

Council  
19.01.10

**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**

ICSMSU continues to represent its students to the Faculty, college, union, nationally and internationally. A group of students from ICSMSU recently attended a medical schools committee conference Bristol to represent ICSM students' views on medical teaching and to share best practice. Once again, Imperial showed to be an exemplar for teaching, quality assurance and Student Union representation.

A recent GMC assessment also took place for the Faculty of Medicine which I myself had to give feedback for. We are very pleased to say that they were incredibly impressed with our progress in both the personal tutor system, the graduate entry course and our improvements with exam feedback.

I have also attended a number of ULU Medgroup meetings (Union / Medsoc Presidents from other London Universities); and a number of issues have been discussed including the "Student Agreement" for other institutions; the motions that we are submitting to the next BMA Conference in April, policies on the deployment of students for use in the case of a national pandemic (e.g. swine flu)

**Social Events**

ICSMSU has enjoyed a vast range of events in the last 2 months from Silent Dicos, to quiz nights, the Snow ball and more. The Reynolds continues to be a social hub for students and ICSMSU are currently looking to raise funds to install the 3<sup>rd</sup> section of new seating in the bar (the 1<sup>st</sup> and second section were done last year).

RAG continues to be a strong medical school tradition as ever and, having already raised over £16 000 for the Children's Hope Foundation, we are confidently looking forward to a fantastic year for RAG.

The first years also attended a "mince pies & mulled wine" night at which they were able to meet again with their personal tutors just before the Christmas break. This was done in collaboration with the undergraduate medicine office and Prof. John Laycock (Head of years 1 & 2) addressed them at the occasion.

**Education**

Years 1 & 2: One of the biggest SU & Faculty achievements is the development and running of the new E-portfolio system – an online system by which students can record clinical skills, submit work, automatically generate a CV e.t.c. This will be an incredibly useful tool when it comes to applying for jobs as they often require reflective writing e.t.c.

The Faculty are also very glad to department with the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest SOLE participation rates with the help from ICSMSU.

ICSMSU Academic officer Years 1,2 & GEP – Gayathri Rajasooriar has also recently set up a peer tutoring scheme by which year 3 students tutor year 2 students and the SU will update council on its success.

Year 4:

Years 3, 5 & 6: We have had out SSLG for years 3, 5 & 6 where a number of minor issues were brought up. One of the biggest concerns was the SU lobbying for a change in the date of the year 5 pathology exam. This has been considered by the UMO and they are keen for us to pick a date based on preference by the Year.

Other: the UMO funded but Union co-ordinated “Oxbridge Open Day” was a big success this year which included not only information about the course and the college from academics and staff but also from current Oxbridge clinical direct entry students and we received some very encouraging positive feedback.

ICSMSU are currently liaising with Prof. Alison McGregor (Vertical theme lead of Science within the Medical course) in order to set up

- A database for medical audit and research projects
- A database of overseas links for research for students who are looking for their electives
- A conference at which students undertaking the above research/audit projects can present.

### **Welfare**

Our first years saw the advantages of regular meetings with their personal tutors – the new scheme set up by the Faculty of Medicine along with the union appears to be receiving excellent feedback.

### **Clubs and Societies**

Our clubs and societies have been impressive as ever; with strong performances from men’s rugby 1<sup>st</sup>s, our novice rowers, and our netball club our sports teams are doing incredibly well in the BUCS league.

Equally impressive are our performances from the Drama society with their autumn production of “Arsenic and Old Lace”, Light Opera with their production of ‘My Fair Lady’ and Music Soc with their Choir and orchestra Concert. The ICSM Light Opera society are disappointed that they have been disallowed to use their venue (the Wilson House Recreation centre) due to a ruling by Sport Imperial; however they are confident that their venue for the 2010 show (London Oratory School) will still allow for a high-calibre, fun professional performance.

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 & Careers**

With the UKFPO results having just been released, we are relatively pleased to say that 100% of our final year students were offered jobs; 75% at their first choice foundation school. This was, however, significantly lower than the national average of 91% (this is due to the North

West Thames foundation school being so heavily oversubscribed) and lower than last years percentage (due to the constant “yoyo effect” that occurs year on year with students strategically picking their first choice rather than actually choosing where they would like to work). MSC rep, Matko Marlais and I are attending a conference in April to discuss the possibility of changing the allocation algorithm for jobs such that it may be in favour of our students.

Our alumni association is more organised than ever. Alex Walls (ICSMSU Alumni & Careers Officer) has set up an alumni committee consisting of both doctors and current students. The online networking software is also more advanced with our graduates being able to access their “profile” online and change their details. The current number of members for the ICSM Alumni stands at over 500; special thanks must go to Mark Chamberlain for all his continuing efforts with the finance management of the association.

We are also currently finalising our fantastic new ICSM Careers Booklet, which, in collaboration with the faculty, last years Alumni and Careers officer, Najette Ayadi O’Donnell has worked incredibly hard on. The print deadline is in a few weeks and we look forward to it being released at the ICSM Careers fair of the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2010.

ICSMSU Careers has also lined up a series of inspirational lectures, two of which have already taken place. On 16<sup>th</sup> November, over 100 students enjoyed the “Mansfield Lecture” given by Dr Fey Probst (Consultant in Emergency medicine at Charing Cross Hospital); and on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January, Peter Piot (Director of Imperial College’s new Global Health Institute & previously Executive Director of UNAIDS) talked about his life and achievements in global health.

### **Sites and Services**

ICSMSU is constantly looking at ways to improve its sites and services; with this year a particular attention being paid to the St Mary’s common room. Currently slightly old and worn, the St Mary’s common room is in need of some refurbishment and ICSMSU are currently looking to raise funds to get the work done. Already a new fridge has been bought and new sofas have been purchased (to be delivered).

Our merchandise sales have gone extremely well this year; with a turnover of £10 000 leaving with a profit of nearly £1000, the shop remains one of our very few sources of regular income.