

EXECUTIVE REPORT

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Ontario Regional Representative
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I. DESCRIPTION OF POSITION:

Regional Representatives are fully functioning and voting members of the Executive and have the specialized role of ensuring that the Executive is kept abreast of up-to-the-moment developments at all of the member schools. Regional representatives serve as liaisons between the Executive and the medical society representatives and presidents. They work closely with all VPs under the direction of the President to ensure communication between the Executive and medical societies.

There are two Ontario Regional Representatives representing the six Ontario medical schools: Ottawa, Queens, Toronto, McMaster, Western, and Northern. The individuals holding these posts are responsible for keeping the executive and the rest of the board informed of developments at these schools. The information helps ensure the effectiveness of the CFMS as a national voice, and allows the CFMS to respond and react to local issues. The Ontario Regional Representatives normally liaise with the provincial Ontario Medical Student Association (OMSA).

In addition to the standard representation, advocacy and communication on behalf of Ontario, key projects for this year include improving relations with OMSA, commencing an examination of leadership in medical school and an online professionalism initiative. The Ontario Regional Representative is also involved in the communications related to the portfolio.

II. ACTIVITIES

Meetings Attended

Oct 14-16	Fall Exec Meeting	Ottawa
Nov 13	Exec Meeting	Teleconference
Dec 14	ROMP Regional Director's Meeting	King City, ON
Jan 19	AFMC Professionalism Working Group Meeting	Montreal
Jan 20-22	Winter Exec Meeting	Toronto
Jan 21	OMSA Meeting	Toronto
March 10	NAHSSA Conference and AGM	Kitchener, ON
March 13	Exec Meeting	Teleconference
March 31-	OMSA Leadership Conference and Provincial	Toronto
April 2	Lobby Day	
April 12-15	SGM	Banff

Aug 24-26	Summer Exec Meeting	Montreal
Sept 28-30	AGM	Winnipeg
Various	Leadership Research Group Meetings	Toronto

Portfolio Updates

Priorities and Project Areas

Collaboration with the Ontario Medical Student Association (OMSA)

Representing Ontario as CFMS regional representative is somewhat unique in the country due to the strong presence of the Ontario Medical Student Association (OMSA), our provincial medical student body. The OMSA accomplishes many of the roles that would otherwise fall to the CFMS Ontario Regional Representatives. For instance, the OMSA organizes a provincial lobby day and keeps tabs on the happenings at each of our 6 medical schools through frequent meetings with the respective external representatives. In the past collaboration has been poor between the two groups, leading to redundant and duplicated initiatives that were inefficient. This year both the CFMS Ontario representatives and the OMSA have made a concerted effort to update each other frequently and collaborate wherever possible. The CFMS Ontario representatives now sit as *ex officio* members on the OMSA and are copied on all emails exchanged. Significant effort has also been made to either attend OMSA meetings in person or teleconference in, wherever possible. Finally, the CFMS Ontario representative will be piloting a study of leadership in medical school at the upcoming OMSA leadership summit and provincial lobby day (more details below).

Leadership in Medical School Study

The study of leadership in medicine is becoming an important topic in academia, in part due to the current climate of fiscal restraint. Some studies, for instance, have shown that hospitals led by physician-CEOs are less wasteful and have better aggregated clinical outcomes than those managed by CEOs without clinical training. Despite these benefits, numerous investigations have found disincentives to physician involvement in leadership at many stages of professional development and advancement. The AFMC has already identified the importance of leadership development in undergraduate medical education by endorsing 'Fostering Medical Leadership' as its tenth, and final, recommendation. We are interested in scoping the current range of medical student experiences and perspectives on leadership, as well as the effect of medical education on such involvement. We hope that the results of this study will help improve medical education for our members down the road.

A pre-pilot survey was launched at the OMSA leadership conference and the full pilot survey was disseminated electronically to attendants at the CFMS SGM.

Out of 105 total attendants, 59 began the survey and 39 completed it. The mixed-methods survey inquired about leadership demographics before and during medical school, as well as perceptions on leadership and self-rated leadership attributes. Results relevant to the CFMS were obtained relating to perceptions of leadership support in formal curricula, perceptions on barriers to leadership involvement in undergraduate medical education, and consistent self-reported strengths and weaknesses across all schools. An abstract from this pilot has been prepared and submitted to the 2013 Canadian Conference on Medical Education. The pilot results are also being used to inform a national survey on medical leadership, to be released in the fourth quarter of 2012.

Online Professionalism Initiative

The CFMS recently produced an excellent guide to professionalism from the student-perspective. This guide has been well received by the respective professionalism faculty-leads from medical schools across the country, who especially loved the CanMEDS framework adopted. While most of the feedback was positive, one criticism of the document was that it did not go far enough in addressing online professionalism and social media concerns. The faculty leads readily acknowledge that this may be an area in which students are best positioned to contribute to the discourse and help shape expectations. Students themselves have also been expressing widespread concerns regarding appropriate medical student behaviour on the internet. As such, the CFMS is pleased to begin undertaking the production of a practical guide to online professionalism and social media. This guide will be begun over the summer in conjunction with the VP Communications and the already formed Social Media Committee, with initial thoughts available for AGM and the full guide available in 2013. We anticipate that this guide will build on the great work already being done in this area by student leaders from across the country.

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

Issues remaining for this term include:

- Leadership in Medical School Study: Obtain REB approval for the national follow-up study and make inroads towards collaborating with the various medical schools across the country (with efforts to share data and results).
- Online Professionalism Initiative: Produce the online professionalism guide after a thorough literature review and stakeholder analysis.

Future regional representatives should continue to work on the collaborative relationship with the OMSA and contribute to better defining the role of the position.

IV. SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Moving forward, I would like the regional representative role to be better defined by our by-laws. The regional representatives traditionally take on pet projects and contribute to the completion of projects and goals relevant to the other portfolios. Unfortunately, this ad-hoc process of identifying meaningful projects and beginning to work on them takes up valuable time for the elected position. Having the current executives contribute at the end of their terms to a list of initiatives worthy of future pursuit may be a way to speed up this project selection process and maximize the efficiency of the regional representatives.

One challenge with cooperating fully with the OMSA has been finding the funds to attend their meetings. The OMSA holds meetings throughout the province and attendance often requires travel. We currently benefit from having our CFMS VP Finance also being a member of the OMSA executive, however in the future we recommend that at least one Ontario Regional Representative receive funding to attend OMSA meetings. Teleconferencing is a good second choice but does not take the place of a personal presence.