

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

*A Note by ICSMSU President Suzie Rayner*

Over the last term and a half, ICSMSU have been very busy and have started to progress on some very exciting projects.

### **Reynolds Refurbishment**

Towards the end of last term, Professor Alison McGregor took over as Campus Dean of the Charing Cross campus. We initiated discussions of how to improve the Reynolds Bar area as well as the rest of the faculty facilities at the campus. A Faculty working group has now been formed to continue work on this, incorporating ICU Commercial Services, ICU General Manager, and Reynolds Building Manager amongst others.

A student forum was held to gain ideas about student experience and areas of priority, which was used to draw up a survey. We surveyed all Faculty of Medicine undergraduates, and Postgraduates and Staff based at the Charing Cross campus. Response rates of over 36% (UG and PG) and 41% (staff) were achieved.

I am currently formulating a document, with the intention of designers and architects being further consulted within the next fortnight. The proposal is hoped to be taken to the project review board in March.

### **Clubs and Societies**

The potential 'BUCS merger' for want of a better phrase, has continued to require a lot of work from both ICU and ICSMSU. Post the council decision with regard to the union stance, ICSMSU has continued to work with UH medgroup (Medic Union representatives from London Universities) to acquire answers from BUCS with regard to current proposals from Sport Imperial and other institutions that would be implemented if the vote was against us at the BUCS AGM in July. ICU and ICSMSU continue to work with Sport Imperial to find a suitable solution if the AGM vote is unsuccessful. Monya, Flo and Myself met with the Rector regarding his view on separate teams who encouraged us that the students viewpoint was crucial and would always be listened to in this regard. Thank you to Flo and Monya for all their hard work on this issue which we hope will be resolved soon.

### **Events**

As ever ICSM provides many events throughout the year. We worked with UH Medgroup to organise two cross-med school events - 999 which was very successful and Adrenaline which appeared to be scheduled for a bad time of year for all.

RAG continues to be very active, with RAG week being held from 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> February. We were disappointed this year as there was a lack of interest in the RAG Dash event, but we hope that the RAG week itself, which does not depend on individuals spending money to get involved, will be fair more successful.

We held opening events for both the renovated St Mary's and Charing Cross Common Rooms.

As usual, we have held many Bops at the Reynolds Bar, allowing Clubs and Societies an opportunity to raise money. The Term 1 bops were very successful but as usual, Term 2 has proven harder to get people interested and therefore we are looking for new and novel ways to encourage people to attend.

Thanks to all of the Entertainments team for their continued hard work.

## **Outreach**

We held an Open Day for Direct Entry students from Oxford and Cambridge in November. Whilst we are normally dominated by Cambridge students, there was an excellent turn out from both universities this year.

I am currently preparing for the first Undergraduate Medicine Open Day on February 15<sup>th</sup> and the first ever Biomedical Science Open Day (under the Faculty of Medicine) on March 21<sup>st</sup> (which has gained some keen volunteers despite the clash with Varsity). I am updating the PowerPoint presentation to Prezi.

ICSM Vision, a previous branch of the ICSMSU Exec, successfully became a separate club this month, hopefully enabling them to further advance the outreach to prospective medical students. I spoke at both ICSM Vision Junior and Senior conferences, encouraging students to consider medicine and discussing the process of getting onto the course. Both were met with good feedback.

## **Academic**

I have chaired 6 Staff Student liaison group meetings since my last report, all which have been successful and valuable. Significant occurrences:

- Look at whole of CMS module for Graduate Entry course due to student dissatisfaction
- Electronic timetables rolling out for Year 2 after successful pilot on Year 1
- Reviewing the weighting of the BSc Year (Year 4) of Undergraduate Medicine to include contributions from earlier years, more similar to Biomedical Science students (not affecting those currently studying)
- GP/Oncology teaching structure under review due to continued poor feedback
- Year 5 exam re-sit and failure procedure being outlined to current Year 5 students after distress due to last year.

## **Representation**

ICSMSU continue to represent both medical students, and Imperial students generally, in various contexts. I will be attending the BMA conference in April along with 4 other representatives from Imperial. 4 members of ICSMSU attending a national MedSoc conference in November which gave us many examples of good practise to help us improve the service we provide our students.

## **Welfare**

In the first of the Spring Term, ICSMSU ran Alcohol Awareness Week. This was well received by the students, comprising of a poster campaign, stands giving away calorie counters and unit measures and an evening lecture by Dr Zul Mirza, an A and E consultant from West Middlesex Hospital. The Felix also reported on the week and I was interviewed.

Neeraj (ICSM Welfare officer) and I met with Paul Booton and Adrian Raby last term to discuss how students are supported following a patient death on placement. They have taken this issue very seriously and come up with numerous solutions which may improve the current situation. ICSMSU will be speaking on student experience of patient death at the First Clinical Attachment and Ethics Away Day, with an oncologist also speaking about how we can provide better support.

## **Alumni & Careers**

ICSMSU Careers organised its first inspirational lecture of the year, The Mansfield Lecture, which was given by Ms Sophie Renton, a vascular surgeon from Northwick Park Hospital. It was met with much positive feedback and around 50 attended. Thanks to Laura (ICSM Alumni and Careers Officer) for her hard work organising this and the many other careers talks throughout the year.