Dear fellow medical student,

Congratulations and welcome to medical school! I know you have worked extremely hard and you should be very proud of your accomplishment. As you embark on your exciting journey towards becoming a physician, the next years will be filled with opportunities, challenges, highs, lows and the most amazing friends and colleagues who will always be there to support you. On behalf of the Canadian Federation of Medical Students (CFMS) family I would like to officially welcome you to our community of over 8000 members at 15 Canadian Medical student societies. Our job is to represent, connect and support all our members as you navigate the medical training journey and gain skills to fulfill our role of service to our patients and society.

We are the voice of Canadian medical students to important national organizations including the Canadian Medical Association, the Canadian Resident Matching Service and the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada. We ensure learners are represented and actively involved in discussions on important issues. Our Education portfolio has seats at many of these tables and works very hard to continue improving your learning experience. We also host a spring and fall general meeting each year. These meetings are an opportunity for medical students across Canada to connect and discuss hot topics in Canadian medical education. Our Communications team has a bi-weekly communique that I encourage you to sign up for. You will also find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram! Our Global Health portfolio is involved in many social justice initiatives and connects members with the International Federation of Medical Students through international exchanges and other advocacy opportunities. Advocacy is central to the CFMS and our Government Affairs portfolio among many other priorities organizes an annual Day of Action where learners meet with MPs on national health-related issues.

We strive to ensure learner wellness is a top priority at all schools. Medical school can be difficult and our Student Affairs portfolio oversees the National Wellness Program with pillars of advocacy, awareness, resilience & personal development and programming to support medical learners on their journey. As a CFMS member you have access to countless services including exclusive discounts on educational materials, transportation and accommodations. Create an official account on our website: www.cfms.org, to take advantage of these opportunities starting August 31st 2019. Your case-sensitive sign-up code is: MyCFMS_2019

The CFMS enjoys a collaborative partnership with MD Financial Management. MD is the only national financial services firm exclusively dedicated to helping Canadian medical students, residents and physicians. Whether you want to know how to best finance your education or manage your debt, MD can help with advice and solutions specific to your needs. MD also supports CFMS members through Leadership awards which recognize a change maker at each of our 15 member schools as well as Travel awards to support additional students to attend our general meetings.

I am very excited for the upcoming year. Medical students inspire me everyday and we have unlimited potential to continue to grow and make a difference for learners and society. Our vision is Tomorrow’s Physicians, Leading for Health Today. You are now one of those members leading for health today! Wherever your interests may lie, there are opportunities for you to be involved. We would be honoured to have you serve on one of our committees or working groups and represent your fellow students at national discussions. Whatever your background, passion or skill-sets I hope you can see yourself in the CFMS. It is an honour to be able to serve as your President and I look forward to meeting and working with you this year.

Sincerely,

Victor Do
CFMS President, 2019-2020