



Meet the Exec

The Calgary Medical Students' Association (CMSA) is the student government that represents medical students at UofC. It is composed of 11 executive members who sit on the CMSA board. Each executive member also has a portfolio that consists of non-executive members who are responsible for more direct tasks within that portfolio. Collectively, there are over 50 non-executive positions, so there are tons of opportunities to get involved in student governance at UofC! The elections for executive and non-executive positions for the baby animals will be held sometime in the fall. Here is the Spiny Lumpsuckers executive who will support the incoming students until elections are completed for your class:

President – Eddie Guo (he/him)

Hey, Class of 2026! I'm Eddie, your CMSA President—I can't wait to meet you all in July. As Pres, I have the privilege of representing you with Undergraduate Medical Education, national Canadian medical school meetings, and more. I also help CMSA executives in their portfolios. The goal of the president changes from year to year depending on the class' needs. Our medical school is undergoing a major accreditation cycle by an external review board called the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools due in 2024, and there have been numerous calls for student voices; your class will contribute significantly as you enter the new RIME curriculum (more information to come soon). If you have any questions or feedback regarding the CMSA please feel free to email me at eddie.guo@ucalgary.ca.



VP Academics 1 – Vak Joe (he/him)

CONGRATULATIONS! All your hard work and effort has brought you to cowtown :D Welcome! My name is Vak Joe and I am ½ of your VP Academic with Jason until you elect your own executive team! My role is all about education, evaluations, and advocating for student needs! This involves attending national academic round tables with all Canadian Med School VP Academics, attending medical education conferences representing UofC, and supporting the 42 roles within the academic portfolio. As the inaugural class of the RIME Curriculum, I'm sure you have tons of questions and we will do our best to give you detailed answers promptly. If you want to know more about the academic portfolio just text me at 647-236-9153 or email me at vakkachen.joe@ucalgary.ca :).



VP Academics 2 – Jason Kreutz (he/him)

Hello incoming class of 2026. First of all, congratulations!!! It is a huge achievement getting admitted to medical school. My name is Jason Kreutz, and alongside my trusty Co-VP Academic Vak, we facilitate the CMSA academic portfolio. My role primarily consists of advocating on behalf of the student body, sitting on various UME committees as a voting member to ensure that student voices are heard, and collaborating with the amazing individuals who hold positions within the academic portfolio that make my job possible. Your cohort will be the first to go through the RIME curriculum. While this transition to a spiral curriculum for your class will herald big changes, we are here to support your class and your student government through this transition. If you have any questions about the academic portfolio, student advocacy or just life in general, please don't hesitate to reach out! I am always happy to chat and meet new people. Congrats again and I will see you all in July!



VP Communications – Sowmya Gopalakrishnan (she/her)

Hello Baby Animals! HUGE congratulations to you all and I cant wait to meet you all this summer! My name is Sowmya (she/her) and I have the pleasure of being your VP communications until you elect your own. My role is all about getting the word out about all the awesome things that are always happening and distilling it for you in a way that makes sense. I have a wonderful team who helps me manage the CMSA social media and website, distill and distribute CMSA meeting minutes, and create a weekly newsletter that contains information about all the events, opportunities and announcements for that week- my Favorite part of this newsletter is making the weekly meme based on current med school events and I can't wait to receive all your meme submissions! You can reach out to me to learn more about the CMSA or just to chat about whatever you want at sowmya.gopalakrishna@ucalgary.ca or shoot me a text at 7783258780. Cant wait to meet you all!



VP Equity, Diversity and Inclusion – Fasika Jembere (she/her)

Heyy Baby Animals!! Congratulations on your acceptance to medical school and I can't wait to meet you all in July! My name is Fasika Jembere (she/her) and I am the VP of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). As VP EDI, my role is to foster an accessible and equitable environment within our class and the medical school. I work closely with clubs and student groups that amplify the voices of minority groups such as the Black Medical Students Association, the Muslim Medical Association, and the Students for Gender and Sexual Diversity. I have also had the great privilege of working with the UME to promote equity within our curriculum and the future RIME curriculum, which you will be a part of! Additionally, as part of the Professionalism Committee I aim to foster a safe space for students dealing with inter-professional issues among the class and within the UME to reach out at any time. If you have any questions or just want to chat at any time, please feel free to reach out at fasika.jembere1@ucalgary.ca or 403-399-5291. See you all soon and welcome to the menagerie!!



VP Events – Bella Reis (she/her)

Hi Class of 2026! My name is Bella Reis (she/her) and I am the VP Events for the Class of 2025 (and also the person in charge of the student-run orientation). My role is all about working with an incredible team under my portfolio to brainstorm, plan, and execute events that bring our community together. Medical school is both challenging and rewarding - I plan events to help make the journey memorable! There are many ways to remain social at UCalgary. Some examples of things we've done together as a class include: park parties, going for ice cream at the iconic Village Ice Cream, going skating at Olympic Plaza, an inter-faculty Halloween party, and even a Dodgeball tournament. We recognize that starting medical school can elicit many emotions and want you to know that we strive to make events inclusive and comfortable for all. If you have any ideas for improvements that can be made, want to chat about navigating social life and medical school, or want to know more about the events portfolio please email me at isabella.reis@ucalgary.ca or Facebook (Bella Reis)/Instagram (@_bellareis_) DM me!



VP External National – Samuel Alatorre (he/him)

Welcome Class of 2026! My name is Sam Alatorre (he/him) and I am your VP External, National. My role is all about advocating for the interests of UofC med students at the national level, within the Canadian Federation of Medical Students (CFMS), and making sure students have a more positive and well-rounded medical school experience! As VPX National, you act as the main liaison between CFMS resources/opportunities (e.g., national and international conferences and scholarships, advocacy projects, and opportunities for collaboration with med students from across Canada) and UofC students. Through this role, you also get to showcase the incredible student-led initiatives happening at our school! It is a very rewarding position with direct opportunities to engage in advocacy and network with students and professionals from across Canada! Want to learn more about the position, the portfolio's ongoing projects, CMSA governance, or the CFMS? Send me an email, always happy to chat! Good luck!



VP External Provincial – Daria Venkova (she/her)

Welcome, Class of 2026! Congratulations on your acceptance. I am excited for the journey you're about to embark on. My name is Daria Venkova, and I am VP of External Affairs, Provincial sector. This means that this year I am acting as a liaison between the UME and the Alberta Medical Association (AMA), to communicate funding and engagement opportunities to students. The role also granted me a seat on the AMA board as an observer, from which I obtain insight and share it with the class. My goal is to bring awareness to students about intricacies of what a career in medicine can offer beyond the operating room, the clinic or inpatient hospital halls, and raise student awareness early on how to make informed decisions as students approach clerkships, residency and beyond. I will sometimes work alongside other VPs, such as Sam – VP of External Affairs National, Lauren – VP of Finance, and Bella - VP of Events, to help them accomplish their goals for our cohort. Building on my entrepreneurial background from before I started medical school, I share personal interests in the healthcare startup innovation space, and medical aesthetics. Feel free to connect with me via email or LinkedIn to discuss all things biotech, startups and entrepreneurship in medicine, or to find out more about the VP External Affairs (Prov.) position.



daria.venkova@ucagary.ca

| <https://www.linkedin.com/in/dariavenkova/> | @dvenkova_

VP Finances and Operations – Lauren Higa (she/her)

Hi Baby Animals! Congratulations and I look forward to getting to meet you soon! My name is Lauren (she/her) and I am the VP Finance and Operations. As VP finance I oversee the budget of the CMSA, manage daily transactions, and process reimbursements. I also get to work with the other VPs on the Clubs Funding Committee and the Conference Funding Committee, and help with some of the behind the scenes of planning of our super fun CMSA events. I also attend national roundtable meetings with the other Canadian med school VP Finances. If you have any questions about what kinds of resources the CMSA has to offer or just questions in general, please feel free to reach out at lauren.higa@ucalgary.ca. Congrats again!



VP Community & Global Health – Evan Watson (he/him)

Hello Class of 2026! First off, you rock – congratulations on your incredible accomplishment! We are really excited to see you all around the campus and get to meet you. I'm the VP of Global and Community Health, which is all about leveraging the resources and power of our institution and ensuring it is put in the service of those individuals most in need of equitable access to health. I get to work closely with the Indigenous, Local and Global Health team at the university, the Global Health leads for the Canadian Federation of Medical Students, and with every student in our class to support the projects and initiatives most meaningful to them. The student Global Health team that works with me is composed of people with passions ranging from climate change, organizing medical electives internationally, the drug poisoning crisis, and reproductive health. I'm really proud of the work we do and am so excited to meet you all and hear about the projects I can help support you with. Reach out to me anytime evan.watson@ucalgary.ca and we can chat over free candy in the SAW office.



VP Student Advising and Wellness – Ella Krane (she/her)

Hiya new Baby Animals!!!! I am absolutely overjoyed for you all and cannot wait to welcome you to our amazing menagerie family!!! YAY! My name is Ella Krane (she/her) and I am the current VP SAW (Student Advising and Wellness) representative. I have the privilege of doing all things wellness for our class and overseeing some pretty awesome committees such as the We Care Committee and the CMSA Clubs portfolio! My role involves organizing wellness events for our class (such as the Forum on Failure and monthly class birthday celebrations), running monthly Wellness and Academic Roundtables to check in on how the class is doing, connecting classmates to wellness resources, and advocating for changes within the medical school to continue to improve the student experience. Transitioning to medical school can be a big change and please note that I am here as a resource



for you during this time! If you have any questions or just want to chat, please reach out to me either at 647-993-3552 or ella.krane@ucalgary.ca. Again, congratulations for being accepted into our medical school - please take this time to celebrate all of the hard work you have put into getting here! I can't wait to meet you all and am so proud of you!!! <3

