

Nominating Committee
Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians

RE: Kendall Ho's letter of intent to stand for a member of the CAEP Board

I am excited for the opportunity to submit this letter of intent to be considered a member of the Board of the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians. As a practicing emergency physician, a faculty member of the University of British Columbia Department in Emergency Medicine, with leadership experiences in clinical Emergency Medicine (EM), health education, research and knowledge translation in digital emergency medicine, participation in several CAEP committees – leadership committee, EM:POWER committee, CAEP Digital Emergency Medicine committee - and experiences with government and non-government organization boards and advisory groups, I feel enthusiastic and privileged to be nominated for this position.

Emergency Medicine (EM) is a foundational pillar and a safety net in our health system, and the current EM crisis is the most important issue that threatens the stability and access for all Canadians to equitable and high quality emergency services. As the national voice of EM, CAEP has demonstrated steadfastly over the years in its commitment, leadership, and advocacy to sustain and amplify EM to meet societal needs today and bring transformation tomorrow. Through its national positioning and its strong membership, CAEP holds unique power and advantages to contribute tangible short, medium, and long term insights and solutions to our current EM crisis and the sustainable resiliency of the Emergency Care System in Canada. The EM:POWER report is a visionary and essential endeavour to articulate the key challenges and threats, and suggest ways forward to address them and help Emergency and the Canadian Health system to return to a thriving state. It will be critical for CAEP Board to continue to nurture and sustain this effort to ensure the longevity and health of our Emergency system in Canada.

In the past 45 years, CAEP consistently nurtures and grows a variety of important and exciting pursuits that enrich Emergency practices nationally, as illuminated by its committee structures. These include but not limited to: educational pursuits including undergraduate, post-graduate, and continuing professional development; discipline specific excellence including critical care, disaster, EMS, and research; foci with societal impact including social EM, antiracism, equity/diversity/inclusion; and effective advocacy for our discipline including public affairs and global EM. This corpus of output and all the members involved fully animate and attest to CAEP's mission to advocate, connect, lead education and research, define standards, and collaborate to lead excellence in EM across Canada.

My 34 years of **clinical** experiences in EM, working at the Vancouver General Hospital and also in virtual EM in BC Ministry of Health since 2022, deeply inform me and anchor my belief of the vital role EM plays in supporting patients as the safety net of our health system, and the importance of defining and maintaining standards for high quality emergency care for all, including those underserved by our current health system. Engaging in **research** for 26 years in emergency medicine and digital health allows me to understand how fostering research and innovation help EM to remain in the cutting edge and advance best practices for tomorrow. In particular, my research in digital health – use of digital technologies in health services delivery, monitoring, and data science/artificial intelligence, provide me with a foundation to support: 1) BC Ministry of Health to establish virtual care in BC to serve patients just-in-time while reducing ED visits; 2) BC Emergency Departments and hospitals to integrate sensors into patient monitoring; and 3) the use of data analytics and artificial

intelligence as decision support for emergency health professionals to diagnose and manage patients' conditions. My **educational** leadership experiences since 1994, including CME Director in VGH ED and Associate Dean at UBC Faculty of Medicine, help me to understand and put into practice the principles of health education to adapt to the needs of the learners across the undergraduate, post-graduate, continuing professional development, contributing to CAEP's mission in leading EM education. My experience in participating in **government and non-government** organization committees can help me contribute to the CAEP mission to collaborate and advocate for EM with policy makers, communities, patients and caregivers.

I thank CAEP for the opportunity to set up the Digital Emergency Medicine Committee since 2022, and within it an Artificial Intelligence Special Interest Group (AISIG) since 2023. This is an emerging area of importance for all medical specialties including EM, and I am grateful for having digital health highlighted in 2023 quality symposium, artificial intelligence 2024 research symposium, and having a section on digital health in the EM:POWER report. Together with EM colleagues in BC, we have set up the Real Time Virtual Support clinical network to support rural, remote, indigenous and pan-provincial virtual services to increase equity of access to urgent and emergency care for patients throughout the province. We have also spawned a national exploration with governments, health administrators, patients, caregivers, health professionals and health researchers on "Essential Digital Health for the Underserved". I hope that this special interest of mine can further enrich the discussion, deliberations, and advocacy of the CAEP board in this emerging front in healthcare.

This is an exciting and critical time for the EM discipline in BC, Canada and globally, and CAEP is equipped and well positioned to continue its strong leadership to contribute solutions to today's challenges in EM, and lead the way towards tomorrow's exciting future. If given the opportunity, I would be thrilled to join the CAEP Board and contribute however I can to further the vision, mission and goals of CAEP. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Kendall Ho, MD FRCPC FCAHS MGCBC
Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine
Lead, Digital Emergency Medicine Unit
UBC Faculty of Medicine
Medical Director, BC Ministry of Health HealthlinkBC 811 Virtual Physicians Services