Dear Schulich Class of 2025,

Congratulations on your admission to medical school and welcome to the Ontario Medical Students Association! We are so excited that you are joining the Ontario medical student community and look forward to getting to know you over the next few years.

To introduce ourselves, we are the 2020/2021 Ontario Medical Student Association President and President-Elect. We are both senior medical students – Sharon is in her final year at Queen’s University, and Ushma is in her third year at the University of Toronto. Ushma will be taking on the full duties of President in the upcoming 2021/2022 school year and will be joined by a President-Elect who will be elected at our Annual General Meeting this spring.

As Ontario medical students, you are automatic members of the Ontario Medical Students Association (OMSA), which is an organization that represents all medical students in Ontario. OMSA is dedicated to advocating for our rights as medical students, to enhancing the quality of medical education, and to collaborating with the patients and communities we serve. We wanted to take this opportunity to invite and encourage you to get involved with OMSA; we operate through a diverse number of portfolios and would love to have you involved in a capacity that suits your interests and career goals!

Some exciting things to look forward to this year include a provincial Day of Action held at Queen’s Park, a Wellness Retreat, and OSMERC, our annual, student-run medical education conference! Typically, all of these events are run in person, but we have had to adjust accordingly due to the pandemic and some of these events may continue to be held virtually in this upcoming year. We are also currently looking into virtual options for the Ontario Medical Students Weekend (OMSW), which is a highly anticipated conference and social event weekend held exclusively for first year students to network with one another.

You will receive updates from OMSA via your student council and VP Externals, but until you meet them, follow us on Twitter (@OMSAofficial) and Facebook (/omsaofficial) and check out our website (www.omsa.ca)! Please don’t hesitate to reach out if you have questions about getting involved, suggestions for activities or events you’d like to see, or support for an issue happening at your school - we’re always here to help in whatever way we can.

Enjoy a wonderful summer and once again, CONGRATULATIONS! We can’t wait to journey through the next four years with you!

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