

Creating Medic Careers Society

A paper by the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) Henry Whittaker & ICSMSU Alumni & Careers Officer Jac Cooper

Background

ICSMSU has a large number of medic "speciality" societies being started (e.g. ICSM Anaesthetics Soc, ICSM Neurology Soc and ICSM Ophthalmology Soc). These societies mainly provide talks to medical students providing information on specialisation, a service the department does not provide. Last year ICSMSU proposed creating one club to cover all of these activities. That way all these activities could occur but they would be a branch of one society "careersoc" which would reduce the countless hours of union faff.

The issue is that it is very easy to gather enough signatures to support an application for something like "CardiologySoc" and in principle it is a great idea but unlike the success of SurgicalSoc it is unlikely that enthusiasm will persist for years to follow leaving the union. These Clubs and Societies also exist purely to run lectures and give talks and do not need members or provide any sort of members based activity.

This paper proposes the merging of the ICSMSU careers societies into one society that will allow members to join and organise talks while also providing support.

Proposal

Merging ICSMSU Neurology and ICSMSU Ophthalmology into a newly created ICSMSU Careers society. Investigate the merging of ICSMSU Surgical Soc into the newly created ICSMSU Careers societies.

Structure

ICSMSU Careers society will have its own committee responsible for assisting members with the running of events. Each event will be able to have its own committee.

The chair of the Careers society will be the ICSMSU Alumni officer

ICSMSU will update their standing orders to include this new careers society.

ICSMSU will create a new constitution for the Careers Society.

Process:

ICSMSU Neurology and ICSMSU Ophthalmology will be merged with ICSMSU Careers Society. This will have three committee positions Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. These positions will be held by members of the ICSMSU Exec until the first AGM is held. The committee members of ICSMSU Neurology and ICSMSU Ophthalmology will retain their positions under the ICSMSU Careers Society Exec. Any funds held by the original societies will be moved into separate activity codes.

Resolution:

1. Create medic Careers society with the following Aims and Objectives. Club application in appendix (page 3-5 go that document)
2. To action ICSMSU to update their Standing Orders to make the Alumni & Careers officer of the ICSMSU Exec the Chair of the Medics Careers Society.
3. To action ICSMSU to consult ICSMSU Neurology and ICSMSU Ophthalmology on the merger and carry out the merger.
4. To appoint the following people to the committee of Medics Careers Society:

Chair - Jac Cooper

Treasurer - ICSMSU Exec Treasurer

Secretary – ICSMSU Exec Secretary

Aims and Objectives

Currently the ICSMSU Alumni Officer organises one off career talks for medical students in order to improve understanding of the wide range of post-graduate careers available. ICSM Careers Soc would aim to take over this role and incorporate the events currently organised by the other “careers societies” to provide a broad and varied program of talks, conferences and revision seminars.

The society will also liaise directly with the respective governing college for each specialty to provide specific advice for any student wishing to pursue a particular career and keep the ICSMSU website up to date with revision courses and external lectures available to students.

Membership to this society would be open to all and free of charge. Non-medics, specifically those looking to pursue a career in medicine or careers allied to medicine would also be welcomed and one of our aims would be to provide information and advice to those looking to apply to the Imperial Graduate Entry Medicine course.

Election

The chair of the Medics Careers society will be elected department wide and will be the ICSMSU Exec Alumni and Careers Officer.

Appendix i

ICSM Careers Society

Hello everybody, I'm Jac Cooper, the current ICSMSU Careers and Alumni Officer. My predecessor, Laura Wilkinson, and Dariush's as Clubs and Socs Officer – Florence Chamberlain- proposed a medical school Careers society to the Clubs and Societies committee, which ICSMSU President Shiv Vohra has led me to believe is not yet authorised but has been essentially approved. The reasoning behind the creation of this society was that a lot of small medical career related societies were being set up (or requested to be set up!) but creating all of them separately would create a large amount of clutter for the Union in terms of societies. Also, many of the talks and lectures being put on by them, and by existing careers-based societies, would heavily overlap. The new societies were also arguably too small to spend much money on, and as they mostly revolved a few people in one or two year groups, there was a fear that these socs would die out but still be on the system and would become "stubs" after the originators left medical school.

The suggestion suggested by my precursors was an umbrella society overarching all of the careers based societies at the medical school to regulate and protect them whilst making organisation a lot easier and with less risk of societies dying out. This would also allow careers talks and events to be spread to a larger audience and prevent the waste of resources and time that comes from 2 societies putting on identical events. It would also mean that people in the ICSMSU and FEO who know the facts about education and careers would know what was being said and could ensure everything being said was up to date and not misleading. The elected chairs of the individual socs involved would make up the Umbrella society committee which would have its own Chair and Treasurer to hold meetings with said chairs (and other representatives from clubs that provide careers help but aren't specifically based around this) and ensure the society ran smoothly. It was suggested that the best person for this role would be the ICSMSU Careers and Alumni Officer each year, but this would not fit the criteria to election into a society role.

So the solution currently being looked at is the idea that all members of the medical school, as well as automatic ICSMSU membership, would receive Careers Society membership and the role technically being voted at ICSMSU elections would be Careers Soc Chair and this person would automatically assume an executive role on the SU as Careers and Alumni Officer, to avoid needlessly creating another post when the society comes under the current role of the Alumni and Careers Officer.

Obviously once/if this is fully approved, the day to day running of the individual societies will not really be affected, they will all be as autonomous as they were before but everything will be more integrated, which the Faculty specifically request, and organised and the smaller societies that couldn't exist on their own can now and those that have been formed but are not really self-sufficient in the long term can be protected.

Here are Florence Chamberlain's emails on the subject-

Hi Henry (and Dariush),

I submitted an application for "ICSM CareersSoc" or something similar last term to Monya (Dariush it should be on your emails somewhere if you cant find it Henry and failing that I will dig it out after I get back from deepest darkest Surrey on GP).

It was an effort to reduce the ridiculous number of medic "speciality" societies being started (e.g. ICSM Anaesthetics Soc, ICSM Neurology Soc and ICSM Ophthalmology Soc). That way all these activities could occur but they would be a branch of one society "careerssoc" which would reduce the countless hours of union faff. Unfortunately we couldnt find a slot for it at the NCC so Monya said she would push it through regardless as it was essential to start it. My "vision" was that it would be chaired by the ICSM Alumni and Careers Officer (Jac Cooper)/President who would then be able to coordinate the various careers events and talks to prevent clashes etc as the union along with the North West Thames Foundation School already run a lot of careers talks from specialist fields of medicine.

The issue is that it is very easy to gather enough signatures to support an application for something like "CardiologySoc" and in principle it is a great idea but unlike the success of SurgicalSoc (which has ££££££ in their account) it is unlikely that enthusiasm will persist for years to follow leaving the union (and ICSM management group) with countless "dead" societies which wax and wane in popularity over the years... your thoughts?

BW,

Flo

And following this is Laura's application from last year—

Obviously if there are any problems or tweaks to be made (Philippa Shallard suggested adding a MedSoc and GPSoc to Surgical society with smaller socs coming underneath the appropriate heading but this seems excessive with too many new creations rather than just one that actually reduces society numbers and could be further subdivided and would be under the SU which all societies already are)

Name of Society: ICSM Careers

What is the Club/Society's Core Activity? What else do you aim to do?

Currently the ICSMSU Alumni Officer organises one off career talks for medical students in order to improve understanding of the wide range of post-graduate careers available. ICSM Careers Soc would aim to take over this role and incorporate the events currently organised by the other "careers societies" to provide a broad and varied program of talks, conferences and revision seminars.

The society will also liaise directly with governing college for each specialty to provide specific advice for any student wishing to pursue a particular career and keep the ICSMSU website up to date with revision courses and external lectures available to students.

Membership to this society would be open to all and free of charge. Non-medics, specifically those looking to pursue a career in medicine or careers allied to medicine would also be welcomed and one of our aims would be to provide information and advice to those looking to apply to the Imperial Graduate Entry Medicine course.

Which existing clubs/societies are you most similar to and how? It is advised to name at least 1 club.

The most similar society is the Surgical Society currently running. It too is an educational based society aimed at increasing knowledge in surgery through talks and conferences. However they are centred solely on surgery and we would want to incorporate all medical and related careers, including GP, Medical, hospital and district specialties.

How are you going to achieve your club's aims? What events/activities will you organise? You are strongly encouraged to provide details on how you plan to finance the club.

Our aims will be achieved through continuing the range of talks, lectures and conferences over the year on different specialties. Along with this providing up to date information on specialist training and career paths, via talks and leaflets.

The ICSMSU website already has a careers page which will be kept up to date with information on external and internal courses.

Information on applying to graduate entry medicine will also be put onto the website and in hard copy for distribution at events if need be.

Most events will be free of charge and have minimal expense to run, however, some of the more popular conferences and events will require a small charge and we would also look to obtain sponsorship from Wesleyan Medical Sickness, Medical Defence Union and the BMA who are accustomed to supporting these activities at ICSM.

How will you measure whether you have met your aims or not?

We will be happy that we have met our aims when there is a range of talks on different specialties and the talks are well attended.

How do you plan to recruit students to your club/society?

We already have the publicity set up through emails, Facebook and posters to advertise ongoing events. Further to this is the website and possibility of increasing reach on days such as freshers fair and through word of mouth.

What will your club/society bring to the ICU community? Why should we support your idea?

The ICSM Careers society will be a benefit to all Medical students wishing to further their medical training, an educational and advisory point of call for any questions regarding this. The benefit to the wider IC community through advice on how to apply for graduate medicine.

This society should be supported as it encourages students to think about their choices after university and increases the awareness of the extent of options they have.

What are your long term hopes for the club/society? How will you ensure that it continues successfully?

Long term we hope to continue running specialist talks. There is a high demand for courses and lectures currently, as we run one every month. This will continue as new students come through the course and need to know about their career options.

The continued publicity of talks and course through various means will ensure that it continues successfully.

Would you require any equipment for your activities? If so, what?

No we would not require any equipment, as an educational society lecture theatres and seminar rooms from time to time, would be the only requirement.

How much do you anticipate charging for membership? Realistically, how many members do you estimate will join the club by the end of its first year?

Membership to this society would be open to all and free of charge.

We would estimate that around **?200?** people from all years within the medical school and a few non-medics will join in the first year. We expect numbers to increase as it becomes a more established society.