussion	Teleconference
Nov 22	CanMEDS National Advisory Committee	Teleconference
Nov 29	FMEC PG Meeting	Ottawa, ON
Nov 30	CFMS Exec Meeting	Teleconference
Jan 6	FMEC PG Meeting	Ottawa, ON
Dec 16	CFMS Exec Meeting	Teleconference
Jan 10-12	CFMS Winter Exec Meeting	Toronto, ON
Jan 12-13	CaRMS Board Meeting	Toronto, ON
Jan 14	CFMS AGM Discussion	Teleconference
Jan 16	Electives Portal Steering Committee Meeting	Teleconference

Jan 28	CanMEDS National Advisory Committee	Teleconference
Feb 2-3	CFMS Lobby Day	Ottawa, ON
Feb 05	CFMS Exec Meeting	Teleconference
Feb 09	Education Committee	Teleconference
March 14	CMAJ CSA Discussion	Teleconference
March 18	CFMS Exec Meeting	Teleconference
March 24	FMEC PG Meeting	Ottawa, ON
March 31	Education Committee Discussions	Teleconference
April 4	AFMC Student Affairs Lead Meeting	Teleconference
April 4	CCME Symposium Panel Meeting	Teleconference
April 4	CanMEDS National Advisory Committee	Teleconference
April 6-7	CMA CEPD Meeting	Ottawa, ON
April 24-26	CFMS SGM	Ottawa, ON
April 25	Electives Portal Steering Committee Meeting	Ottawa, ON
April 26	CCME Panel Re: Modern Curricula	Ottawa, ON
April 26-29	CCME	Ottawa, ON
April 27	MCC Executive Discussion	Ottawa, ON

Portfolio Updates

The CFMS VP Education sits on a number of committees and organizational boards that afford the organization the ability to advocate for student interests. These roles include sitting on the Canadian Medical Association Committee on Education and Professional Development, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Education Committee, and the Board of the Canadian Resident Matching Service.

CMA CEPD involvement this year has included work on duty hours (including effects on staff physicians), health-human resource planning, leadership CME, accreditation, Choosing Wisely Canada, the physician unique-value proposition, and strategic direction. Duty hour restrictions and health-human resource planning are particularly important areas.

The CFMS would like to congratulate CaRMS on the logistical and technical success of the recent first iteration of the R1-match on March 5th, 2014. We have not heard any concerns regarding technical errors. While CaRMS committee work is bound by a non-disclosure agreement, VP Ed continues to serve on the board as well as on the finance and nominations committees. The actual match, however, seems to show evidence of a worsening trend. We have heard anecdotally that our member schools have seen reduced match rates over all, and reduced positions available for the second iteration. The CFMS looks forward to the official announcement of these statistics at the CaRMS Forum at CCME.

The portfolio has had an active role in the on-going implementation of the Future of Medical Education in Canada – Post-Graduate recommendations. Specifically,

the portfolio has been active on the Transitions Sub-Committee, as well as its three working groups. This sub-committee is tasked with coming up with innovative ideas that can be implemented during the final year of medical school, the residency selection process and transition to residency, and finally the last year of residency and the transition to practice. Some pilot projects relating to medical school that are being entertained include re-evaluating the timing of various examination and selection points, developing streaming during the final portion of medical school and/or a residency boot-camp, reducing the number of R1 entry disciplines, and creating a list of competencies/milestones that each learner should possess at the start of residency.

The CFMS also has two seats on the steering committee for the development of the national electives portal. The national electives portal will be a streamlined and centralized electronic way for medical students to apply for elective rotations at all Canadian medical faculties. The CFMS is working with the committee to ensure it remains service-oriented and places student needs as a top-priority for years to come. The portal is well along in development and is actively being demonstrated to stakeholders, including electives coordinators, using wireframes and mock-ups. The CFMS will emphasize security in these efforts in light of the compromise of the elective scheduling system at one of our member schools.

VP Education has participated in the CanMEDS 2015 update as a member of the National Advisory Committee as well as serving as an ePanelist for the Manager and Professionalism drafts. A draft of the new framework is currently out for consultation. Notably, the Manager role has been tentatively changed to Leader. Work is also underway to establish various milestones for each role and sub-role that will be used as part of a larger push to competency-based training.

As some of you may have heard, there were technical difficulties with the recent scheduling of the MCCQE1 exam that largely affected students taking the examination in Toronto and Montreal. The CFMS is working closely with the Medical Council of Canada on collaborative ways of staving off these challenges in the future.

Finally, as part of portfolio restructuring, the VP Education has pursued the creation of an Education Listserv and Education Committee. This Listserv is designed to engage the various VPs Education and Academic at our member schools more fully in CFMS activities and provide a forum for them to share and discuss best practices. The Education Committee was formed after a competitive application process and consists of five selected members and a vice-chair chosen from the regional representation on the executive. The Committee is working on diverse projects, including distributed medical education, CaRMS match patterns, inter-professional education and the standardization of Dean's Letters. The committee also helped the executive draft a report on changes to Canadian accreditation standards. Stay tuned for more information regarding these projects at the Annual General Meeting.

III. FOLLOW-UP, VISION, GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS POSITION

Major projects to be completed in the second half of the term include the Match Book and progress on the various Education Committee projects.

IV. SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Timely and effective response to electronic correspondence is something that I am continually working on.

I also aim to use the education listserv more regularly and better integrate the Education Committee into the regular workings of the portfolio.