

January 5th, 2021



Welcome back and Happy New Year!

It is hard to fathom that it has been almost one year since the pandemic radically changed our medical training and personal lives. Since March of 2020, the Dalhousie medical student experience has been significantly impacted. The immediate cessation of social events, intermural sports, community activities, core clerkship rotations, and so much more, made it very challenging for everyone. All in the face of adversity, the Dalhousie medical student community consistently has proven to be innovative, creative, and persevere through each challenge presented before us. We would like to thank all medical students who have contributed their time, effort, and creativity to enhance the Dalhousie Medicine student experience under the current circumstances. With the leadership, commitment, and endurance of our council and volunteers, we are proud to share with you some of the highlights and accomplishments of the DMSS since August 2020:

Student-Life

- Created a plan and submitted to the RTC for study space in the Tupper Link and student med lounge during the pandemic for a total of 42 spaces (Nova Scotia)
- Recruited and managed the COVID-19 emergency support worker initiative on behalf of the NSH
- Thank you cards were handcrafted on bio-degradable paper with embedded seeds (plantable card) to give to all virtual speakers and presenters for interest groups
- Dal Med Green Team, participating in project green healthcare. Canadian medical students are teaming up to perform green quality improvement projects in their local hospital systems.
- Renovations of the student med lounge started on December 1st, 2020 and are still in progress. Updates include but are not limited to:
 - New bar fridge
 - New dishwasher
 - New study stations
 - New paint and artwork
 - New cabinet doors on existing bookshelves
 - Improved lighting
 - Projector and sound upgrade
 - DMSS office renovations including floor, paint, and desks

Social Events

- In concert with the orientation week team (Michael Coldwell, Emily Burbidge, Billy Toulany, Sarah Purcell, and Alyssa Dickinson), the DMSS and O-Week team created and submitted a public health plan that was approved to provide the class of 2024 with an amazing in-person orientation week. Dalhousie was the only medical school in the country to do so!

January 5th, 2021

- Planned and executed a virtual financial wellness event with the key financial institutions the week before orientation
- Study packs were delivered to the Med 4 students at the Halifax site after their Phase 4 OSCE
- The DMSS Pizza Party occurred in September for the class of 2024 in the Tupper Quad
- The DMSS successfully planned and held an event in the Valley at the Noggins Corn Maze
- The DMSS successfully planned and held a Halloween costume and pumpkin carving contest in the Tupper Quad
- New Instagram account and page!
- The DMSS successfully planned and held a lunch for the class of 2023 in the Tupper Quad
- The DMSS supported the New Brunswick site to host a lunch for the class of 2023 outdoors
- The DMSS held a virtual Winter Wonderweek which had significant student participation and engagement
- The DMSS has been working closely with the RTC, Dean's Office, and Rebecca Cohn to ensure Euphoria 2021! will still happen (stay tuned)

Academic

- Laboratory examinations converted from Summative to Mastery
- Online Med-Ed Facebook page (sharing virtual education and meeting opportunities)
- Statistic Partnership between medical students and the Department of Mathematics & Statistics for research data analysis assistance
- Launch of the *Student Innovation Research Award* (SIRA) project where students from both campuses can apply for financial assistance for non-RIM related research. A total of \$17,500 has been dedicated to this project
- The Independent Student Analysis (ISA) survey for CACMS has been developed by the ISA Task Force (comprised of medical students across all four years, and both sites)
- A new feedback mechanism is being developed with Faculty and Med IT (project in process)
- The DMSS in partnership with DNS presents an EDI event on January 9th 2021, with Michael Bach, CEO of the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion

We hope you all have a wonderful start to your semester, rotation, or elective as we move forward into the new year. I look forward to the semester ahead and to see what new exciting accomplishments come to fruition.

Have a great week,

DMSS Executive Team