

Council
23rd May 2011

Imperial College School of Medicine Students' Union President's Report
A Note by ICSMSU President David Smith

Representation

We ran our ICSMSU Executive Committee elections in the spring term with a turnout of 49% of UG students. The results are as follows.

- **President:** Suzie Rayner
- **Deputy President:** Ali Hosin
- **Treasurer:** Peter Davis
- **Secretary:** Seetha Muthalagappan
- **Welfare Officer:** Neeraj Kalra
- **Sites & Services Officer:** Sathyan Balaji
- **Clubs & Socs Officer:** Florence Chamberlain
- **Alumni & Careers Officer:** Laura Wilkinson
- **Academic Officer Years 1, 2 & GEP:** Steven Tran
- **Academic Officer Years 4, Biomed & Pharmacology:** Natalie Kempston
- **Academic Officer Years 3,5 & 6:** Shiv Vohra
- **Entertainments Chair:** Mitul Patel
- **Social Secretaries:** Lauren Berg & Odhran Keating
- **RAG Chair:** Elisabeth Kostov
- **Summer Ball Chair:** Yannis Reissis

We feel that we have had an extremely successful year on the representation front, with the Faculty of Medicine being extremely responsive to our suggestions for improvements to the course, and involving us in decision making process for all of the big changes to the Undergraduate curriculum, including the major restructure of Year 6, the format of year 1 exams, the welfare provisions for students who fail their resit examinations and other aspects relating to the delivery of the course.

We have recently been to the BMA annual Medical Students Conference where we proposed a motion for the BMA to change its unfair stance on the Foundation Programme Allocation system. Unfortunately we were unsuccessful, although our motion to have extra degrees (i.e. the mandatory BSc all Imperial students do in their fourth year) contribute to the overall score was accepted.

I attended the Aldwych Group meeting in Edinburgh with the Deputy President (Education) where issues relating to medical students, such as fitness to practise and the UKFPO job allocation system, were discussed. We have also been representing our students at the monthly Fulham Reach Ward Panel meetings.

Education

The Faculty have been receptive to our suggestions and proposals for change to the course. Throughout the year we have had several student run focus groups, yielding many positive results, some of which are detailed below.

Years 1 & 2: a student proposal to alter the way Distinctions are awarded was accepted, so that now a student needs a Distinction in only one year and at least a merit in the other year in order to obtain a Distinction in Medical Sciences. This is a marked improvement on last year when

students needed Distinctions in both years. We have also increased the number of online questions. This was the first year that the Student Agreement between the students and the Faculty was put into practice. Students have commented that signing the agreement has had little if any impact on their attendance and behaviour.

Years 3, 5 & 6: we have faced a few problems this year with the clinical years. We have done our best to try to resolve them.

- Graduate Entry students who join students on the six year course in third year have said that they feel isolated from the feedback system and that they are not adequately consulted on important issues. To combat this we have had meetings with groups of GE students and next year will be having a specific GE student rep for the clinical years.
- This year saw a complete restructure of Year 6 being proposed such that elective placements are now after the end of year exams. We were unhappy with the way the year was due to be structured and were part of a working group where a more simplified structure was brought to the programme. We are very happy with the final result.

Biomedical Sciences & Pharmacology: we were extremely disappointed to read the Faculty of Natural Science's plans to remove Biomedical Sciences teaching from the Department of Life Sciences. We were especially alarmed to see that they proposed that the Faculty of Medicine take over the teaching when the Faculty of Medicine had not been consulted at all on this matter. We are totally dissatisfied with the reasoning behind this move and the Biomed Soc has made their voice heard. Hopefully their concerns will be taken into consideration when the final plans are drawn up.

ICSMSU also helped to organise the Electives evening which informed a large number of 4th and 5th years about planning their elective and what options were available to them. We were also part of the Elective Awards panel where students are awarded funding for their electives, for the categories of contribution to the life of the medical school, financial hardship and research projects.

Events

We have run numerous events since the last report, managing to keep the old traditions alive, while also adding some exciting new events into our calendar.

The Shrove Tuesday Final Year Dinner has been running since 1914 and was this year held at the Hurlingham Club in Fulham. Our Final Years were congratulated on all their hard work by the guest speaker, Dr Michael Schachter, and given wise words of advice on their future career. It was enjoyed by all, with a three course meal, a champagne reception, unlimited drinks and an ICSM Band for the afterparty. We also organised the Final Year Photo on the Queen's Lawn on Wednesday 9th March.

We ran an event in conjunction with ULU Medgroup at Tiger Tiger, attended by over 1000 medical students from across London. We have had five 'bops' this term, allowing the ICSM Gazette committee and the Women's Hockey, Netball, Hockey and Tennis clubs to raise funds and increase awareness of their Clubs' activities.

ICSM also hosted the United Hospitals Revue for the first time in its thirteen year history. 700 students from the five London Medical Schools came to the Great Hall for an evening of comedy.

RAG had a particularly successful term, raising over £45,000 for the paediatric department at St Mary's Hospital. We came second behind Barts & The London in the United Hospitals fundraising stakes, easily beating our other Medical School rivals. Over 150 students attended the RAG Dash to Leeds and Edinburgh, the RAG ball was at the classy Carbon Bar in Marble Arch and our biggest event, the Circle Line Collect, saw almost 600 students participate. The RAG Fashion at The Venue in Great Portland Street was a spectacular event which also raised a considerable sum.

We also feel that it is important to offer students educational opportunities as well as social. We organised the second instalment of our Inspirational Lecture series last term, as Professor MacDermot, the former Head of Undergraduate Medicine at Imperial, gave a talk about medical volunteer in Africa. We have secured David Nutt, the former Chair of the UK Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs for the third talk this term.

Clubs & Societies

It has been a good term for our sports clubs as our Rugby and Men's Hockey Teams won their United Hospitals Cup Finals against St George's Medical School and Barts & The London Medical School respectively. The Music society is consistently one of our most active clubs and put on a fantastic performance of the Saent-Sains' Organ Symphony at the spring term concert and a great choir concert.

Our Clubs & Societies hosted a number of events which were open to all. DramSoc revitalised the Soiree and put on five performances of James & The Giant Peach. The Light Opera Society adapted the popular television programme 'Glee' for their annual '24 hour opera' production. Other extremely well attended events included the Darts tournament, Big Chill, and two Medical Education conferences.

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. These are just a few of the clubs which have run mock clinical exams for all ICSM students.

Outreach

ICSMSU is heavily involved in the Faculty of Medicine's outreach programme, and we have run a series of tours for prospective students and students waiting for interviews. We also coordinated the School of Medicine Open Days, all of which went very smoothly with much positive feedback. Members of our Exec also visited schools and gave talks to GCSE students about medicine as a career as part of the Widening Access to Medicine scheme.

Funding

We are facing a potentially serious problem as the Imperial College Healthcare Charity decided this year to withdraw its funding to the Students' Union over a five year period. We

have managed to organise a review of this reduced award, with a date set for January 2012. However, we hope that our Alumni Association will soon be able to start covering a lot of our costs, as it continues to grow. This year over 150 students signed up to the scheme at the Final Year Photo day, and we hope more will join on receiving their results on the 29th June.

Sites and Services

This term we have decided that we need a Common Room in the Charing Cross campus which is separate from the bar. This is to allow students who do not want to be around alcohol to still have a social space, but also to bring the CX campus in line with the other clinical campuses where we have common rooms for students to do group work, eat and rest in between teaching sessions in the hospital. The space we plan to use is the current Students' Union meeting room and we are planning a total refurbishment and are going to install workspaces, a television and a microwave. We will also buy a table football table and other games.

We also feel that the common room at St Mary's hospital is inadequate for the needs of our students who often need an area for group study. We have applied through the Governance & Education Monitoring Group, and will likely obtain funding through the Imperial College Healthcare Trust.

Alumni & Careers

We helped co-ordinate the Careers Fair where doctors from various specialties had stalls and talked to students about their speciality before a series of talks. We also were involved in the organisation of 'Foundation Saturday' where junior doctors from deaneries outside of London talked about the positives and drawbacks of where they were training.

At the Final Year photo this year, we managed to sign up a large number of students to join the ICSM Alumni Association (over 150) which made for a very successful event. We are hoping that more will sign up upon receiving their results. The Alumni Association released its first two grants this year – one an elective award for contribution to the life of the Medical School and one to a Club or Society for sustainable equipment.

Other

Our website was attacked by a virus over the Christmas period. A new website has now been set up and we are in the process of uploading all the necessary information. It now has most of the features of the previous website and is easier to navigate.

The ICSM Gazette has had its second publication of the year. The popularity of the magazine has hugely increased this year due to a large improvement in its quality. We are considering increasing the number of copies printed, but will need to find funding to allow for this.