

Imperial College School of Medicine Students' Union President's Report

By Anil Chopra

ICSMSU has been incredibly busy since last council and there have been many developments in a range of different areas.

Representation

As the year starts drawing to a close and we are able to feed back about the large number of curriculum changes that have been implemented this year, our position and importance within the Faculty and elsewhere is as strong as ever.

We have recently been to the BMA annual Medical students conference where we proposed a motion that we thought would positively impact on the securing of jobs for doctors all over the country; sadly, medical students from outside London were not receptive to the change and one part of the motion was rejected. This was disappointing and we will be continuing to push for a change through other channels. We are also working with the BMA to promote the "Love your NHS" campaign.

We have also successfully run our Exec elections for next year and the Results are as follows:

- **President:** David Smith
- **Deputy President:** Jack Roberts
- **Treasurer:** Benjamin Lindsay
- **Secretary:** Bhakti Visani
- **Welfare Officer:** Gayathri Rajasooriar
- **Sites & Services Officer:** William Ibbotson
- **Clubs & Socs Officer:** Adem Uner
- **Alumni & Careers Officer:** Ola Markiewicz
- **Academic Officer Years 1, 2 & GEP:** Ali Hosin
- **Academic Officer Years 4, Biomed & Pharm:** Mitesh Naik
- **Academic Officer Years 3,5 & 6:** Annalan Navaratnam
- **Entertainments Chair:** Michael Colwill
- **Social Secretaries:** Vaitehi Nageshwaran & Thomas Newman
- **RAG Chair:** Hamish Legge
- **Summer Ball Chair:** Aislinn O'Malley

Social Events

We have had a packed calendar of social events this term. Since the last council meeting, the Reynolds bar saw its first "Bhangra and Bollywood Night", 2 more stand-up comedy nights, a RAG Week, an acoustic music evening, 5 more bops and a pub quiz that managed to raise just under £300 for the Haiti earthquake appeal.

RAG has been very successful in the month of February; we have raised around £50K and still have one more event to go. Over 200 students from years 1 – 3 enjoyed an incredibly fun "RAG DASH" to Canterbury and Amsterdam and the RAG ball at Vertigo managed to raise over £4 000. RAG week itself took many thousands of pounds, starting with the RAG Games which saw some fantastic ICSM traditions brought back, a comedy night on the Tuesday, the traditional "Invasion of London" on the Wednesday followed by "RAG Does Sports Night". Thursday was the biggest day of all with the Circle line pub crawl which took over 1000 medics to the streets of London, all in the name of RAG. We ended the week with the RAG review which was, again, enjoyed by

many. The RAG Fashion at Koko in Camden was a spectacular event which also raised a huge amount for the Childrens Hope Foundation.

The Final Years enjoyed two of the many medical school traditions. They had a very nostalgic "Final year Photo" on the Queens' lawn on the 10th March, and on the 26th March, the Shrove Tuesday Final Year Dinner took place at the Brewery in London's Barbican area. It was a sold-out large scale event enjoyed by all; with a 3 course meal, champagne reception, unlimited drinks package and numerous games and entertainments for the post-dinner celebrations, it truly was an excellent night.

Education

One of the greatest things about ICSM is the support network that is built up through our students and this has been proven by the huge increase in the amount of peer teaching and extra-curricular opportunities that have arisen as a result of clubs such as Medical Education, Surgical Society, and the Muslim Medics Society. Looking through the calendar, there are very few evenings when there is not supplementary student-led tutorials occurring; students are hugely appreciative of the time and effort put in by their seniors to ensure that Imperial graduates are still the best in the country.

ICSMSU has helped with the introduction of the new E-portfolio systems throughout years 1 and 2 of our undergraduate course and currently working on extending their use to year 3 and the graduate entry course.

Years 1 & 2: we have continued to push for more online self-test questions, especially as students wind down towards exam time.

Year 4: the bulk of the year 4 exams took place in February and the year reps are currently collating feedback about them and working on their projects.

Years 3, 5 & 6: there are huge and numerous changes afoot with regards to the clinical years and have been made as a result of student feedback.

- From the year starting 2011, there Direct entry students (Oxbridge) and the GEP year 2 students will be integrated with their clinical firms right from the start of the year (rather than in January as is currently the case). This will serve to increase social integration between the undergrads on the 6 year course and the students entering from other years.
- There are plans to merge Northwick park and Central Middlesex as one rotation for 5th year firms and 3rd year surgical firms. These are because the Trusts have merged and the service to patients has changed, hence the way in which we teach has to change.
- We have tweaked how much the year 3 and 5 exams count towards our UKFPO ranking to the following:
 - o Year 3 OSCE: 20%
 - o Year 3 EMQ: 20%
 - o Year 5 Pathology: 16%
 - o Year 5 PACES: 22%
 - o Year 5 Specialities: 22%
- There are currently talks to completely restructure the final year of the course to move Finals exams to April and to either have the elective period after finals, or to reduce the

elective time to 6 weeks. This is not finalised but will be investigated extensively and is likely to be in place by 2012.

- We are pushing for more sub-speciality rotation in year 3 due to the nature of the different sites we used, there is no standardisation of teaching which is perceived by many as being unfair.

Biomed & Pharm: ICSMSU continues to represent the biomedical scientists to both Faculties that run the course. The biomedical scientists, especially in their 2nd year, are often based at other campuses than South Kensington, yet Humanities is a compulsory part of the course and is only taught on the South Kensington campus. We are working with both the Faculty of Medicine and of Life Sciences to work to a compromise for next years 2nd year students. We are also working on the change "Animal Behaviour" module within the course – it was felt that this was inappropriate to a biomedical sciences degree. Unfortunately, as of the year 2011, the pharmacology undergraduate degree will cease to exist due to lack of funding. The students on the pharmacology course will continue and their 3rd year will also become a stream for the 4th year BSc students to take part in.

ICSMSU also helped out with the organisation of the Electives evening which informed a large number of 4th and 5th years about planning their elective and what available options there were for the. We also awarded the "Elective Prize" for the students who submitted the best elective reports.

Welfare

The students Union deals with individual welfare issues on an ad-hoc basis with students. We are currently liaising with the Faculty to re-vamp the personal tutor system for the clinical years. Having surveyed years 3 – 6 asking what it is they want from their personal tutor system which revealed:

- a preference for retention of one tutor throughout the course
- a preference that this tutors should be a clinician
- a preference for combining academic and pastoral roles for the tutor
- a strong preference for regular scheduled meetings throughout the course

These changes are likely to be implemented in the coming year and are very similar to what has occurred in years 1 and 2 of the course (and very well received too).

Clubs and Societies

ICSM maintains its strong sporting tradition and this year has been very successful for many of our sports clubs. Our men's rugby first XV not only got promoted in the BUCS league to Prem B South but also managed to win the UH cup beating GKT in the final. The netball 2nd team were also promoted in their BUCS league and are constantly getting better and better. The men's hockey club 2nd team were also on the promotion list and our men's football 1st and 3rd team have been dabbling around the promotion zone for quite some time! Our Lacrosse club has had a hugely thriving season, with the mixed team being unbeaten for 2 seasons and set to win the BUCS league, the men's team having their most victorious season yet, and the women's team coming 2nd in the league. In ULU, lacrosse also won the Challenge Cup and our ladies hockey reached the ULU cup final – both should be proud of their excellent achievements.

Varsity, again, was another triumphant day. Not only did ICSM retain the JRP Williams trophy for the eighth time in a row; beating Imperial College 29-13 but all of our teams did incredibly well, especially our Netball and Lacrosse teams.

The Music society is consistently one of the most active clubs in the medical school and put on a lovely performance of the Brahms Requiem at the spring term concert and the Orchestra's concerto concert was a delight.

Since the last council, the ICSM Drama society put on a highly successful main play, Macbeth and also represented ICSM in the UH revue narrowly coming 2nd to Guys, King & St. Thomas Medical school.

Alumni & Careers

We have represented ICSM to the UKFPO and the BMA. We have been informed of a large-scale impending change to the entire UKFPO system currently being piloted and will officially take place for students qualifying in 2013 (i.e. me!) which will involve a National Exam, likely to be in the form of a multiple choice situational judgement.

We also helped the Faculty in the organisation of the Careers fair which took place on the 2nd March in the Reynolds building. Not only did we have a large number of stands representing most of the Royal Collages, but we also had some very interesting guest speakers.

March also saw the launch of the ICSM Careers guide "Get Careers Savvy" of which I have received a huge amount of positive feedback; the team of students that put this together has worked incredibly hard on it and students will be thankful for years to come.

At the Final year photo this year, we managed to sign up a large number of students to join the ICSM Alumni association (over 100) which made for a very successful event. We are hoping that more will sign up to the association on the results day. Sadly, in January of this year, an Alumnus of the medical school died: ICSMSU held a memorial service for the family and friends which was attended by many. The Alumni Association were kind enough to donate the money to pay for the refreshments at the service, for which we thank them.

Sites and Services

Since the last meeting, I have managed to obtain a number of quotes to install the third section of seating in the Reynolds bar and we are currently waiting on securing funding for the project, looking to cost around the £7K mark.

The Charing Cross library continues to be an issue for students. We are constantly pushing for increased opening hours but recognise the limitations of funding. We have changed the arrangements for quiet study space within these areas in that now, the computer clusters on the 2nd floor of the Reynolds building will be used for quiet work only and the ones in the basement will be used for group work.

We have also recently installed college networked desktop computers in the St Mary's Common room for students to use when relaxing the common room. We are also currently working on increasing the opening hours of the gallery area of the St Mary's campus Library, currently it is only open till midnight but the building is now open 24 hours a day, hence there is no need for the gallery to be locked at any time.