

Dear OMSA Award Committee,

The COVID-19 pandemic has shone a light on the necessity of close communication between the medical community and policymakers in order to keep our community safe. Angela Dong's initiative **MP-MD Apprenticeship** – which she founded in the wake of lockdown measures in March 2020 – trailblazes in bridging medicine and politics, bringing healthcare perspectives to the forefront of policy discussions.

A non-partisan, educational organization built on the principles of evidence-based medicine, MP-MD Apprenticeship crucially provides policy education to the next generation of Canadian physicians by placing medical students in Members of Parliament (MP) constituency offices to learn politics first-hand. Angela's visionary leadership ensured that one year after debut, MP-MD Apprenticeship had 12 medical students working with 11 MP/MPP/Cabinet Ministers, provided 10+ policy skills workshops with physician-advocate speakers, started chapters across Ontario, and won the CFMS Student Initiative Grant. So far, students have researched/written Private Members' Bills on long-term care, environmental health, and more, and there is a 2021-2022 waiting list for both students and policymakers.

Several adversities arose, from difficulties recruiting policymakers to adaptations of project parameters based on changing political seasons, parliamentary policies, and learning objectives. Resolving obstacles, Angela showed significant strategic insight in what is best for the students, medical community, and MP-MD's unprecedented position in Canada's political landscape. She has gone above and beyond with ensuring principled accountability by establishing a Board of Advisors comprising of diverse experts on ethics, policymaking, research, and advocacy, as well as by enshrining the values of "Do No Harm" and evidence-based medicine in all MP-MD endeavours.

Given MP-MD's immense impact on the larger community in both medicine and politics, such careful consideration is essential. Angela uses her extensive experiences in policy, ethics, and health education to enrich MP-MD's values. She is currently on her second term in the Constituency Council for federal Minister of Labour Filomena Tassi, where she has crafted policy recommendations on COVID-19 workplace protections, immigrant underemployment, and more. As a founding teammate of Health Human Resources Task Force (HHRTF), she co-created a novel platform forecasting national physician workforce needs, featured on the CFMS website for CaRMS planning purposes. Since she started medical school, Angela has advocated, researched, and/or determined the agenda for Hamilton's Municipal Day of Action (2019 & 2020) and CFMS National Day of Action 2020. She has also co-hosted McMaster Medicine's Health Policy elective, volunteered on three political campaigns, and published several opinion-editorials in McMaster's law journal on science and technology in politics.

Angela's pioneering initiative cultivates empowerment in political processes for future physicians all over Canada, leading to current and future potential to impact legislation. As the bridge between political office and clinical environments, MP-MD Apprenticeship also helps the medical community gain greater accessibility to policymakers, while politicians attain awareness of healthcare system realities and are encouraged to use evidence-based research methodology. Angela's record of judicious decision-making has ensured MP-MD Apprenticeship's ground-breaking position in the medical-political landscape will not only make change, but will do so wisely.

Thank you for your consideration.