

Cassandra Carbone

MED100

Applying for a position on the operational committee, for a role involving event coordination and organisation.



1. Why would you like the role?

From observing and working alongside the current 2016 NDASS Executive Committee, I have learnt many things. That surgery will be a significant aspect of my future career. That a common passion can unite even the most diverse group of people. That anything can be achieved when a team of driven medical students put their minds and hands together, and that it takes an organised secretary, attentive treasurer, flexible operational committee, and a couple of confident and connected presidents to run a professional surgical workshop!

I have thoroughly enjoyed my year as a member of the 2016 subcommittee and want to continue learning from and supporting this great organisation. I genuinely feel that I have proven my dedication to NDASS in my contribution to each of the 2016 events, and that I have more skills to offer to the future success of NDASS. Given that I will be within my pre-clinical years in 2017, I believe that this will be best served in an operational role dedicated to the management and executive of NDASS' notable events, as I will have the time and flexibility to assist those members of the executive committee who have important clinical commitments.

2. What are your ideas for the role in 2017?

Throughout the year I have received some great feedback from my MED100 peers in regards to NDASS events, particularly for the initial surgical skills workshop and our recent diversity in surgery evening. One recommendation I have for 2017 is to run an additional 'mini-shop' later in the year, for pre-clinical students to learn and practice and clinical students to refine their basic suturing skills. My proposed mini-shop would involve a no frills short evening for interested students - potentially those (like me) who have already purchased their own suture kits - to practice suturing with roving experienced mentors who can offer tips and answer questions. Given our contacts and current sponsors this event would only require minimal supplies, and could be run on the basis of leftovers from our more notable events. Practice makes perfect and the more opportunities we have to use these skills the more likely we are to retain and refine them.

3. What can you bring to NDASS as an executive or operations committee member?

My personal strengths are certainly in relation to my dedicated work ethic, passion for learning, reliability and organisational skills, which I believe have contributed to the success of previous NDASS events. Based on my experience with the prior executive committee, those on the MSAND Education committee and through simple networking at workshops, I have also extended my working relationship with several staff at the university, clinicians and business contacts which may be advantageous for future events.

4. What is your relevant past experience?

Being a current member of the NDASS subcommittee has given me incredible first hand exposure and experience in the inner workings of the organisation, and I believe this will be advantageous in succession planning for NDASS in years to come. Through this experience I have had the opportunity to liaise with our sponsors and contacts, as well as the staff and clinicians which frequent our events as mentors and assistants. In addition to this experience I am also currently a member of the MSAND Education subcommittee, and was involved in the planning and execution of the pharmacology evening and clinical skills night. In terms of my previous experiences prior to medical school, I have a background in embryology and in both animal and human based medical research through my honours degree. Specifically in relation to events coordination and organisation, I also have a strong background of volunteering for non-for-profit organisations such as Novita Children's Services and the Minimisation of Suicide Harm Foundation for which I was involved in the preparation and running of large scale public fundraising events. Collectively I have been a volunteer for these charities for more than 5 years.