

March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Franco A. Rizzuti  
292198 Butte Hills Lane  
Rocky view county, AB

**Re: Mr. Quinten Clarke's nomination for OMSA Hidden Heros Award**

Dear OMSA Selection Committee,

Throughout one's career there are rare moments where one has the privilege of working with a servant leader, a non-assuming advocate... what OMSA calls an unspoken hero. Mr. Quinten Clarke is this such individual, and I have absolutely no hesitation in nominating him for the OMSA Unspoken Heros Award.

I first met Quintin in 2019, when he reached out to me in my capacity as President of the Canadian Association of Physicians with Disabilities (CAPD), he expressed interest in becoming involved with CAPD. He quickly joined our board and for the last 2 years has not only been a strong representative for medical students with all (dis)abilities, but he has also expanded the way CAPD engages and supports medical trainees.

I would like to speak to two (2) initiatives that Quinten initiated and successfully lead.

The first is the launch of a Canada-wide information series for medical students about CAPD and raising awareness about (dis)ability within the profession of medicine. Quinten single handily presented to nearly all 15 CFMS affiliated medical schools. As a result of this stigma-busting and open dialogues, CAPD has seen a tremendous surge in our medical student applications for membership with CAPD. Quinten grew this from his interest in having open dialogues about (dis)ability locally at Queen's, to the provincial level and then through CAPD nationally. This has been one of the most effective stigma-busting grassroots initiatives I have witnessed in Medical Education.

The second leverages the relationships and network Quinten established through the information and dialogues sessions. Quinten and others identified numerous barriers and information gaps as it pertains to (dis)ability and the transition from pre-clerkship to clerkship, and more significantly the transition from clerkship (medical school) to a residency program. CAPD has historically done work to support in practice physicians with a disability or who develop a disability and require accommodation, or a network to help support them. CAPD then began supporting physicians with disabilities as they transitioned into practice, from residency; this said there was an enormous gap in our program for medical students. In part due to the significant stigma, fear of self-disclosure, and limited number of medical students as CAPD members. As I said above, Quinten's work to create safe spaces has enabled the needs of medical students with (dis)abilities to prominently surface. Quinten along with a coalition of medical students from across the country have come together to create an informal council, supported by CAPD, to develop open-access materials and resources for medical students applying to the Match. This group, during the peak of COVID and their own preparation for the Match, developed a comprehensive toolkit and are continuing advocacy to break down barriers and enhance transparency.

It's not every day that one has the opportunity to work with a passionate medical student. It's even more rewarding when their work breaks barriers and promotes wellness, during the most challenging year the healthcare system has faced this century. More inspiring is that Quinten continues to invest in this work with his own funds, and energy, and never asks for reimbursement, nor recognition. He truly wants to pay it forward. I cannot think of a more deserving individual for this award.

If you should have any questions regarding this nomination, please do not hesitate to contact me at [farizzuti@gmail.com](mailto:farizzuti@gmail.com).

Thank-you for considering Quinten's nomination.



**Franco A. Rizzuti BSc MD**

Co-Chief Public Health & Preventive Medicine Resident Physician (PGY-4) |  
Cumming School of Medicine, UCalgary | Alberta Health Services, Calgary Zone  
Settler on Treaty 7

President, [Professional Association of Resident Physicians of Alberta \(PARA\)](#)

President, [Canadian Association of Physicians with Disabilities \(CAPD\)](#)

Board Director & Resiliency Trainer, [Resident Doctors of Canada \(RDoC\)](#)

Former President, Canadian Federation of Medical Students 2016-17