

## A Conversation with Adrienn

### Educational Resource Developer



#### **Adrienn Bourkas, BSc, MSc**

Medical Student, Queen's University  
PeDRA and AAD Trainee Member

#### ***Why did you get involved with CSPA?***

My passion for dermatology and desire to contribute to the patient community led to my involvement with the CSPA during my second year of medical school at Queen's University. Working under the guidance of Dr. Yuka Asai, a dermatologist at Queen's University, I collaborated with the CSPA to develop patient education resources for lichen planus. During this project, I had the pleasure of working with the CSPA's Executive Director, Rachael Manion, and Program Manager, Sabrina Ribau. Their passion for promoting skin health and improving the quality of life for Canadians with skin conditions was truly inspiring.

#### ***What do you perceive as outcomes of your involvement?***

As a medical student, I love using my writing skills to communicate with patients and advocate on their behalf. It's rewarding to make complex information easy to understand and provide patients with a written record.

#### ***Why do you like volunteering with CSPA?***

I appreciate the opportunity to work with a passionate team of individuals who share my interest in promoting skin health and improving the quality of life for Canadians with skin conditions. Volunteering with CSPA also allows me to develop my skills in advocacy, education, and communication.

#### ***Why would you tell others that they should get involved with CSPA?***

Volunteering with CSPA offers diverse opportunities to make a difference in the lives of Canadians with skin conditions. Through advocacy, education, and support, CSPA helps a range of patients and offers valuable resources. It's a chance to develop skills while contributing to a meaningful cause.

#### ***Has a personal connection with the skin patient community inspired your participation?***

Working with dermatologists in the community and helping patients in smaller towns with limited resources has inspired my interest in dermatology and motivated me to get involved with CSPA. I've had the privilege of collaborating with Dr. Asai at Queen's University, the pediatric dermatologists at SickKids, and Dr. R. Gary Sibbald in Sault Ste. Marie. It's rewarding to see the positive impact we can make for individuals with complex skin conditions, no matter where they are located.