

Council  
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## **Imperial College School of Medicine Students' Union President's Report**

*By Anil Chopra*

### **Union**

ICSMSU has kicked off this year very well. We have been very active both over the summer and since the start of the term. The new Exec committee of 16 students have settled and together we have started to push the Faculty Union onwards and upwards. The slight restructuring of the exec means that we now have an education officer for the pre-clinical years, one for the clinical years and one for all the BSc courses, including the biomedical sciences and pharmacology courses which has resulted in much better integration and representation.

So far in this session there have been 7 meetings of the ICSMSU Executive.

This year we have had a decrease in the total funding received by ICSMSU. The Faculty are giving us a grant of £21,000, Hammersmith Hospital Charitable Trust £40,000 and £5,000 from the St Marys Association, in addition to the money from ICU.

An exciting development this year is the new use of the Reynolds office facilities. The previous "SU Office" in the basement of the Reynolds is now a meeting room for up to 14 people with AV equipment and can be booked via the ICSMSU Secretary; and the old "Reynolds Book Shop" is now the ICSMSU Office for our exec officers to use for working. It also serves as the Reynolds Union Shop, selling some of the ICSM merchandise.

I have attended a number of meetings both in the summer and since the start of term with the faculty, union, college and external. I have been to meetings with a number of different campuses and have given introductory talks to graduate entry students, biomedical scientists and pharmacologists.

### **Events**

The first event on my agenda was the ICSM Affirmation ceremony attended by our final year doctors. Not only do they take the Hippocratic oath, but it is a great way for all of them to see one another before they start their F1 jobs. The ceremony took place in a beautifully decorated great hall and was followed by some lovely food and nibbles on Dalby court.

In the summer, the ICSM Gradsoc also held a "meet and greet day" for our graduate entry students. This was very successful, not only in aiding with the integration of the graduates into medical school, but a number of them made house-mates on that day whom they are now living with. Many GEP students do not tend to want to live in fresher halls, and tend to want private accommodation especially around the Hammersmith hospital area.

The Reynolds bar re-opened this year on the 18<sup>th</sup> September with a "Hawaiian Bop" in aid of our Halfway dinner which managed to raise over £700.00 for Save the Children UK. The dinner itself was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> October, and not only marked the halfway point for our class of 2012, but also brought all ICSM family of undergraduate medics, external intercalated BSc students, biomedical scientists and graduate entry medics together for a night great food and entertainment.

We have seen great integration with the start of our new combined Oxbridge/Graduate entry programme. Here the Oxbridge entrants course joins that of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year graduate

entry programme students to start the first clinical years and we ran an “Oxbridge Curry” and a drinks night at Mango lounge for the students; both of which were thoroughly enjoyed.

Our Faculty Outreach day, ‘Vision’ was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September, with over 200 year 12 students attending to get a taste of what being a medical student and being a doctor is like. It was generally found to be a great day which benefited a huge number of prospective medics.

We have just had a very successful freshers’ fortnight which has resulted in a great family and community spirit amongst the current first years that is endemic throughout the medical school. Special mention must go to the entertainments team for putting together such an exciting two weeks and to Rosemarie Richards, the ICSMSU Secretary, for her help with the advertising.

The fun didn’t stop there as, on the Monday after the fortnight, we had our first London Medgroup (made up of the 5 London Medical Schools) event, 999 at Ministry of Sound nightclub. Last Tuesday, we had our first RAG event, the “Halloween Collect” and our “Angels and Demons” bop last Friday was also very successful.

## **Education**

The bulk of my work to date has been with the regular Faculty education meetings which I attend. We have just undergone a huge curriculum restructure which is in constant review and will be closely monitored this year. Along with the Academic Officers, I have attended Education Sub-Committees for all 6 years of the undergraduate course, along with Biomedical Sciences, Graduate Entry and Foundation School management meetings, DCS, and have started off the Staff-Student Liaison group meetings.

We have elected year reps for all of our courses now; special thanks to Ashley Brown and Will Dugdale for helping set those up and making sure that they all run smoothly. The year reps have been meeting very regularly with their academic officers to ensure that papers submitted to the meetings and any feedback is delivered in the correct way.

A new development within the Faculty of medicine to try, not only to take attendance monitoring and skill competency testing into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, but also to increase opportunity for student reflection is the new “E-portfolio” which has just been launched to all 1<sup>st</sup> years. It is essentially an online log book and portfolio of clinical experience that also allows for the building of a CV and submission of work to and from a tutor. This allows students to reflect on their clinical competencies, and for teachers to feedback to the students all entirely online.

Last Friday, our final year students had to submit their online UKFPO forms to place them into jobs. We are concerned this year about the “North West Thames Yo-yo” effect whereby, because the majority of last year’s finals got their first choice (of which the majority was North West Thames) more people will be inclined to apply for this particular foundation school this year. We have been trying our best to convince students that there is life outside London and not to be disheartened if they do not end up with their North West Thames allocation. We have put on 3 briefing sessions for students about the process and the form, as well as having a student involved with the publication of ‘Quack’ – a free guide for every student about the Foundation schools and jobs as an FY01.

## **Welfare**

In July and September, Kathryn Wright, ICSMSU Welfare officer, worked very hard in supporting students who had failed resit examinations. On the whole Kathryn Wright and I have been largely successful in gaining students another attempt, which is testament to the great deal of work that was put in by the welfare team. I also continue to sit on the Hammersmith Ward Panel committee, representing our students to the local police.

This year sees the exciting new launch our ICSMSU Welfare website which can be found at [help.icsmsu.com](http://help.icsmsu.com), an incredibly useful resource for students and personal tutors. We will be pushing and advertising the website in the coming weeks.

## **Bar**

I would like to welcome the two new managers of the Reynolds Bar into their posts, I look forwards to working with all of you over the coming year.

I am currently attending my first Reynolds Bar Steering Group meeting, with representatives from security, estates, ICU trading, ICU management, ICSMSU Exec and the bar staff. Before the start of the Freshers Fortnight, we held the 1<sup>st</sup> Residents Meeting of the academic year for residents around the bar to come and raise any issues that they might have – unfortunately this was very poorly attended with only 1 resident turning up. He was very good to speak to and happens also to sit on the “St Dunstons Road and Margravine Road Residents committee”. He advised that more warning be given to residents on night when the bar will be open after midnight; we have started to implement this and so far, we have had no complaints from neighbours.

## **Representation**

In my role as one of the BMA reps for the University, I attended a training day with Alex Walls on the 11<sup>th</sup> September. I also sit on ULU Medgroup, a pan-London committee of the presidents of all 5 medical schools, which serves to allow us to share best-practice and seek advice on issues affecting London students especially.

## **Clubs and Societies**

Our clubs captains, secretaries and treasurers were invited to the 1<sup>st</sup> Clubs and Societies Executive meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September which was very well attended. We provided clubs with our own information packs full of advice for the upcoming year; as well as allowing them to ask questions and talk about their issues.

## **Alumni**

We have been working hard over the Summer to develop our Alumni association even more. Last year saw nearly 100 of our graduates sign up which is a great improvement of previous years. Myself, Alex and Richard Hewitt (ICSMSU Deputy President) all helped out at the IC Alumni Reunion on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September both at the SAF building and at St Marys Hospital. We also held the Alumni AGM on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October which was well attended and provided us with a great many ideas to pursue.