

I am nominating Dalia for the Hidden Hero award for her significant involvement in medical politics, and her work in helping to involve other medical students. For the past 3 years, Dalia has been an alternate delegate to the Ontario Medical Association from District 8. Dalia was initially the only medical student to be representing a district! In this role, she was able to work with and learn from a variety of Ottawa area physicians, and advocate for causes at OMA council that are relevant to medical students, residents, and staff. Specifically, Dalia recently was involved in passing a motion at OMA that addresses issues of gender pay inequity, under employment and unemployment of physicians. In addition to Dalia's direct involvement with the OMA, she recognized a gap in our medical education about medical politics, and created the idea for a now annual event "A Night of Medical Politics". We were the co-chairs for the event, and secured speakers who were involved in the Ontario Medical Association, the president of the Canadian medical Association, a physician who had run for office as an MPP candidate, and a physician very involved in physician wellness advocacy. In the first year that we ran this event, we had close to 100 attendees!- and attendees stated that they learned a lot about the many opportunities within medicine and outside of medicine, to be advocates. This event has now become an annual event! Dalia was also a lead, and we co-chaired a "speed-mentorship event". After seeing how much students enjoyed speaking to the invited physicians at our "Night of Medical Politics", we saw a need to provide students with an opportunity to meet mentors in a variety of specialties with many involvements outside of clinical practice. After this event, we sent out a feedback survey, and many students reported that they were able to find a mentor that they could keep in touch with. What makes Dalia so unique, is she actively seeks new ways to advocate and to engage her peers. Thank you for considering Dalia for this award!