

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

By ICSMSU President – Shiv Vohra

### **Union**

We held the ICSMSU Executive Committee elections as part of the ICU Big Elections (same as last year), which resulted in a very favourable turnout. Congratulations to the new ICSMSU Executive Committee for 2013-14, as below:

- **President:** Steve Tran
- **Deputy President:** Sybghat Rahim
- **Secretary:** Kavian Kulasabanathan
- **Treasurer:** John Golden
- **Alumni & Careers Officer:** David Thompson
- **Sites & Services Officer:** Tim Hall
- **Communications Officer:** Kristina Earle
- **Academic Officer (1, 2 & GEP):** Anju George
- **Academic Officer (3, 5 & 6):** Rahul Ravindran
- **Academic Officer (4, BMS & Pharm):** Lucinda Osbourn
- **Welfare Officer:** Sunila Prasad
- **Clubs & Societies Officer:** Patrick McGown
- **Entertainments Chair:** Sophie Beverley
- **Social Secretaries:** Josh Lucas & Callum Brehany
- **RAG Chair:** Erika Refsum
- **Summer Ball Chair:** Helena Budarkiewicz

The Faculty of Medicine had a very strong NSS turnout of over 80% this year, which is a vast improvement on last year (64%).

This year the ICSMSU has had a particularly strong working relationship with the Faculty of Medicine, and we have been involved in several key projects, including the successful launch of the iPad mini project for mobile learning in Years 5 & 6 of the Medicine course. We have also liaised closely with the Faculty to setup the very first 'welcome' events for Years 1, 3 & 6 – as part of this series of events, Year 3 students were given stethoscopes, which was very well received.

Furthermore, the ICSMSU Academic Officers ran an ICSM-specific 'You Said, We Did' campaign in conjunction with the Faculty Education Office across all teaching sites, including our teaching hospitals across West London. In addition, ICSMSU Welfare Officer, Steve Tran, ran a very successful 'Focus on: You, Your Patients & Alcohol' event which attracted around 100 students to a very inspiring and informative talk by Dr Zul Mirza.

The Student Staff Liaison Groups this year have resulted in a number of key changes for the coming academic year across all year groups and pathways, and have been a very effective channel of communication between our students and staff.

### **Events**

As ever, we have held a number of successful events throughout the year since Freshers' fortnight, including the ICSM Snow Ball at The River Room London at the end of 2012, which was a huge success overall, despite difficulties in dealing with the venue.

The ICSM Shrove Tuesday Final Year Dinner at the London Hilton Metropole was one of the best yet, with a fantastic inspirational speech by the ever-popular guest speaker Professor Karim Meeran. The success of the event was made all the more sweeter by the fact that the timing was changed significantly from previous years, due to the restructure of the final year of the Medicine course.

ICSM RAG raised over £48,000 for the Winnicott Foundation this year, which was a huge success given the difficulties faced last year, in particular the ICSM RAG Dash, which sold out

in record time this year. ICSM RAG week was also pulled off magnificently, despite changes to its timing.

This year has also seen the foundation and success of the ICSM pub quiz in the Reynolds Bar on Thursday nights – this was started in an attempt to diversify the entertainments schedule provided for our students at the Reynolds Bar, and has proved to be hugely popular. We hope that this continues for the future.

Finally, we are all very much looking forward to the ICSM Summer Ball at the Rose Suite, Twickenham Stadium this year.

### **Sites & Services**

Talks regarding the future of the Reynolds Bar, in particular phase 2 of development, have been ongoing between ICU, IC Campus Services and ICSMSU throughout the year. We are now one step closer towards agreeing on phase 2 works which are scheduled to take place this summer, and have secured an additional sum of money to purchase furniture for the bar space, which we hope will immeasurably improve the student experience.

### **Clubs & Societies**

This year saw the inception of the ICSM Careers Society, which has provided a platform for all careers-related specialist interest groups. So far this has been very successful, with the formation of several new societies under the Careers Society umbrella, including the Psychiatry, Obstetrics and Oncology societies, and the reorganisation of the previously existing Ophthalmology, Neurology, Dermatology and Paediatrics societies.

Unfortunately, despite repeated protests against the BUCS proposal, we have been forced to choose option 1, which means that ICSM teams will no longer be able to compete under the ICSM banner in BUCS leagues, and will instead compete under IC. On the ground, we have been reassured that this will result in minimal changes to the way that our teams play. We remain absolutely committed to retaining the identity of ICSM teams, and sincerely hope that ICU Council supports us to this effect. Specifically, we would like to request that the affected ICSM and IC clubs remain independent for at least the next 5 years.