

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

A note by Mark Chamberlain

Union

The Union itself is going from strength to strength. The hard work and dedication of the Exec officers has really shown over the last term in the professionalism and service of ICSMSU. Recently we've been involved in some exciting new developments to the careers provision within the School. We have also been undergoing a process of internal review of the Union, in relation to our strategy, vision, and provision of services. In the next well we shall be launching a student survey to find out what their views of the Union are, and what they want to see us offering in the future. I have spent several days at local secondary schools talking at their HE careers events about a career in Medicine, as well as at Imperial. So far I have taken 8 days annual leave this year.

Events

The social side of the Union has been brilliant so far, with a fantastic Freshers' Fortnight at the beginning of October to welcome almost 400 new students to the Faculty. Thanks must go to Adam Dennis and the social secretaries for organising two weeks of fantastic events, finishing off with the huge black-tie Freshers' ball at Café de Paris. Before the freshers' had even arrived, the second Vision conference was a huge success, and congratulations to its founder, Sukhpreet Dubb, for being awarded the college's Outstanding Award for his immense work in widening access to Medicine. We had plenty of tasters for RAG in the first term, with the Halloween Bloodtrail bringing in an amazing £12,000 for our charity, the Winnicott Foundation, in just one evening. The Reynolds has been doing very well so far this year, with great attendance at sports' nights and all the Friday night club bops we've held so far. Christmas Week rounded off a packed social calendar, with the Snow Ball, this year at Vertigo, mince pies and mulled wine with the UMO, a RAG event on the Wednesday, and the traditional 'drink the bar dry' bop hosted by the Rugby club on the last day of term. This new term brings with it our RAG week – including Dash, this year to Paris, the Fashion Show and all the traditional RAG Week events. This year Rag Week coincides with the annual Varsity matches - Ben and myself and been very involved in the planning this year to make sure it is a day to remember.

Sites & Services

The new Wolfson education building on the Hammersmith campus opened at the beginning of this term. This building will house our Biomedical Sciences, Pharmacology and Graduate courses, as well as several of the BScs. The new facilities on the campus are a massive improvement, with new lecture theatres, seminar rooms, a new common-room to replace our old one, lockers and computer facilities. We have also recently completed the move into the space vacated by the closure of the bookshop in the Reynolds Building on the Charing Cross campus. This has allowed us to open a second merchandise shop, as well as a new office for the Exec, and convert the old office into a clubs & societies committee space.

Education

From an educational front, we have been working closely with the School on the large-scale curriculum review process which will see some big changes to the undergraduate course from next year. November saw the end of the GMC inspection of the medical school, and so the points raised during this review are currently being auctioned. We have also been addressing the poor results ICSM received in the National Student Survey, in particular in relation to the provision of feedback. The students on the new Graduate Entry Programme have been getting

settled in as the course itself finds its feet. The first round of the five SSLG meetings within the Faculty, which I chair, was completed last term. Many points were raised by the student reps and have led to some marked improvements in the course. Much of my time has been taken up with the other 15 School committees which I sit on.

On January 6th UKFPO announced the allocations of final years to their Foundation Schools for their 2 years of training posts. Whilst ICSM did markedly better than last year, with 86% of our finalists getting their 1st choice allocation (90% nationally/62% last year), NWTFS was still the hardest school to get into, and our results were heavily skewed as so many final years did not apply to their home school as a result of last year. Whilst we are happy with the result, we shall still be pushing for educational continuity in reforms to the allocation process.

Reynolds Bar

So far this year the Reynolds Bar has produced some very impressive trading figures, and much of the thanks for this must go to Francesco Atanasio for his hard work in securing for us new suppliers and product lines, and more recently a new EPOS till tying us in to the existing Union system. The new furniture and AV equipment installed over the summer has proved a great success, with markedly increased number attending the bar on the traditionally quieter days. I have also from January onwards implemented a new management structure for the staff in order to help reduce unnecessary staffing costs. The Steering Group, under the control of the campus Dean, has also met for a second time to help resolve any issues that had arisen of the first term.

Representation

As ever, we have remained proactive in our support for students. We are heavily involved in the FoM Welfare provision reforms, and are leading on several projects. We have worked to produce new guidance on raising concerns, and are currently mapping GMC guidance on Fitness to Practice to our own guidelines. Much time is also spent representing the students of the Faculty on the four central College, five Sport Imperial and seven ICU committee on which I sit. We continue to be active within ULU Medgroup, and both Najette and myself have been elected to BoP committees within the BMA.

Clubs and Societies

Our clubs and societies have been going strong, with strong performances from men's rugby 1sts and our novice rowers, and equally impressive performances from the Drama society with their autumn production, Light Opera with their production of 'Guys and Dolls' and Music Soc with their Choir Concert – which was even recorded for the BBC's Songs of Praise! Surgical Soc and MedEd came together with the Union to host a fantastic lecture series focusing on women in medicine which was a huge success and very well attended. Surgical Soc's Trauma conference in November was also a huge success for the club. My thanks have to go to all the club and society committees who have been absolutely wonderful since the beginning of term and worked so hard for their clubs.

Alumni

There has been an enormous amount of work going into the ICSM Alumni Association, bolstering up the benefits for members. We have recently launched a profile module on the website, allowing members to connect to each other. Najette and her committee have also been working on the new ICSM Alumni Prize, to be awarded alongside our colours and fellowships to an individual who has helped promote ICSM outside of the College.