The International Federation of Medical Students’ Associations (IFMSA) is a non-profit, non-governmental and non-partisan organization representing associations of medical students internationally. IFMSA was founded in 1951 and currently maintains 125 National Member Organizations from more than 100 countries across six continents with approximately one million students represented worldwide. IFMSA is recognized as a non-governmental organization within the United Nations’ system, the World Health Organization (WHO), the European Union (EU) and it is recognized as a key partner of the World Medical Association (WMA). For more than 60 years, IFMSA has existed to bring together the global medical students community at the local, national and international level on social and health issues.

Vision
A world in which all medical students unite for global health and are equipped with the knowledge, skills and values to take on health leadership roles locally and globally.

Mission
IFMSA unites medical students worldwide to lead initiatives that impact positively the communities we serve. IFMSA represents the opinions and ideas of future health professionals in the field of global health, and works in collaboration with external partners. IFMSA builds capacity through training, project and exchange opportunities, while embracing cultural diversity so as to shape a sustainable and healthy future.
Dear Reader,

This booklet wishes to allow your a greater understanding of the amazing organisation that is the IFMSA. It is very hard to explain in only a few pages the complexity, the importance and the role the Federation has in this world, but we do hope to give you a glimpse, and to provide you with the most important information to know about IFMSA.

Our organization was created six years after the end of the World War II by an ambitious group of medical students. This group established the foundations for what we are today: a global organization that brings together 125 National Medical Students Organizations all over the world, and for many, an life-changing organization that brings opportunities to influence the communities we serve. IFMSA runs one of the biggest and largest exchange programs in the world, and continually debates actions and plans on the improvement of health, education and full implementation of the human rights.

Our members are representing medical students positions in the high-level meetings, such as the post-2015 development agenda discussions. At the same time, our members are also implementing regional, national and local actions that will improve the live conditions of their communities.

The next pages will provide you with a comprehensive overview of our work, but we can only wish that you will meet active and passionate medical students to witness the eternal spirit of our organisation. After 64 years, it remains the same, and it is embodied by one of our oldest mottos: “The impossible we do tomorrow. Miracles may take a little longer.”

On behalf of the Team of Officials,

Agostinho Moreira de Sousa
IFMSA President 2014-2015
The International Federation of Medical Students’ Associations (IFMSA), founded in 1951, is one of the world’s oldest and largest student-run organizations. As of March 2015, it represents, connects and engages with nearly one million medical students from 125 national members organizations in 118 countries around the globe. Taking into account particular needs our member associations are divided into five regions: Americas, Africa, Asia-Pacific, Eastern Mediterranean and Europe.

For over 60 years, IFMSA has been run for and by medical students on a voluntary basis. Officially recognized as a non-governmental and independent organization within the United Nations system, IFMSA is also recognized by the World Health Organization and by the World Medical Association as the leading and largest organization in representing medical students’ worldwide. IFMSA is registered in the Netherlands as a public benefit organisation. IFMSA has its International Secretariat Office in Amsterdam in the premises of the Amsterdam Medical Center (AMC) and an operational office in Ferney-Voltaire, France, within the Headquarters of the World Medical Association. This serves to strengthen IFMSA’s relationships with one of its main external partners.

IFMSA envisions a world in which all medical students unite for global health and are equipped with the resources, skills and knowledge to take on health leadership roles locally and globally, so that we can shape the healthy and sustainable future we want. Numerous projects, campaigns, conferences and workshops are organized across member countries in the field of public health, sexual and reproductive health, medical education, and human rights and peace. The Federation also runs over 12,000 clinical and research exchanges annually for the students to explore innovations in medicine and healthcare systems and delivery in other settings. IFMSA is currently building up its programs, which will reflect the work of the Federation in various fields of global health. Programs are specifically designed to connect students and to offer them the possibility to organize and run several activities under a common theme.

The IFMSA experience shows students that they are not merely passive subjects in a rapidly globalizing world, but rather valuable individuals with a potentially powerful role to play in global health. IFMSA hence offers medical students a taste of the real and pressing health issues worldwide, and help them learn that their idealistic goals can be achieved with readily attainable knowledge and commitment.

In IFMSA, the emphasis is placed on students returning to their local environments with new ideas and the skills to implement them. As the doctors of tomorrow and future leaders of health, we feel confident that our students will carry this spirit with them throughout their professional lives so that they positively impact the communities they serve.

Objectives

To expose medical students to humanitarian and global health issues, providing them with the opportunity to educate themselves and their peers.

To facilitate partnerships between the medical student community and international organizations working on health, education and medicine.

To give medical students the opportunity to take part in clinical and research exchanges worldwide.

To provide a network that links active medical students across the globe, including student leaders, project managers and activists, so that they can learn from and be motivated by each other.

To provide an international framework in which medical student projects can be initiated, developed and implemented.

To empower and train medical students to take a role in bringing about the necessary changes to improve the health of all global citizens.
Our Meetings

General Assemblies
IFMSA has two general assemblies per year: the first one is in March, the second is in August.

Each assembly welcomes over 900 delegates and over 20 external partner organisations. An IFMSA National Member Organisation (NMO) is elected by the IFMSA to carry the task of organizing the meeting; hence the location of the general assemblies changes every time. The most recent assemblies were held in Turkey, Taiwan, Tunisia, Chile, United States, and India; the two upcoming ones will be in Macedonia (August 2015) and in Malta (March 2016).

Regional Meetings
The federation has subdivided its (NMOs) in five regions: Africa, Americas, Asia-pacific, Eastern Mediterranean and Europe. Each has their own regional meeting, held at different times of the year, and welcoming between 150 and 400 participants.

Sub-Regional Trainings
The Federation also recognized sub-regional trainings that are organized by its national member organizations, aiming to train, empower and build capacities on a specific field within a region. The events are attended usually by between 25 and 80 medical students.

Workshops
Before each GA and RM, IFMSA runs several 3-day workshops simultaneously. These tackle global health challenges that matter to the medical students. With an attendance of up to 400 delegates, this offer a space for medical students to grow and gain skills and knowledge that are often left aside in the medical curricula.

Team of Officials Meetings
The leadership of the IFMSA meets five times per year to discuss the Federation strategies and to follow-up on the annual work plan. They offer a place for team building and for improving the governance and management system of the IFMSA.
Our Members

The Federation is continuously growing. Twice a year, at each of our general Assemblies, new members, representing new national students’ associations, are voted in. It is the ultimate objective of the Federation to represent all medical students worldwide.

Regions

IFMSA is divided in five regions: Africa, America, Asia-Pacific, Eastern Mediterranean and Europe. Regions were created ten years ago to make it easier for members to tackle similar issues on the regional level. Regions also facilitate the process of recruiting new members and actively support transnational collaboration through subregional trainings and regional meetings. More recently, IFMSA has increased its efforts in external representation, by teaming up with regional offices of the WHO and other regional organizations.

Each region is lead by a Regional Coordinator, who is elected by the members of the respective region and who works with regional assistants of the different standing committees and support divisions. The regional coordinators also support the development of member organisations on their national level. This structure helps to maximise the representativeness of the members and diversity of cultures within IFMSA international working platform.
IFMSA is lead by an international Team of Officials composed of 29 members and accountable to a supervising board of seven members. All Officials are elected democratically by the plenary of our general assemblies, held twice a year.

The executive board is composed of five persons and has the mandate to execute the decisions of the General Assembly and to overview the day-to-day functioning of the Federation.

The regional coordinators are responsible for coordinating health efforts within each of the Federation’s five regions.

The six standing committees directors support national and local efforts in their respective fields of work.

The five Support Division Directors have a diverse body of work, which centres around capacity-building, implementing projects and promoting the Federation, both internally and externally.

Finally, the eight liaison officers serve as a link between IFMSA and its external partners, and act to improve working partnerships for the benefits of medical students and of the Federation.
IFMSA works on the international, national and local levels mainly through its six standing committees, each of which focusing on major health topics and medical student related interests:

- Medical Education (SCOME*)
- Professional Exchange (SCOPE)
- Public Health (SCOPH)
- Sexual & Reproductive Health including AIDS (SCORA)
- Research Exchange (SCORE)
- Human Rights & Peace (SCORP)

Each Standing Committee is headed by an International Director, who is supported by an international team consisting of one Liaison Officer (responsible for communication with relevant external partners) and five Regional Assistants (one from each region of the Federation). On the national level, the Standing Committee is coordinated by the National Officer, who is elected at each country’s National General Assembly. On the local level the work is executed by one or more Local Officers.

The work of each standing committee is complemented by several activities, such as trainings, campaigns and advocacy efforts, offering youth the space to learn in both formal and non-formal educational settings. Thousands of projects, activities, conferences and workshops are organized each year internationally and locally and nationally through national member organizations within the IFMSA network in each of area, allowing students to become agents of change at home.

This overall structure reflects one the Federation’s major mottos: Think Global, Act Local!

* These abbreviations are used frequently in the organisation. All start with “SCO” (Standing Committee on) and end with the abbreviation of the Standing Committee itself (ME for Medical Education)
Medical Education

Medical Education should be a concern of every medical student, as it shapes not only the quality of future physicians, but also the quality of healthcare. The Standing Committee On Medical Education (SCOME), which was founded in 1951, aims to implement an optimal learning environment for all medical students around the world. It acts as a discussion forum for students interested in the different aspects of medical education, in the hope of pursuing and achieving the aims of the Standing Committee.

SCOME works mainly on medical education capacity building and provides several platforms and methods to educate medical students worldwide on various medical education issues. Through this knowledge, it empowers them to advocate to be a part of the decision-making chain. SCOME believes in medical students as important stakeholders in creating, developing and implementing medical education systems.

**SCOME Vision**
Medical students attain an optimal professional and personal development to reach their full potential as future doctors for better health care worldwide.

**SCOME Mission**
Our mission is to be the frame in which medical students worldwide contribute to the development of medical education.

Students convene in SCOME to share and learn about medical education, in order to improve it as well as benefit the most from it on a personal and professional basis. We encourage students to take the initiative and responsibility for their education, both curricular and extracurricular, through (1) seeking educational experiences and opportunities for further development, (2) participating in extracurricular activities that simultaneously enrich them and benefit their peers or their communities, (3) collaborating with faculties in an effort to elicit necessary change, as well as with national and international bodies in order to contribute to global improvement of medical education. We seek to promote best evidenced medical education practices for efficient delivery, advocate for improvements in faculties, national medical education systems and international guidelines.

One of SCOME’s successful and prominent workshops is TMET (Training of Medical Education Trainers), a 3-day workshop that gathers participants to discuss core of medical education systems (e.g: curriculum development, assessment & evaluation in faculties, accreditation, etc..) as well as a combination of elements of soft skills like presentation skills and leadership to generate medical education leaders who can go back home and spread their knowledge.

Professional Exchange

The Standing Committee On Professional Exchange (SCOPE) was IFMSA’s first Standing Committees. Since the very beginning, in 1951, it was evident that exchange of medical students would be one of the Federation’s main fields of action. Today, SCOPE continues to be the backbone of the Federation and constitutes its longest running project. Annually, more than 13,000 students from 90 countries travel around the world to discover new health systems, new cultures, and to enhance their global health and intercultural understanding.

Mission statement
The aim of SCOPE is to promote cultural understanding and cooperation amongst medical students and all health professionals, through the facilitation of international student exchanges. SCOPE aims to give all students the opportunity to learn about global health, and attains this partly by having its exchanges accredited by medical faculties across the world.

The Professional Exchange program offers clerkships to medical students abroad; they are entitled to a four-week clerkship in a chosen clinical or pre-clinical field of medicine. The language of instruction is either English or the language of the host country. Clerkships are purely educational and students will not receive a salary. During the exchange, the student has the chance to observe a different health care system and learn from foreign tutors.

In an effort to encourage students from all backgrounds to participate in exchanges, SCOPE has created a system whereby each outgoing student pays the fee of receiving a student in his/her place, directly to his/her own national member organization. Thus, students from developing countries will pay a fee that is relative to the cost of living in their own countries, which will later be used to welcome a foreign student.

Academic quality:
Many medical schools provide academic credit for outgoing exchange students after they have participated in a SCOPE program. For this, SCOPE is constantly trying to improve the quality of its program. It has introduced assessment tools for the clerkships, which include a detailed student handbook, checklist and evaluation form to be completed by the supervising physician. These assessment tools were developed in close collaboration with a number of prominent international health care associations. In addition to that, a certificate is given to the students at the end of the exchange, if they have fulfilled all the requirements of the department and hosting organization, including attending at least 80% of the clerkship.

Endorsements:
Recently, our exchanges have been endorsed by:
- World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) who agrees that IFMSA exchange programs are very professionally organized, with good academic outcomes.
- World family doctors organization (WONCA) who agrees that IFMSA exchange programs have clear academic aims and objectives, and are a real opportunity to learn more about global health.
Members of the Federation formed the Standing Committee on Students’ Health (SCOSH) in 1952, driven by a strong will to take an active part in preventing health problems and to contribute to health policy development. Throughout the years, and due to the great scope of the committee’s activities, SCOSH changed its name multiple times, until 1983 when it finally became the Standing Committee on Public Health (SCOPH).

In SCOPH, medical students acquire a much better understanding of public health issues affecting their countries, as well as a deeper awareness of realities in other parts of the world. Some of the main topics that SCOPH focuses on include chronic diseases; alcohol and substance abuse; tropical and infectious diseases; mental health; child and adolescent health; ageing and health; road safety; climate change; nutrition; poverty and social inequalities; rural and remote health, etc...

Vision:
SCOPH aims to become a reference of training and learning pillars for medical students, in order to create qualified future public health leaders who are equipped with the knowledge, skills and values to work on a local and an international level.

Mission:
SCOPH promotes the development of medical students worldwide regarding Public Health issues through an international knowledge network, projects, community-based learning, capacity building, advocacy and access to external learning opportunities.

Examples of recent achievements:
- **STOP TB Initiative:** Celebrated on March 24th each year, under the STOP TB Partnership, in collaboration with the International Veterinary Students Association (IVSA) and the International Pharmaceutical Students Federation (IPSF), where the main message was to join forces to fight TB.
- **One Health:** With the IVSA, students are tackling human and animal health, and are finding doors to collaboration by organizing workshops at the national/international, and by tackling overlapping topics such as Food Safety, Zoonotic Diseases and Antimicrobial Resistance.
- **Program on NCDs and Healthy Lifestyles:** This Program was adopted in the March Meeting 2015. It englobes the different activities and interventions being conducted by NMOs, from campaigns to peer education sessions, making sure that to keep a great impact on the target groups and to keep track on the dynamic and evaluation of the NMOs in this field.
- **Climate Change and Health:** IFMSA demands more considerations for health in the climate talks, and its advocacy work has been successfully recognized by the WHO and the UNFCCC. IFMSA is also dedicated to building capacity at the international level, by organizing several workshops and worldwide campaigns.
- **Alcohol and Health:** IFMSA is member of the Alcohol Policy Youth Network (APYN) and of the European Alcohol and Health Forum. We are committed to have a say on the harmful use of alcohol and being active by organizing workshops and campaigns on the topic.
Sexual & Reproductive Health including HIV/AIDS

Members of IFMSA formed the Standing Committee on Reproductive Health including AIDS (SCORA) in 1992, driven by a strong will to take an active part in interventions concerning HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and to support people living with HIV/AIDS by working to decrease stigma and discrimination. In 2014, the name of SCORA has changed to Standing Committee on Sexual and Reproductive Health including HIV/AIDS as it is more adequate in terms of topics and problems that SCORA is targeting in its actions.

Our mission is such that, as an organization of future doctors which is not affiliated to any religious or political party, we will, through education, strive to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections whilst challenging the widespread violation of reproductive rights and gender inequality. We will also encourage respect and understanding of sexuality as a whole.

SCORA Activities:
SCORA has a variety of activities that differ from country to country, but share a common link: interactive methods which involve young people and stimulate them to think creatively. Our major focus is on discussion, open communication, and interaction rather than long didactic lectures.

Our work is based on Focus Areas that are our directions in work for all five IFMSA regions:

1. Maternal Health and access to safe abortion
2. Sexuality and Gender identity
3. HIV and other STIs
4. Gender Based Violence
5. Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Every year we have common celebrations for important sexual and reproductive health and rights days such as World AIDS Day, International Women’s Day, International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (IDAHO) and AIDS Candlelight Memorial Day. On these days, medical students all over the world come together to actively raise awareness through numerous celebratory activities, such as lectures, exhibitions and charity concerts; and through distributing condoms, pamphlets, brochures and other kinds of educational materials.

One of the largest activities that SCORA has been running is the SCORA X-Change Program. The topics of this program centre around HIV treatment/testing, HIV and STI prevention, legislation and epidemiology and HIV research. It aims to give local and international participants a holistic view of HIV/AIDS, focusing on the complexity of this multifaceted issue. Medical students have the opportunity to visit teenagers in schools, as well as other youth groups, especially those who are considered key populations or who are marginalized from society.

Since 2006, SCORA has been organizing the International Peer Education Training (I-PET) as part of the Pre-General Assembly workshops. The I-PETs focus on building capacity amongst the medical student community in SCORA’s core areas. So far, there have been more than 17 I-PETs and one Advanced I-PET on sexuality organized and over 150 trainers certified by both IFMSA and Y-PEER/UNFPA.
Research Exchange

The Standing Committee on Research Exchange (SCORE) was founded in 1991, and today has over 65 participating National Member Organizations with more than 5000 students participate in this program annually. SCORE seeks to give medical students worldwide the opportunity to gain exposure to medical research in other countries. All exchanges are initiated and coordinated entirely by medical student volunteers.

The program works much like the Professional Exchange program, but differs in terms of the type of work the exchange student is exposed to.

The Academic Quality of the exchanges is insured by a Logbook that will list skills the student has learnt during the exchange and an evaluation by the tutor about his/her the performance. The student will get a certificate if he/she completes the exchange with satisfaction and attends, at least, 80% of duration of the exchange.

Types of research projects:
- Basic laboratory research project;
- Clinical research project, combined with basic research in the lab;
- Clinical research project;
- Global Action Project (GAP).

The Learning Objectives of the Program Students should:
- Engage in literature searches and use primary resources to gain knowledge and insights that can be applied to research questions;
- Analyze a scientific problem, formulate a research question, and develop the research design to answer that question;
- Critically evaluate their knowledge and their project progress, address gaps in their knowledge base and find solutions to problems that arise;
- Benefit from working together with their research mentor and peers.

Endorsements:
Recently, our exchanges have been endorsed by:
- World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) who agrees that IFMSA exchange programs are very professionally organized, with good academic outcomes.
- World family doctors organization (WONCA) who agrees that IFMSA exchange programs have clear academic aims and objectives, and are a real opportunity to learn more about global health.
Human Rights & Peace

Health is a human right - a right for everyone, regardless of their social and economic standing, ethnicity, age, sex, disability, sexuality and migration status. The right to health is the backbone of the health care system and the mission undertaken by medical professionals. Implementing this human right is a collaborative responsibility of the whole global society. As future medical doctors and global health leaders, we, medical students have a professional, political and humanitarian responsibility to act for the full and equal implementation of the right to health. Since 1983, the Standing Committee on Human Rights and Peace (former Refugees and Peace) has been active to accomplish this part of the IFMSA vision and objectives.

Vision
A society where all actors, including medical students and health workers, provide all people with full and equal access to their human rights.

Capacity Building - IFMSA provides medical students worldwide with a number of opportunities to enhance their knowledge and capacity to take actions on Human Right and Peace. The Federation offers, amongst other things, the possibility to participate at internal and external conferences on current issues, training camps that focus on peer education and personal development as well as workshops and meetings where students come together to discuss these issues and how to tackle them.

Actions - The members of SCROP also take direct actions in their own communities, for example visiting refugee camps, providing homeless people with medicines, or raising awareness about human right violations through campaigns.

Advocacy - Together with other stakeholders SCROP advocates for improved human rights on a both local and global level, according to the position and priorities of the IFMSA. We address, amongst other issues, health care in disaster settings and humanitarian response, access to healthcare for refugees and undocumented persons as well as stigma and discrimination faced by vulnerable populations.
IFMSA Programs are centralized streams of all affiliated activities done by IFMSA National Member Organizations (NMOs) as well as the Federation itself internationally. IFMSA Programs address a problem within a specific field that we as medical students and global health advocates stand up for while connecting local, national and international activities and opportunities that contribute to the final outcome.

All IFMSA Programs fall in line with IFMSA vision, mission, priorities, strategic plan and work of NMOs locally and nationally. They are established by NMOs during IFMSA General Assembly with the support of the IFMSA Executive Board ensuring the quality, consistency and sustainability of IFMSA Programs.

**Medical Education Systems**
Curriculum development, quality assurance, student mobility, student's rights, implementation of global health education, meaningful participation of medical students in university decision making, recognition of non-formal education.

**Teaching Medical Skills**
Practical teaching medical skills, surgery, communication skills, medical sign language, ALS, BLS, CPR, competency based medical skills trainings and workshops, advocacy.

**Comprehensive Sexuality Education**
CSE in schools on contraception, sexual debut, consent, and avoidance and prevention of STIs, positive sexual and reproductive health, teen pregnancies.

**Healthy Lifestyles and Non-Communicable Diseases**
Public health approach and teaching in medical schools on NCDs, positive approach through promotion of health lifestyles, awareness on risk factors (tobacco use, physical inactivity, unhealthy diet and the harmful use of alcohol).

**Maternal Health and Access to Safe Abortion**
Comprehensive maternal health, legal, social, cultural barriers and barriers in health system to access to maternal health and safe abortion services, inequities in the provision of maternal health services, values and attitude about abortion, consequences of unsafe abortion.

**Dignifying and non-discriminatory Healthcare**
Discrimination based on race, culture, ethnicity, religion and political background in healthcare with migrants and refugees out of their country, indigenous people, Roma, temporary displaced people, undocumented migrants, climate refugee as target groups.

**Emergencies, Disaster Risk and Humanitarian Actions**
Conflict and peacebuilding, hazards as causes of disasters and emergencies, refugees and migration, disaster prevention, preparedness, management and resilience, humanitarian action (incl. law), protection of health care workforce and facilities.
Trainings are the backbone of IFMSA: they are the tools through which we exchange experiences, acquire skills and develop knowledge in our organization.

Medical professionals are continually pressed to take on roles in the management and improvement of health systems. As IFMSA plays a significant role in developing future leadership for global health, the development of key skills through training is becoming increasingly important. Trainings provide medical students with the necessary skills that academic medical curricula often fail to provide.

By offering training sessions from both in-house and professional trainers, the Training Support Division aims to run workshops around the globe for IFMSA members. We believe that training is a vital component of capacity building within the IFMSA, providing National Member Organizations, individuals and IFMSA project participants with the skills and resources they need to carry out their tasks.

Throughout the years, the IFMSA has been developing a high quality training curriculum and training methods which have been passed on from generation to generation. This has allowed us to maintain important skills and knowledge, and to constantly improve and develop our training workshops.

An important part of the IFMSA training program is the Training New Trainers workshop (TNT). During this workshop, IFMSA members are trained to become trainers themselves. To ensure continuity and to keep trainers motivated, the Training Old Trainers workshop (TOT) has also been established. More recently, some Training of Experienced Trainers (TET) workshops have also been organized, which are oriented on even more specific skills based on the needs of regions.

During General Assemblies, congresses, conferences and other meetings IFMSA members have the opportunity to be trained in many different areas.

Example of Trainings offered by IFMSA

- Advocacy
- Communication Skills
- Conflict Prevention
- Debating Skills
- Facilitation Skills
- Financial Management
- Fundraising
- Handover and Continuity
- Intercultural Learning
- Leadership
- Motivation Skills
- Negotiation Skills
- Project Management
- Public Relations and Marketing
- The World of IFMSA
- Time Management
The official publications of IFMSA form an important channel of communication within the Federation. The content of each publication is written and edited by medical students, thus enabling future doctors to acquire invaluable experience in communicating with their peers and colleagues.

The most widely-circulated printed publication of the IFMSA is the Medical Student International (MSI). Often referred to as the voice of medical students, this publication is printed biannually, coinciding with the Federation’s General Assemblies. Each issue of MSI has a theme that is similar or identical to that of the General Assembly at which it is distributed. Although the MSI is a non-scientific, non-peer reviewed publication, submissions are nonetheless reviewed by a team of editors, and must comply with the highest of standards.

The IFMSA Publications Support Division also plays a role in the creation of various other publications, at both the regional and international levels. For instance, the official electronic newsletter of the IFMSA is published every 2 or 3 months, and is available to all members of the IFMSA through both the official IFMSA website and the IFMSA mailing lists.

You may refer to the Federation’s Issuu account (link below) in order to view the most recent publications put out by IFMSA. [http://www.issuu.com/IFMSA](http://www.issuu.com/IFMSA)

IFMSA has a long history of empowering medical students into growing up as young physicians and health professionals understanding the social, cultural and environmental aspects of health. Our alumni network is of great value for the Federation, and IFMSA believes in the spirit of giving back to the community that forged minds and working ethics.

Not only are Alumni supporting the young generation with sound advice, capacity building and assistance when needed, but in 2010 the Professor Erik Holst funds (originally named Alumni Jubilee Fund until 2013) was established.

The former Alumni Jubilee Fund, now named after the first elected president of the IFMSA, is for one supporting Delegates with Travel Assistance to join General Assemblies in the spirit that the enriching world of the IFMSA should not be limited for anyone financially and also issuing Micro Grants. The latter are giving to local Chapters of National Member Organizations and supporting them in innovative, sustainable activities with considerable impact. More information about the Fund and how to apply can be found on the website here: [http://www.erikholstfund.com/](http://www.erikholstfund.com/)

An annual meeting of the alumni is held each year in parallel to one of our general assemblies during which Alumni have the chance to catch up on the IFMSA, give their Input on the current issues and - very importantly - meet old friends.
The Board of Recommendations

The Board of Recommendation is a group of esteemed professionals or figures of authority, such as professors and representatives of international organizations, who agree to serve as IFMSA advocates and allow IFMSA to use them as a reference point when in need of a recommendation to provide our Federation with added credibility.

The members of the Board of Recommendation have no duties other than authorizing their names for use by IFMSA. In return, IFMSA keeps them informed about the activities within the Federation.

The Board of Recommendation does not have meetings; it has no official position and no compulsory tasks. Members of the Board of Recommendation can be asked to give advice or to act as a reference. However, this depends on their availability and capacity.

The Board is currently comprised of

- Professor Colin Green, former CEO of the International Medical Education Trust 2000 (2006)
- Professor Ian Fraser, Honorary Secretary of the International Federation for Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Past President of IFMSA (2007)
- Dr. Otmar Kloiber, Secretary General, World Medical Association (2008)
- Mr. Everton Hannam, UNESCO National Commissions (2008)
- Professor Hamid Rushwan, Chief Executive, International Federation for Gynaecology and Obstetrics (2009)
- Dr. Halfdan Mahler, Former Director General, World Health Organization (2009)
- Dr. Dana Hanson, Past President, World Medical Association (2009)
- Dr. Edward Hill, Past President, American Medical Association (2009)
- Dr. Andres Nordstrom, Department for Multilateral Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden (2013)
- Dr. Shyama Kuruvilla, Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (2013)
Advocacy & Policy Work

IFMSA has a long history of empowering medical students to tackle health issues that matter to our generation. As an international federation, we are in an optimal position to influence decisions taken on at all levels, collaborating with different organization that go from a global reach to a local implementation.

Being a diverse and global organization, that has its roots in its national members, IFMSA is in a position to discuss and influence policies at regional and global level in a coordinated way that will influence policies in all countries.

It is important to underline that the policies of the Federation are defined by its national members, according to democratic and participative principles. We use policy statements adopted and revised by national member organizations during our general assemblies as the official position on different health matters. Our policies come from our roots.

External representation is a key area of IFMSA and the Federation’s delegations contribute to discussions on important health topics to more than 100 high-level conferences, meetings and events including, but not limited to, the annual World Health Assembly, the World Health Organization Executive Board and Regional Meetings, the United Nations post-2015 related meetings, World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, the UNFCCC Conference of Parties, and the Prince Mahidol Award Conference. At these events, potential solutions to health issues as well as impact-oriented interventions are delivered, and recognised by key international health players.

In November 2014, IFMSA proudly co-founded the World Health Students’ Alliance (WHSA) together with International Federation of Pharmaceutical Students (IPSF) and International Association of Dental Students (IADS). The WHSA hence aims at offering a meaningful working space for health students to promote greater youth participation from all sectors, and at effectively and collaboratively working to improve the health of patients and thus of populations around the world in the best interests of the people served by health professionals.

In the past few years IFMSA has consolidated its advocacy efforts, since it acknowledges that advocacy and medicine are inseparably intertwined. Discussions at international conferences and reports by eminent organizations have highlighted the ever-increasing need for physicians to be well equipped with advocacy skills. Despite this, medical curricula are generally poor at preparing future doctors in this area. This is why IFMSA is taking the lead.

In May 2012, IFMSA organized its first-ever “Pre-World Health Assembly for Youth” (directly preceding the 65th World Health Assembly), that consists in a series of workshops for students and young people interested in health. Ever since, this has been an annual and recurrent event of the Federation, being now in its 3rd Edition. The Youth Pre-WHA aims to educate and empower future health leaders to ignite change in global health using the
knowledge gained during those few days. Furthermore, the workshop aims to develop a streamlined plan of action for youth active participation at the WHA.

Students of the Federation are active members of society, who not only identify and question certain issues and policies, but also engage in advocacy for change. Via workshops dedicated solely to external representation, IFMSA also ensures that students are equipped to understand international governmental decision making processes and are able to actively participate in the Federation work.

IFMSA is truly, deeply and genuinely committed to find solutions to some of the biggest populations’ issues and this is why we provide the space for students to educate themselves so to become the leaders they want and proactive healthcare professionals.

**IFMSA’s Advocacy Priorities**

- Health in the Post – 2015 Development Agenda.
- Human Resources for Health, with special focus on employability and access to education.
- Social Determinants of Health and Health Equity.
- Meaningful involvement of Youth.
- Medical Students and health Professionals Rights.
- Trade agreements and health.
- Implementation of human rights, with special focus in health.
- Universal access to Sexual and Reproductive Health rights.
Official relationships of IFMSA with other organisations are based on the areas of health, education, science and social and humanitarian affairs. There are a number of intergovernmental and nongovernmental organisations, which are IFMSA partners in fruitful and long-lasting collaborations.

**The United Nations**

IFMSA has Special Consultative Status with the United Nations through the Economic and Social Council.

**UNESCO**

IFMSA works jointly with the United Nations’ Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on capacity building and is currently supported via a grant to conduct youth leadership in the African region.

**The World Health Organisation**

IFMSA has been in official relations with the World Health Organization since 1969 and both have collaborated on several projects, including campaigns, internships and educational materials.

**The World Medical Association**

The collaboration with the World Medical Association (WMA) has been one of the most successful and rewarding, and an agreement was recently formalized in May 2015 between the two organisations.

**The European Union**

IFMSA participates in several political processes of the EU including the European Parliament, and has received an operational grant from Erasmus+ for 2015.
The IFMSA is also working together with:

**UN Partners**
- UN Major Group of Children and Youth (MGCY)
- UNAIDS (Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS)
- UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund)
- UNHCR (United Nations Refugee Agency)
- UNISDR (United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction)
- UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East)

**Medical Education**
- World Federation of Medical Education (WFME)
- Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE)
- Panamerican Federation of Associations for Medical Education (PAFAMS-FEPAFEM)
- Association for Medical Education in Eastern Mediterranean Region (AMEEMR)
- Global Health Workforce Alliance (GHWA)
- The Network Towards Unity for Health Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER)

**Public Health**
- Non-Communicable Diseases Alliance (NCDA)
- Global Alcohol Policy Alliance (GAPA)
- Framework Convention Alliance (FCA)
- World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA)
- Alcohol Policy Youth Network (APYN)
- World Heart Federation (WHF)
- European Public Health Association (EUPHA)
- Global Climate and Health Alliance (GCHA)
- World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH)
- Marrow

**Medical Associations**
- International College of Surgeons (ICS)
- World Organization of Family Doctor (WONCA)
- International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO)
- International Society for Telemedicine and e-Health (ISfTeH)
- Right to Research Coalition

**Student and Youth Organizations**
- International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations (ICMYO)
- World Health Students’ Alliance (WHSA)
- European Youth Forum (YFJ)
- World Healthcare Students’ Symposium Joint Working Group (WHSS JWG)
- International Pharmaceutical Students’ Federation (IPSF)
- International Association of Dental Students (IADS)
- International Veterinary Students’ Association (IVSA)
- Informal Forum of International Students Organizations (IFISO)
- European Students Union (ESU)
- Asian Medical Students’ Association (AMSA)
- European Dental Students’ Association (EDSA)
- European Federation of Psychology Students’ Associations (EFPSA)

**Human Rights and Peace**
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- Doctors Without Borders (MSF)
- Youth Beyond Disasters
- World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADEM)
- Research Center in Emergency and Disaster Medicine (CRIMEDIM)
- International Federation of Health and Human Rights Organisations (IFHHRO)

**Sexual and Reproductive Health including HIV/AIDS**
- The PACT
- Ipas
- Medical Students for Choice
- Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH)
Meet the Team of Officials 2014-2015

The Executive Board

Agostinho Sousa, President
Claudel P Desrosiers, VPE
Jason van Genderen, VPI
Karim Abu Zied, Sec-Gen
Wael Nasri, Treasurer

The Regional Coordinators

Meggie Mwoka, Africa
Maria Jose Cisneros Caceres, Americas
Yuji Jeong, Asia Pacific
Zahra Zeinali, EMR
Alberto da Silva, Europe

The Standing Committee Directors

Ahmad Badr, SCOME-D
Omar Cherkaoui, SCOPE-D
Skander Essafi, SCOPH-D
Michalina Drejza, SCORA-D
Luiza Alonso, SCORE-D
Jessica Zhang, SCORP-D
The Liaison Officers

Diogo Martins, UNESCO
Pedro di Miranda, WHO
Stijntje Dijk, Medical Education issues
Ivana di Salvo, Research & Medical Associations
Arthur Mello, Public Health issues
Kelly Thompson, Sexual & Reproductive Health issues
Kornelija Maceviciute, Student Organizations
Moa Herrgard, Rights & Peace issues

The Support Division Directors

Jonathan Schutze, Alumni
Mustafa Ozan Alpay, New Technologies
Ljiljana Lukic, Projects
Firas Yassine, Publications
Ahmed Reda, Trainings