

Candidate Details

Name: Elizabeth Jenkins
Year Level: Med300 (2016)



What role are you applying for?

Operational committee; Women in Surgery

Why would you like the role?

With the end of NDASS' successful inaugural year, I feel that surgery is an area in which we are just uncovering as a student association and I would love to contribute to furthering its reputation as a well respected, inspiring institution at Notre Dame. I love the idea of helping to create more avenues for med students to learn about the exciting area of surgery. I also have a passion for encouraging more women to consider a career in surgery.

What are your ideas for the role in 2017?

Surgery is one of those areas of our degree that we don't get much exposure to until clinical years. In fact, I hadn't really realised how amazing surgery was until I commenced clinical years myself, and it was this exposure that has sparked a keen interest in pursuing it as a career. Therefore, I see a role for providing greater exposure to the area of surgery earlier in our studies. In this regard I would love to help create and contribute to the successful running of events open to all year levels and targeted at their respective levels. This would be in a similar vein (pun intended!) to the surgical skills evening that was run this year and the Diversity in Surgery workshop that was run in August. I think its a great idea to help the pre-clinical years build up some useful skills and also let them in on some tips about how to get the most out of their clinical year exposure to surgery. For example, learning to suture, like in the surgical skills evening event this year is great! (I wish I had had more of an opportunity to do that in pre-clinical years). Therefore I am passionate about making these nights as successful as they can be, particularly for the pre-clinical years.

In regards to clinical years I would like to help broaden the events by providing more opportunities to hear about and potentially experience different surgical specialities. For example, it would be great to expand to have obstetrics and gynaecology, breast, thyroid, trauma, vascular or neurosurgery involved. I see it as a great opportunity for people to see the diversity in surgery and the many paths people can take as surgeons. I was also thinking it might be interesting to have a night focusing on surgery overseas and perhaps having someone speak about their experiences with organisations such as Medicine Sans Frontieres.

Lastly, I attended the Women in Surgery event run by WAMSS this year, which was fantastic. I would like to bring that opportunity to our medical school and hopefully see an increase in women and men attending an event run by us and supporting women in surgery.

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

From what I have seen from the events and communication of NDASS with its members, in its infancy as an association, it is professional and very good at providing informative and hands on surgical experiences. (I absolutely loved the Diversity in Surgery night!) I would love to contribute to making 2017 another successful year for the association. I am passionate about making each event as successful as it can be and hopefully bring some fresh ideas to how things can be run.

If I were to describe myself in regards to what I could bring to the role, I would say; proficient organisational skills, open communication, good in teams, and lastly, a pro-active personality, with tons of enthusiasm!

What is your relevant past experience?

I have held multiple roles in organisations across my time in undergrad through to studying here at Notre Dame. This includes working for two years as the co-ordinator of the Generate Program at ANU for The Oaktree Foundation, in my undergraduate degree. The Oaktree Foundation is a non-government, youth run, development and aid organisation. In this role I researched development and aid in East Timor, wrote the program and set activities to facilitate the process of learning about development and aid in East Timor and orchestrated and supported fundraising microfinance projects in East Timor.

I have also been lucky enough to volunteer as Med100 Sports and Wellbeing Rep in my first year here at Notre Dame. This role enabled me to get some insight into how things work within the university and MSAND.

Before medical school I also volunteered for St John's Ambulance whereby I attended regular duties, had an opportunity to communicate with a broad range of people, triaging, taking medical histories, documenting, and liaising with my seniors.

Lastly, I volunteered overseas for Fiji Village Project in the summer of 2014/2015; a role which required independent work to fundraise as much as possible to run the project. The program offered free health clinics to remote villages in Fiji that were often isolated due to lack of transport and/or the cost of transport into the capital.

Thank you for considering my application.