



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

A note by ICSMSU President – Steve Tran

Union

The 16 other officers of ICSMSU Exec have been settling into their jobs over the summer and working hard getting ready for the start of term. There have been 3 meetings of the Executive Committee in this session.

Events

We held the Affirmation Ceremony on 6th July to celebrate the graduation of the Class of 2013 by reciting the Hippocratic Oath. This year we held the event at the luscious Champagne Suite of the Novotel London West. We managed to have over 850 graduating doctors and their parents in attendance. It was well received event, for which I spoke at with great trepidation. The feedback from those that attended was that the move was a good choice and the reception was superb, and we hope to book the same venue for next year.

We are about to embark on Freshers' Fortnight, and have had huge sales of Passports allowing event attendance for the week, we have sold over 210 so far. The Entertainments Team of ICSMSU Exec has been working tirelessly to bring together what should be an amazing two weeks to welcome the new intake. We are utilising a visa concept to confirm entrance into our event and all the first year keep telling us they're enjoying the novelty of them.

This year we are introducing many new events to cater for all our students, such as a Cinema Night in liaison with ICU Cinema and a formal School of Medicine Welcome Dinner. We have to thank our Faculty for working with us to organise an extravagant three course meal to welcome our students to key academic staff and their personal tutor groups. This is happening on the Thursday 17th October.

We have our Halfway Dinner meal coming up at the Royal Garden Hotel for which we have already reached our target and this is happening this coming Saturday. Pam Uppal and her committee have been working tirelessly to organise this as well as the pre-term Halfway Dinner Launch Party on the 27th September.

For the first time, Imperial are also hosting the fifth National MedSoc Committee Conference, which brings together Medical Societies from around the country together to share best practise and to meet with each other. The date for this is the 26/27th October.

Megan Mackenzie and her Shrove Tuesday Final Year Dinner Committee have done an amazing job in securing the Brewery (Barbican) as the venue for STFYD this year. We return to this exclusive venue to celebrate the end of the medical school for our final years before they embark on the finishing straight before their finals in March. This event will be taking place on November 2nd – for those who are observant, we have changed the date to ensure all our final years can go as Shrove Tuesday next year is in the middle of their exams.

Shop

We decided to trial using the online system for purchasing our Freshers' Passports as well as our merchandise. Both were very successful as we could track orders in real time!

Education and Representation

Exams results from last year seem to have gone better than normal as there were fewer cases of failures; especially in our final year, where we have introduced a resit option so that our graduating doctors don't miss out on their first jobs. We are going to review this change and tweak it to ensure it is the best for our students.

There was a lot of upset at an exam in third year that was brought forward to the Friday 3rd January 2014; however working with the exam team, we were able to push the exam back to the morning of Monday 6th January. We are very thankful for our department for listening to student feedback regarding this.

In July/August, our fifth and final years were all given a free iPad mini to use for their academic year. Many students have welcomed this and have also applauded the e-learning team for developing such a user-friendly system for delivering their course content. We have just last week been given wifi access within hospitals so students can use them on the go. In addition, all our online content for all years have been transferred to the new blackboard.

On Thursday 3rd October, the first years were privileged enough to have a talk from Dr Florence Chamberlain on how to get through the next 6 years as well as her fondest memories and life lessons she learnt at medical school.

Singapore

As the student medical president, I was lucky enough to be invited out to Singapore by the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine. I spoke to the students over there so that they had a flavour of what their new medical society could achieve. I was welcomed with opened arms and had chance to see their new curriculum in action. There are a lot of lessons to be learnt from our close partnership with the Singapore Medical School. We also attended the official LKCSM

A fine example of this was that this year the Faculty decided, in collaboration with us, to provide each first year undergraduate medical student and biomedical student with a free

branded lab coat and our first year even had a 'white coat ceremony' where the students made their pledge to the 'medical student oath'. We hope these new touches show our students the transition they are making from school to university and medical school.

Sites

A large amount of renovation has occurred across our sites over the summer. The biggest of these was at the Charing Cross campus. There has been a repaint and new flooring put in place in the basement. Outside, there is construction on a new bike shed due to finish in the next two weeks. The biggest change has been the Reynolds Bar.

The Reynolds Bar

The Reynolds Café/Bar area has undergone extensive work this summer. The College have invested over £330,000 into the space to improve it for all students under the guidance of a student survey in 2011 and direct input from last year's ICSMSU President, Shiv Vohra. The space looks brighter and fresher than before, with new comfy sofas and tables for use during the day. The bar itself has been completely redone with a new bar top and lighting. The tradition of our graduating doctors signing the Reynolds' wall/ceiling will be maintained. I have spoken to the Graduation team and we are planning to have plaques for our graduated doctors of 2013 to sign at their Graduation receptions, so that they can be the first year to be embodied on the Reynolds' signature wall.

The timescale for the works was very tight but we must thank everyone who was involved in delivering the refurbishment just in time for our first event. This includes our student bar managers, Matt Hutchins and Lena von Heimendahl.

Welfare

We successfully ran the third ever Intercalated Student buddy system where we paired a student who had just completed the BSc with a student intercalating from an external university. This was organised by ICSMSU Academic Officer for Year 4, Biomedical and Pharmacology, Lucinda Osbourn.

ICSMSU Welfare Officer, Sunila Prasad, has been working hard to assist those students who failed their re-sit exams and many have been granted their appeals. Sunila as well as Kristina Earle, Communications Officer, worked together to get our mums & dads system running smoothly.

Clubs and Societies

Paddy McGown, our Clubs & Societies Officer, successfully organised the SAF for all our medical clubs & societies at this year's Freshers Fayre. According to our club captains, this year has seen the highest intake of fresher members in a while. We hope this bodes well for the rest of the year.

A very successful Management Group Meeting was held for all ICSM Clubs and Societies with 85 club captains and treasurers attending to be informed about the new finance system and changes surrounding the BUCS merger.

ICSMSU Alumni & Careers Officer, David Thompson, has been working with Paddy on developing a successful system for student to set up their own specialties societies. Last year's A&C, Jac Cooper, has also started work on updating a careers guide for medical students from 5 years ago.

Miscellaneous

I met with Professor Higham, Vice Dean for the Faculty of Medicine, who reassured me regarding the issues surrounding Charing Cross A&E closure. We have the reassurance from her that students will be involved in every stage of discussions, if any of the upcoming changes have any impact on our medical school.

Yannis Reissis, our BMA Medical School Council Rep, and I attended a British Medical Association training day, where I was duly appointed as Deputy Chair for Welfare representing medical student nationally.