



Imperial College School of Medicine Students' Union Council Report

December 2022

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Foreword

The ICSMSU committee has had great success in their first term in office. Across the board, all members have strived in their roles and I really appreciate the unified committee who work together to improve life for ICSM students.

What has most impressed this term is the range of ways in which the ICSMSU has been able to support students. From the organisation of annual events, to completely innovative ideas. From advocating for students & successfully lobbying the faculty to increasing the efficiency of our processes to support future committees. Whilst successes are often measured in large-scale change or completed manifesto goals, this is only a small part of holding a volunteer officer position. The efficient and smooth day-to-day running, such as quick response times and strong communication, is not a simple task. I would like to thank all of the members of the ICSMSU committee for their consistent hard work which creates our ICSM community.

Finally, ICSMSU currently has a very strong working relationship with the Faculty of Medicine. There is frequent bilateral communication and there is a real sense that we, as a students' union, have agency to make change to our programme. This has allowed us to not only have a voice in challenging our faculty but also work collaboratively on both academic and social ventures. I look forward to this relationship's continued success for the rest of this academic year and beyond.

Please have a look at our Instagram, [@icsmsu](#), for a short video highlighting what our streams have been up to this term.



ICSMSU Updates

Exec Update

The executive committee covers a wide range of roles within ICSMSU, which can be seen by what has been achieved since the last union council. Firstly, we are working with our two alumni associations to create one organisation (The Phoenix Fund). ICSMSU will work more closely with this charity, allowing for increased signups as students graduate, in turn leading to more financial support for ICSMSU students. We have created a scheme for final year MBBS students to have £10 off their yearbook by signing up to The Phoenix Fund and are in the process of making a new website for the organisation. We hope that all of this, alongside increased advertisement of The Phoenix Fund, will lead to increased membership.

Earlier in the term, I welcomed the president and education officer of the Lee Kong Chian Medical Society, our sister medical school in Singapore, to Imperial. We worked together as student leads of the Transform MedEd conference. As well as having the opportunity to discuss how we may work together going forward, the LKC MedSoc president and myself led a discussion on the issues facing students in medical education. We then presented these to the conference in the closing remarks – it was overall a great example of transnational student collaboration.

Elsewhere, we held another day of in-person merchandise sales, selling more than £1000 worth of stash. Alongside the Reynolds bar refurbishment, we are working with faculty to refurbish a new student space in the Hammersmith Hospital campus and we have initiated a project on upgrading the students' social spaces in SAF in South Kensington and Reynolds in Hammersmith.

Increasing communication has always been an aim for this year and as such we have re-started weekly newsletters to all of our students. Having audited the email addresses on our mailing list and updating them, we have consistently strong open rate and click rate on these newsletters and provide many external and internal opportunities to our students. On top of this, we have started a new 'Welfare Updates' section of the newsletter. To increase collaboration and communication within the ICSMSU committee, we also now have a monthly internal newsletter.

Our BMB president has been increasing the activity and engagement of BMB soc, such as working with the Bio-soc to host the QuadBio club night, organising a BMB Christmas dinner and creating a new internship talk.

Finally, in terms of finances, we have created a new Student Experience Fund with money raised from sponsorship. This will allow for initiating long-term projects which would otherwise have not been possible due to the financial barrier. Our executive treasurer also worked with the welfare stream to host a Financial Advice talk with sponsors Wesleyan for our 5th & 6th year MBBS students to support them when working as doctors.

Entertainments & Clubs & Socs Update

Our entertainments stream held the ICSM Freshers' Fortnight earlier this term and since we have had two debriefs to help improve this massive organisational challenge for future years. We also hosted our first Christmas week since 2019, with two ICSMSU-run events and a total of more than 500 attendees. Our RAG chair has also held three events so far,, raising £3000. However, most of this term's work for RAG has been preparing for some of the largest events in the ICSM calendar; RAG week and Fashion Show, both held in term 2.

In terms of Reynolds, we have been working with ICU to improve student experience at Reynolds. We were able to show some World Cup games and have supported our CSPs in hosting events in Reynolds, known as bops. The events team has started working on a new event to mark the end of final year MBBS students' Pre-Foundation Apprenticeship, a new component of the MBBS programme.

Our clubs and societies team have been working with an alumni association, St Mary's Hospital Association (SMHA), to allocate grant to our societies by application via both the SMHA grant (for sports & arts societies) and the St Mary's Development Trust grant (for volunteering and academic societies). Alongside this, our management group treasurer has consistently been supporting more than 70 ICSMSU societies financially throughout the term. I would like to thank both Sean, management group treasurer, and Hafsa, executive treasurer, for their speedy response times to claims, purchase orders and more. Having full approvals from ICSMSU within 24 hours greatly helps our students in getting payments through and making claims.

This term, a new clubs & societies event was held – a volunteering & academics awards evening. This black tie event was held in Metric and had extremely accessible pricing of £10. The evening was a huge success, with two inspirational speakers and an array of awards. The organisation of not only the event but a whole new awards policy was enormous – many thanks to the hard work of our vice chair (volunteering & academics), Olivia.

Finally, to increase engagement with ICSMSU clubs and societies, there have been many takeovers of the ICSMSU Clubs & Socs Instagram account from our societies. This Instagram account is a great way of advertising what is happening within our societies, with daily stories reposting what is coming up.

Academics & Welfare Update

In academics, we have been working to improve the efficiency of Student-Staff Liaison Groups (SSLGs). In previous years they have been known to run up to four hours over! This year, our academics & welfare teams have been working with their reps to hold pre-SSLG meetings with specific members of staff. This has allowed for more efficiency during the SSLGs, where many items can be mentioned to note. Since the last Union Council, we have hosted four SSLGs. Other than one which was ten minutes over, all meetings were within the time and much more productive due to the pre-SSLG meetings.

ICSM has dozens of academic societies who run tutorials throughout the year for students of all year groups. With changing patterns of social media use, it has become difficult to advertise these tutorials. Student-run academic tutorial teams channels have been set up, which each society uses. This allows for centralized meeting links as well as recording automatically being uploaded in one place. On top of this, many academic societies have practical exam tutoring schemes. To ensure equal access for students, the ICSMSU academics team have centralized tutoring for two exams (CPA and OSCE), for a combined 950 signups!

On top of this, we have been updating our student notebank, particularly expanding the early years' notes as they have an updated curriculum. Notes from 24 different students in year one and year two have been uploaded to be accessible by all ICSM students, furthering our mission for peer-to-peer medical education.

When a module for year 5 MBBS (pathology) was changed to a completely in-person format, the academics and welfare chairs worked together to survey students and collated data to take to the faculty. We highlighted the welfare concerns of the change and the benefits of flexibility and successfully lobbied the faculty to create hybrid online & in-person teaching.

Moving to welfare, there has been a focus this year on increasing accessibility of welfare support and reporting. This has led to increased support to both individual students and clubs and societies, particularly in signposting and escalation to college and ICU levels. On top of this, the ICSMSU welfare chair now has a regular catch up with the FEO welfare team to ensure that students and faculty work together to support students in the most effective way. This allows for improved communication as both organisations use their own channels to disseminate each other's information. Further, the BSc Medical Biosciences (BMB) team and welfare team worked to hold a focus group on Equality, Diversity & Inclusivity (EDI) in the BMB course. This was

presented to the undergraduate EDI forum by the BMB president and we look to hold a similar review for the MBBS programme next term. The BMB team also hosted a new internship event for second years to support students' worries about life after university and allow for networking opportunities.



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR FANTASTIC VOLUNTEERS. YOU REGULARLY GO ABOVE AND BEYOND TO FAR EXCEED THE EXPECTED DUTIES OF A VOLUNTEER.

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