



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

A note by Alex Chippy Compton

Since October, the 17 other ICSMSU Executive Officers have done an incredible amount of work and we've managed to achieve a lot. Thank you to all the hard work of this year's committee- they have been a pleasure to work with and every one of them has made some very positive changes to the student experience. It's been a tumultuous year for the NHS and, closer to home, a hard year for ICSM. However it has highlighted the family spirit the medical school provides one another and I am continuously amazed by how our staff and students have worked to support each other.

Union

March saw the election of next year's ICSMSU Executive Committee with a voter turnout of 58.4% (the highest of any department at Imperial). We made several changes to our constitution and changed the remit of many roles to more accurately reflect our current provision. Our incoming committee are:

- **President:** Rhys Smith
- **Deputy President:** Syra Dhillon
- **Secretary & Communications Officer:** Lewis Rogers
- **Management Group Treasurer:** Rajiv Ark
- **Executive Treasurer:** Kathryn Chang
- **Sites & Services Officer:** Aiken Yam
- **Alumni & Careers Officer:** James Palmer
- **Welfare Chair:** Stephen Naulls
- **Clubs & Societies Officer:** Dan Faehndrich
- **Academic Officer (Clinical Years):** Saniya Mediratta
- **Academic Officer (BSc Year):** Ali Ijaz
- **Academic Officer (Early Years):** Laz Ranasinghe
- **Academic Officer (BMS):** Jordi Morwani
- **Entertainments Chair:** Shonnelly Novintan
- **Social Secretary:** Anchit Chandran
- **RAG Chair:** Dave Ariyanayagam
- **BMS Chair:** Michelle Meng

I wish the incoming committee the best of luck for the next academic year.

Education

We are now at a very exciting time educationally. October will see the first intake for our new BSc Medical Biosciences course which has removed the traditional didactic teaching and embraced new blended learning and flip classroom teaching methods. We are also undergoing a full curriculum review within Medicine which is likely to be a key focus over the next 18 months.

We've had 12 very successful Student Staff Liaison Groups this year. Having the ICSMSU President chair the meetings has allowed us to continue to excel in representing our students and some very positive changes have come out of these meetings. This year we have had over 50 reps who have all worked hard to provide the Faculty with constructive ideas based on student feedback.

In the Early Years we have worked with Faculty for the introduction of a new module. This now focusses on scientific skills and offers a mini-research project in departments across Imperial and the world! This will also flow better for students when they enter their BSc year. In the Clinical Years we have had some big wins with modules switching years to better reflect assessments. The introduction of a national Medical Licensing Assessment is on the horizon so our clinical teaching will see a big overhaul.

Welfare

This year we launched Medics of Imperial- a social media page aimed to break the stigma and taboo around mental illness. The campaign has been incredibly successful and was recognised as Campaign of the Year at the Union Awards.

We worked with the Faculty last summer to retrain many of our personal tutors this year on issues highlighted to us by students. There was a particular focus around supporting our LGBT community and students who choose to come out while at ICSM.

Continuing our work with LGBT, we collaborated with Mentality and submitted a proposal for curriculum changes to better educate our students about the health inequalities faced by the LGBT community. This was very well received and almost all our suggestions were implemented with immediate effect.

This year we have also worked on creating better guidance for senior volunteers around individual welfare concerns and incidents. This is ahead of the introduction of next year's wellbeing reps and will provide structure to their role. It will ensure that student volunteers are properly supported by our Faculty (and Imperial College Union) and know where to signpost students to.

Events

All of our events for the year have run smoothly. These included Snow Ball, Shrove Tuesday Final Year Dinner, Arts Dinner, RAG Week, RAG Fashion Show, Finals Week and Sports Dinner. We've worked to make our events more inclusive and appealing to all of our students. Our events have ranged from

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Freshers Fortnight and ICSM Down Under (previously Drs and Nurses) with over 1000 attendees to Shrove Tuesday Final Year Dinner which celebrated our graduating doctors.

RAG have raised over £10,000 for Meningitis Now and Community Action Nepal. The RAG committee have worked hard to offer a range of events and even collaborated with Imperial College RAG! Sports Dinner, which took place in May, saw ICSM Netball walk away with Club of the Year and ICSM Men's Hockey 1s with Team of the Year. We had over 200 students attend this event and celebrate a successful year in ICSM Sport.

This year we had to work with a new Final Year course structure and redesigned Finals Fortnight into Finals Week to reflect the new teaching structure. Our final years left for elective in April but we look forward to welcoming them back for ICSM Summer Ball and Affirmation in July. Due to high demand in the last few years, we have now moved Affirmation to Westminster Central Hall. Thanks to the increased capacity we now have over 1000 people attending the ceremony with two months left of ticket sales. Our Summer Ball committee are still hard at work to make sure these events run as smoothly as the rest of the year.

Faculty Collaboration

This year has seen us maintain a strong relationship with the Faculty of Medicine. We have expanded our collaboration with the Faculty outside Student Staff Liaison Groups for many of our events. The start of the year saw the ICSMSU-Faculty mingle which allows our Executive officers to meet our Faculty staff.

We had another successful RAG Auction where both students and Faculty, including Nas Andriopoulos, auctioned off a variety of prizes. The Early Years Faculty auctioned a gin tasting event which was a great success. I hope that events like these will continue next year and build even stronger relationships.

Clubs & Societies

This has been an incredibly successful year for our Clubs and Societies. Some of these were celebrated within ICSM at our annual Arts and Sports Dinners while other successes were celebrated within Imperial College Union at the Volunteer Dinner and Union Awards.

ICSM clubs and societies produced a strong set of budgets despite the clash with exams and have worked hard to gain sponsorship with some success (despite the difficulty of trying to gain sponsorship for medical societies). This year also saw the return of ICSM Clubs and Societies Photos the day after Sports Dinner. We hope these will provide students with a memory of a fantastic year.

ICSM Football narrowly lost out on the Varsity title but all our teams put up a strong performance throughout the day. The introduction of a showcase match was very well received and allowed us to highlight Netball- one of our more successful Varsity sports.

Sites & Services

This year has been very exciting as we welcomed our Freshers to the refurbished Reynolds Bar! It now has frequent trade throughout the week and has even started selling pizzas. This year has seen the SU step back from stewarding sports nights. This has been very well received by the officers and ensures a better continuity of service for our students.

We have also worked to improve our office space and the officers spent a lot of time over the summer making them more appropriate work spaces. This has resulted in more desk space and a better work environment. The office is used almost every day of the week now and has become a useful point of contact for students.

Alumni & Careers

After a few years of focussed engagement with our Alumni Association we are very proud to have been awarded the status of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. This is a big step for our Alumni Association and has marked the beginning of some new and great ideas. Not only does this give them anonymity from Imperial College (where the money has previously been held) but it's also provided the motivation to review the Association's current spending.

Working with the new trustees, we identified a gap in medical student funding and the Alumni are now launching 6 new extra-curricular based scholarships for 5th and final year medical students. We hope this will go some way to helping students in their final two years continue to contribute to the life of ICSM. The Association have also agreed to fund a small proportion of the sabbatical salary, with the potential to increase this in future years. We hope this will help us to relieve the burden on the Executive to make enough to fund our President.

St Mary's Hospital Association is also doing very well. They are continuing to support the student experience and have provided us with much guidance over the last year.

Miscellaneous

We are about to redesign our website after much input from our Executive officers. Hopefully this will bring better functionality and a more streamlined service for our students. This follows a redesign of our newsletter and improvement of our social media this year.

We teamed up with ICSM Gazette to produce the Freshers Handbook which was sent to all incoming students after results. The Alternative BSc Guide was, as usual, very popular and the Gazette has published another 2 jam packed issues this year as well as increasing their online content.

We now have a strategic 3 year plan and will have recommendations to go with this before we officially hand over to the incoming team. This was partly as a result of a successful Executive weekend away in January, in which we discussed our long term goals and looked to improve our provision in many areas. This aims to provide continuity in years to come and long term direction for our Students' Union.