

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

*A note by the ICSMSU President Mark Chamberlain*

### **Union**

The year has started off very well for ICSMSU. The new Executive of 16 students have all settled and together we have started to push the Faculty Union onwards and upwards. As well as the 16 voting members of the exec, we have two new non-voting positions in attendance, the Reynolds Bar Manager and the chair of the Biomedical Sciences departmental society. So far in this session there have been 6 meetings of the ICSMSU Executive. On the 29<sup>th</sup> September the Executive had an informal meeting with the staff and academics from the Medical School to serve as an ice-breaker and a chance to get to know our counterparts from the college side.

This year we have obtained an increase in total funding received by ICSMSU. The Faculty are giving us a grant of £21,000, Hammersmith Hospital Charitable Trust £43,000 and £5,000 from St Marys Association, in addition to the £64,000 received from ICU.

An exciting development this year is the opening of the new merchandise shop in the office formally occupied by Life Sciences Union in the SAF Building. Between this and the online store, we took over £6,000 in merchandise sales in the first week alone. Another development is the creation of a medical careers advisory post within the School of Medicine, associated with an annual £30,000 fund to support education events for the students.

We are about to start a review of the current 5 year plan of ICSMSU, with a view to develop our new strategy for the upcoming 20 years.

My diary has been pretty full of meetings, both Union, Faculty and external, in the build-up to the arrival of the new students. I've been heavily involved with the design and planning of the refurbishment of the medical library on the St Mary's campus, as well as attending introductory days in September for our new TVU pre-med students, Oxbridge transfer students, TMDU exchange students and intercalating students from other medical schools.

I have also been fortunate enough to award 2 Honorary Life Memberships over the summer – the first went to Professor Kennard, who was Dean of the Charing Cross Campus and license holder for the Reynolds Bar for over 10 years, and the second to Sam Armstrong, who left the UMO after a year of work in Student Services.

### **Events**

Summer has been very busy for us from a social side. August 2<sup>nd</sup> brought with it the Affirmation Ceremony for new Doctors, where over 200 of our graduated took the Hippocratic Oath in the Great Hall, followed by a reception on the Queens Lawn.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Halfway Dinner was held on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September at Sugar Reef for the new 4<sup>th</sup> years and Oxbridge transfer students to celebrate reaching the half-way point of their undergraduate training. Our Faculty Outreach day, 'Vision' was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September, with over 200 year 12 students attending to get a taste for what life as a medical student is like. This was complemented by an open day for prospective students a few weeks earlier.

The Reynolds bar re-opened on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September, and the first Clubs and Society Bop night was hosted by the Athletics Club on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October, where they raised over £1500 for their clubs funds.

We are currently in the middle of our fortnight of events to welcome the new students to the Faculty. We have seen record attendance to these events, as reflected in the brilliant trading figures from the Reynolds Bar and ticket sales. Fun was had by all at the Roadshow. We conclude with our Freshers' Ball on Thursday at Café de Paris. A massive thank you has to go to Jovan Nedic and Alex McKee for their much appreciated help with our handbook and publicity materials.

### **Education**

The core of my work to date has been with the regular Faculty education meetings which I attend. I've been involved with governance and monitoring visits to some of our district general hospitals, as well as a full-scale review of the current undergraduate curriculum. Along with the Academic Officers, I have attended Education Sub-Committees for all 6 years of the course, along with Biomedical Sciences, Graduate Entry and Foundation School management meetings, DSC and admissions meetings, and am in the process of starting off the Staff-Student Liaison group meetings.

We have just had the first ever intake to our fast track 4 year graduate medicine course, and despite the challenges this presents to us in terms of representation and needs, everything is currently going well with our aims to help these students integrate into the medical school.

Today sees the opening of the UKFP for final-year students to be placed into jobs for the 2009 season. Last year saw ICSM hugely disadvantaged compared to the rest of the country, and we have been working hard to ensure this does not happen again this year. We have put on 3 briefing sessions for students about the process and the form, as well as having 2 students involved with the publication of 'Quack' – a free guide for every student about the Foundation schools and jobs as an FY01.

Finally, we have secured sole use for the students of a common-room in the newly refurbished Wolfson building on the Hammersmith campus, to replace our old common-room which we lost last year.

### **Welfare**

The start of the academic year was sadly marred by the tragic death of a 4<sup>th</sup> year student. Jeevan Sivalingam was killed in Croydon on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September. He was a very active member of many clubs and societies, and will be sadly missed by a great many. We are currently working on a permanent memorial to his memory.

Much of my time in July and September was taken up with helping students who had failed resit examination attempt in writing appeal against withdrawal. On the whole Kathryn Wright and I have been largely successful in gaining students another attempt, which is testament to the great deal of work that was put in by the welfare team, and thanks have to be extended to Nigel Cooke and Hannah Theodorou for their indispensable advice. I also continue to sit on the Hammersmith Ward Panel committee, representing our students to the local police.

### **Bar**

I would like to welcome the two new managers of the Reynolds Bar into their posts, as well as the new Campus Dean Professor Taylor, and our new DPS Francesco Atonasio. I look forwards to working with all of you over the coming year.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October we had the first Reynolds Bar Steering Group meeting, with representatives from security, estates, ICU trading, ICU management, ICSMSU Exec and the bar staff. This was a very productive meeting and I look forwards to implementing the agreed changes to help support the operations of the bar. Prior to this, we held the 1<sup>st</sup> Residents Meeting of the academic year for residents around the bar to come and raise any issues that they might have – unfortunately this was very poorly attended with no residents turning up.

We have just completed a large refurbishment in the common-room, marking the end of our planned 4 year phased over-haul of the entire facility, involving new fixed seating and an upgrade to the dance floor lighting equipment, which has meant that we have been able to stage some great bops so far this year.

### **Representation**

In my role as one of the BMA reps for the University, I attended a training day with Najette on the 11<sup>th</sup> September. I have also attended several events with the GMC on the future of undergraduate medical training and the standard that are expected of students. I also sit on ULU Medgroup, a pan-London committee of the presidents of all 5 medical schools, which serves to allow us to share best-practice and seek advice on issues affecting London students especially.

### **Clubs and Societies**

We have had 1 new club join us since the end of last year. I wish to extend our welcome to the Asian Medical Students Association and wish them every luck with the new club this year.

Our clubs captains, secretaries and treasurers were invited to the 1<sup>st</sup> Clubs and Societies Executive meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September which was very well attended, where we provided clubs with our own information packs full of advice for the upcoming year.

### **Alumni**

We have been working hard over the Summer to develop our Alumni association even more. Last year saw over 60% of our graduates sign up which is a great improvement of previous years. Thanks have to go to Najette for her help at the IC Alumni Reunion on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September at St Marys Hospital. We also held the Alumni AGM on the 18<sup>th</sup> September which was well attended and provided us with a great many ideas to pursue.