**Name**: Emily DeDonato

**Email Address:** Emily.dedonato@osumc.edu

**Phone #**: 419-304-1062

**Languages spoken fluently:** English

**Application Instructions:**   
1. Fill out the application using the spaces provided.   
2. Place your name ONLY on this cover sheet.  
3. Please email completed application to [CFC.steering.committee@gmail.com](mailto:Taylor.Ballenger@osumc.edu) by

**Friday**, **November 15th at 5:00pm.**

4. Application SHOULD NOT exceed 2 pages, not including the cover sheet.

5. If you have any questions, please email Nirupama (see email above)

**Timeline Overview:**

Week of November 4-8 – Informational meeting (TBD)

November 15 – Applications due

November 18 – Notifications for interviews

November 20-22 – Interviews

November 26 – Notifications for new board members

December 2 – Meeting for new board members (TBD)

December 5-January 23 – Shadow at the CFC (3-4 people will come each week, each person must come twice during this 6 week period)

January 30-February 13 – “Dry Runs” at the CFC (3-4 people will come each week, each person must complete 1 dry run)

February 20 – First day new board runs the clinic (3 new board members must be here this week)

\*\*Board members are also required to create an informational video about the CFC for Nite Out, volunteer during Nite Out, and volunteer at ComFest during Summer 2014.

Thank You! We look forward to reading your application.

**The 20012-20013 CFC Steering Committee:**

Tamara Bendahan

Luis Bustamante

Alexandra Hatch

Marie Hu

Sophia Liu

Adam Ressler

Henry Yan

Nirupama Yechoor

Gary Zhang

Answer the following questions completely but *concisely*.

1. **List any activities (medically- or non-medically-related) that you have been involved with as a Med I or will be involved with as a Med II.  Include any leadership roles.**

I am currently a member of the GME Funding Committee for the OSU chapter of AMA. We have met with a few legislators to discuss the possible decrease in GME funding and are also in the process of brainstorming more ways to educate others about GME funding. I am also a student tour guide and hope to play a role in the application committee as an Med II if time allows. Additionally, I will be involved in research at Nationwide Children’s hospital this upcoming summer. I have also volunteered at the CFC a few times and hope to make the CFC my primary involvement during my first two years of medical school.

1. **List any experiences/abilities you feel may be relevant in running or improving the free clinic.**

As an undergraduate, I was heavily involved in student government and had the opportunity to serve as Vice President of the student government of the undergraduate student body. This involved being the leader of a student organization comprised of over one hundred students and also representing my class of over 40,000 students. I believe this experience helped me to build upon and improve my organization skills and my ability to communicate with others effectively.

As a leader of a large student organization, it was important that I was flexible and capable of adapting to change when necessary – I believe this is a quality that would be helpful in running the free clinic since the job can be unpredictable at times and things may not always work according to a perfect plan or schedule. In this position, it was also my job to help empower others to take on active roles in the organization. I learned how to teach others to be accountable and to take responsibility for small projects or initiatives. In this respect, I believe that I could help the student volunteers at the free clinic to take ownership of their jobs when they volunteer at the free clinic. I recognize the importance of the volunteers and would work hard to make sure they feel valued and needed since the free clinic could not function without them.

I have also spent a lot of time volunteering in the hospital. Although this duty did not require me managing others, I do believe that this experience helped me understand how volunteer work is organized and how it can run smoothly and efficiently in a medical setting.

**3. What was your impression of the clinic [or other free clinics, if you have not been able to volunteer at ours] when you volunteered? What changes would you make?**

My first impression of the CFC was the positive energy that the people at the clinic give off. From the medical student volunteers, to the volunteer doctors, to the members of steering, everyone seemed genuinely happy to be working at the free clinic. This energy creates an environment that keeps everyone motivated and willing to work hard the entire night. I was also very impressed at the emphasis that the CFC puts on learning and teaching. The volunteer doctors are not only giving back by providing free care but they also take the time to help teach medical students by reviewing symptoms, discussing differentials, and helping students practice physical exams. I believe that this learning aspect is a vital part of any free clinic and should continue to be stressed at the CFC.

The CFC seemed to be running very well when I volunteered there; however, there are some changes to the workflow that I believe could help the clinic run more efficiently. First, I think the volunteer medical students should be given standardized and very clear instructions about the flow of the clinic when they are volunteering for the first time. I noticed that depending on which steering member was giving instructions to new volunteers, the directions would be slightly different. For example, there seemed to be some confusion as to what happens after a patient is sent to get labs. During my brief orientation I was told that the lab volunteer would find the physician and give him or her the lab results. However, other students were under the impression that we must go retrieve the lab results on our own. This created confusion as to whether or not the student volunteer is ready to see a new patient after admitting their patient to the lab for tests. This issue could easily be solved by providing students with a standardized workflow of the how to see a patient and what to do in different situations (e.g. when a patient needs labs or when a patient needs a referral, etc.).

I also think that it would be helpful to receive patient feedback so that students can have a better idea of what to improve upon during their interviews. One beneficial aspect of being a student volunteer is having the opportunity to practice taking vital signs and doing a patient interview; however, the students do not receive any feedback because this usually takes place when the doctor is not in the room. If the patients were given the option to fill out a brief feedback card while they wait to see the doctor, then students would have the opportunity to learn from their patient encounters.

**4. Explain why you would like to be on the Columbus Free Clinic Steering Committee and what experiences have compelled you to apply.**

I had never worked at a free clinic before I began medical school. To be honest, I signed up to volunteer at the CFC because I felt compelled to do volunteer work and also because most of my classmates were signing up for free clinics. The night of my first CFC shift, I was stressed with school and felt bothered that I had to give up studying time to volunteer. However, that night at the CFC completely changed my mood and helped me to re-instill a positive outlook toward medical school. My experience at the CFC reminded me why I want to be a physician and gave me the opportunity to work with very grateful patients and to learn from extremely patient doctors who were happy to be providing care on their own time. I believe the time I have spent volunteering at the CFC thus far is a refresher that every medical student in their first and second year needs in order to put their hard work and endless hours of studying into perspective. After volunteering at the CFC I forgot how tired I was and I forgot how much I needed to study that week. The pure satisfaction of actually getting to put some of the skills I had learned to use and to feel like I am giving back at the same time were truly worth the hours of studying I had given up.

As an undergraduate, I was always interested in leadership roles and enjoyed being involved in many different activities. However, when I began medical school, I decided I would be cautious when the time came to join extracurricular activities. I knew that I wanted to wait to find one or two activities or organizations that I was truly passionate about since my time is now much more limited. Opportunities to sign up for positions or run for different elected offices have come and gone and I have yet to feel as compelled to commit myself as I do with CFC. I truly believe that this organization will help enhance my first and second year of medical school by giving me a sense of purpose and allowing me to improve upon my leadership skills.

**5. What are your plans for Summer 2014? (If you don’t have any idea – no worries!)**

This upcoming summer I will be Columbus doing clinical research in the department of injury prevention and policy at Nationwide Children’s Hospital.