



THE ASSOCIATION OF FACULTIES  
OF MEDICINE OF CANADA

L'ASSOCIATION DES FACULTÉS  
DE MÉDECINE DU CANADA

## Minister of Health will open the Canadian Conference on Medical Education



We are pleased to announce that the Honourable Ginette Petitpas-Taylor, the Minister of Health, will open the Canadian Conference on Medical Education (CCME) as the AFMC AMS J. Wendell McLeod Lecturer on April 13 at 4 p.m in the Exhibition Hall A at the Scotiabank Convention Centre.

### AFMC @ #CCME19

#### AFMC Presidential Awards Ceremony and Reception

The AFMC Presidential Awards and Ceremony will be held on April 14 at 5 p.m. Please join us in celebrating the excellence of award winners in the Oakes South meeting room at the Marriott on the Falls. For a list of this year's awardees, visit [afmc.ca/awards](http://afmc.ca/awards).

#### AFMC Learner Forum

What challenges do medical students and residents face when choosing a career and specialty? Attend on April 14 at noon in Exhibit Hall B at the Scotiabank Convention Centre to hear from representatives of the Fédération médicale étudiante du Québec, Canadian Federation of Medical Students, Fédération des médecins résidents du Québec and Resident Doctors of Canada who will explore the issues faced by medical students and residents with regards to electives, the number of entry level specialties and making a career change.

#### AFMC Strategic Policy Forum

Are Canada's Medical School admissions policies and procedures in need of a major overhaul to ensure the admittance of students who reflect Canada's society and meet the future needs of Canadians? Dr. Julien Poitras will moderate a debate between Drs. Bruce Martin, Jill Konkin, David Latter, Wanda Parsons and Susan Phillips on April 15 at 3 p.m. in the Peller Estates Room D at the Scotiabank Convention Centre. Have your say by placing your pre and post-debate vote!

#### Opening Ceremony Plenary Speaker Tina Varughese

Tina Varughese is an Indo-Canadian daughter of first generation East Indian parents, which allows her to find 'the best of both worlds' and shed light, knowledge and most importantly universal humour into the intercultural workplace. Her experience as a mother, daughter, wife, sister and friend impacts her keynote delivery on work-life balance and generational differences. Her key message is to "Strive for progress rather than perfection."



## Dr. Hélène Boisjoly, University of Montreal Dean, receives the Order of Canada



Dr. Hélène Boisjoly, Dean of faculty of medicine, University of Montreal has been appointed member of the order of Canada, one of the country's highest honours. Dr. Boisjoly is being recognized for her "contributions to vision health and governance in medical academia".

The Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada would like to congratulate Dr. Boisjoly on the acknowledgment of her outstanding dedication and service to academic medicine.

An accomplished ophthalmologist and researcher, Dr. Boisjoly is the first woman in the history of Quebec's faculties of medicine to hold the position of Dean. An inspiration to educators,

researchers, colleagues and learners, she was also the first woman in Canada to Chair a university department of ophthalmology.

“We congratulate Dr. Boisjoly and thank her for her dedication to AFMC, in particular during her tenure as Chair of the AFMC Board of Directors (2014-2016)” says Dr. Geneviève Moineau, President and CEO of AFMC.

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## Data Collection to better support our Faculties

AFMC has developed a renewed direction for AFMC’s data strategy which is more responsive to the changing needs of our members and the academic medicine community. This new data vision focuses on three objectives:

- 1) Expand AFMC’s data collection across the continuum to inform the Faculties of Medicine and respond to their needs as they work to improve the Canadian medical education system.
- 2) Support a broad community of scholars to conduct research using AFMC data to inform education, public policy, regulation, advocacy and health workforce planning.
- 3) Enhance AFMC’s data infrastructure and management systems to support increased automation, improved data quality and sophisticated reporting capabilities that are aligned with existing industry standards and best practices.



Priority areas for research direction have been identified as part of the new data vision. These areas include a focus on diversity, outcomes of graduates and physician resource planning. The priority area of diversity will be looking at demographics of aspirants, applicants, students, residents and faculty. Outcomes refer to tracking graduates into practice and the workforce. Work is underway to better understand gender diversity within the Faculties of Medicine.

AFMC will be publishing national data on gender in Canadian faculties of medicine later this year.

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## Q&A with Scholar in Residence Dr. Donald McKay



Dr. Donald McKay was AFMC’s inaugural Visiting Scholar. He spent the last several months collaborating with AFMC on research and scholarly activities.

**Q. You worked to identify and address critical questions about the trajectory of learners across the continuum of medical education. What specific areas did your research focus on?**

**A.** My research focused mostly on diversity in academic leadership positions in Canadian faculties of medicine. As you may be aware, the AFMC, through its Medical Education Statistics Collection (CMES) asks faculties of medicine to provide data in a broad range of categories including questions about learner and faculty demographics. No such questions were asked about academic leaders or administrative structures, and for the most part, the CMES provided the name of the Dean of medicine. Thus, I engaged in a school by school study to learn about what types of decanal roles each faculty had and the gender of those who filled the leadership roles.

**Q. What would you say were your most interesting findings in your research this year? And why?**

**A.** My study will perhaps serve as a benchmark for future examination of diversity in the leadership of academic medicine, as these data had not been collected earlier. As a result of my experience as Visiting Scholar, the AFMC will begin collecting these data on an annual basis and in a systematic way. The results show that women hold many academic leadership positions in our faculties of medicine, but most commonly at the lower level assistant deanships. In addition, there is considerable diversity among schools, in terms of gender balance, so that the mean results, while reflective of general trends, mask some of the values more distant from the mean. In general, in those academic leadership positions where authority is over people rather than programs (e.g., the dean or department head/discipline chairs), women hold a lower percentage of these roles.

**Q. What is your biggest takeaway from this experience?**

**A.** AFMC has a trove of data and capable staff that can assist in collating information. Likely, many of the issues that face Canadian faculties of medicine, their learners and faculty members could benefit by analysis of existing information in advance of major policy or practice shifts. Likely, these data could be the grist for the research mills of our faculties, especially by learners who are immersed in the medical education system and are looking to explore change. Where important

## Focus on Visiting Electives in Canada

In an effort to streamline our e-communication with our members and stakeholders, updates and news about the AFMC Student Portal will now be shared via the AFMC newsletter. The last issue of the [AFMC Student Portal newsletter](#) was sent on February 5.

### Visiting Electives Snapshot from 2017-18

AFMC released the third iteration of this informative visual report that provides insight on visiting electives trends across all 17 Canadian medical schools. The infographic is based on the AFMC Student Portal Data on Visiting Electives : National Report.

The 2017-2018 report captures information on the application and placement of undergraduate medical students entering clerkship who are applying through the AFMC Student Portal visiting electives at a medical school in Canada. This is the first report that contains a complete set of data for all 17 host institutions in Canada for an entire academic year.

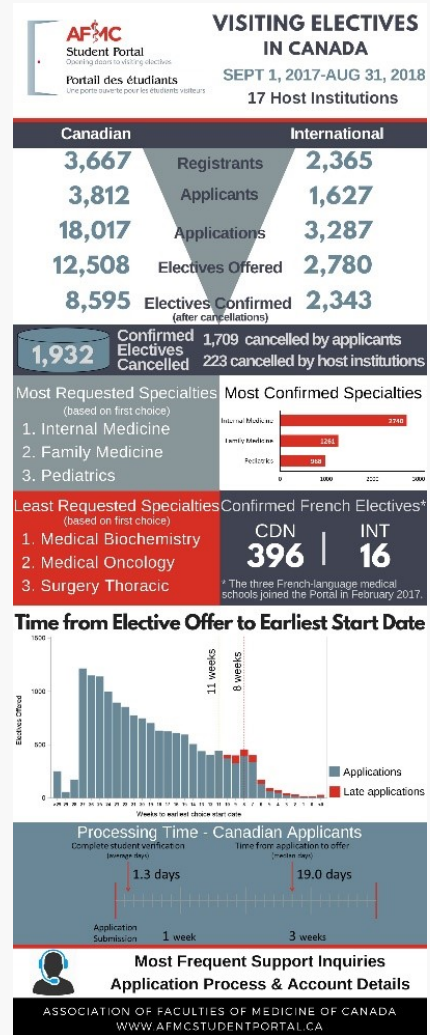
The infographic and national report are available on the [AFMC Student Portal](#).

### Key findings from the National Report

Two-thirds of clerkship students in Canada applied for at least one visiting elective for the 2017-2018 academic year at another faculty of medicine across the country. A total of 18,780 weeks of visiting electives were confirmed by students.

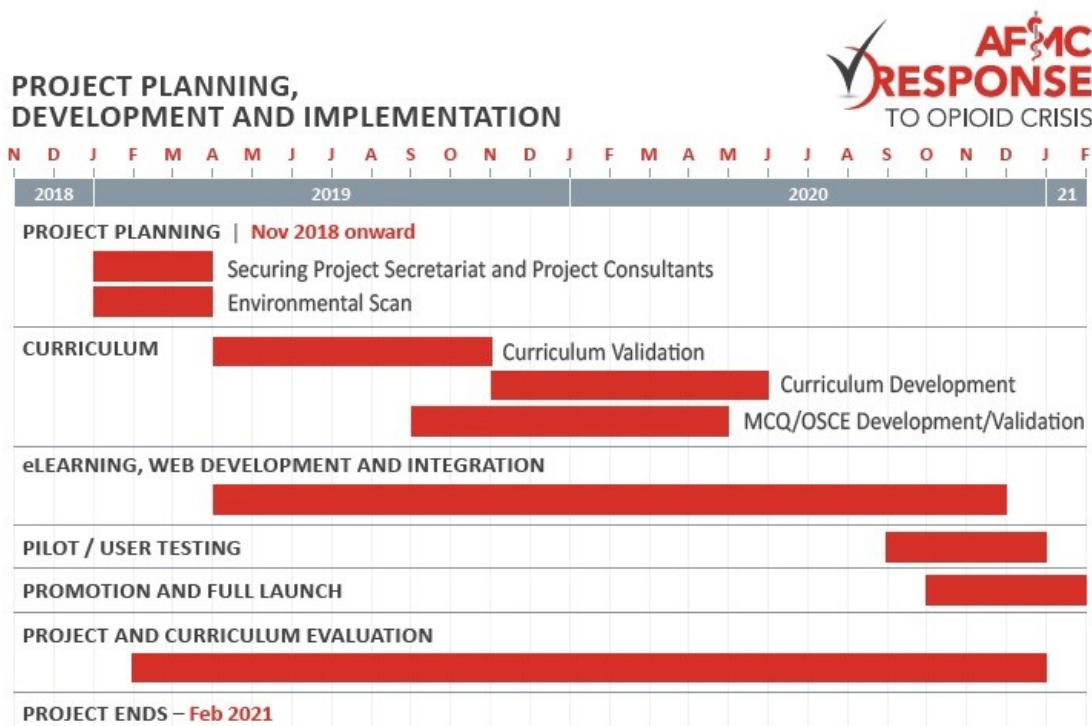
The University of Toronto attracts the largest number of students overall from across Canada to attend an elective. The University of Ottawa placed more students in visiting electives relative to their class size than any other school. The four faculties of medicine in Quebec offered on average the longest duration of visiting electives.

AFMC would like to acknowledge the hard work of all of the faculties of medicine in accommodating students during visiting electives. Visiting electives are an important and enriching part of medical education.



## AFMC Response to the Canadian Opioid Crisis

Last month, we announced that AFMC would be leading the creation of a Canada-wide, competency-based curricula for future physicians in pain management, problematic substance use and substance use disorders. We are pleased to share the timeline for this project.



## The Ambassadors of Health Care in French

AFMC was pleased to host students in Ottawa on February 2nd for a day of activities as part of the Franco Doc project:  
The Ambassadors of Health Care in French!

The students had an opportunity to hear from leaders in medical education as part of their development of their new roles within their francophone communities.



## Board Member recognized by the CFPC

AFMC congratulates our Board Member Dr. Jesse Kancir for being awarded the Mimi Divinsky Award for History and Narrative in Family Medicine, which recognizes the best submitted narrative account of experiences in family medicine.

[Read Dr. Kancir's story.](#)



## In Case You Missed It

### It Takes A Village

"It takes a village..." says Dr. Geneviève Moineau in regards to successfully matching Canadian medical graduates. Read more in her [latest blog post.](#)

### Award for Excellence in Education in Medical, Dental & Veterinary Schools



The closing date for the 2019 round of submissions for the ASPIRE-to-Excellence award is February 28. Full details of the submission process are on the website [www.aspire-to-excellence.org](http://www.aspire-to-excellence.org).

The ASPIRE-to-Excellence initiative was established to provide a unique system which encouraged excellence in education in medicine and the healthcare professions by identifying, recognizing and rewarding excellence in key aspects of education delivery.

### The 2018 International Medical Graduate (IMG) Report

The Canadian Post-M.D. Education Registry (CAPER) is proud to announce the publication of the 2018 International Medical Graduate (IMG) report.

The IMG report provides comprehensive statistics on IMGs over the continuum of their application, education, and entry into practice in Canada. CAPER would like to take this opportunity to thank our data providers, sponsors, and all the staff that made this report a reality.

You can access the full report [here.](#)

Visit our Website

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