



**Imperial College School of  
Medicine Students' Union  
Council Report**

November 2021

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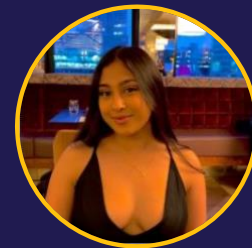
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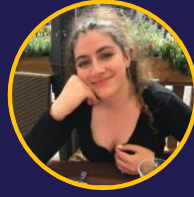
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## Foreword

This year, taking on the ICSMSU President role has afforded me much-needed insight into the day-day processes of our SU. Building on what we've experienced so far this academic year, it's clear to me that the priority is to focus on making our SU processes as robust as possible, whilst streamlining them and changing some outdated processes. Similarly, the documentation and recording of our processes is sometimes lacking, which can lead to situations where not everyone is sure of what to do next or how to proceed. I believe it's fundamental that all of our members are on the same page and same level of understanding regarding how the union works and how to carry out their roles, and so, this is something I will equally be focusing on throughout the year.

Most importantly, this year has seen a return to on-campus teaching and in-person events which has been much-needed for students. With this in mind, part of our focus is a return to providing the best possible student experience, which is already well underway with our Freshers' fortnight having just wrapped up alongside our ICSM Halfway Dinner. These key events represent an important aspect of life at ICSM and delivering the very best for students is always our priority.

Finally, building on from last year's progress with student feedback and consultation, we have rolled out feedback boards to all year groups at ICSM in the hope that students' voices are heard more than ever before and we can advocate on their behalf to deliver the changes that are needed, feedback on where things could be improved and ensure decisions made about us, are not made without us.



Fig 1. A sneak peak at some of our ICSMSU Members

## Stream Updates

### ICSMSU Executive

The Executive team consists of a Deputy President (Adrija), BMB society President (Nitya), Executive Treasurer (Aryan), Secretary & Communications Officer (Sahil), Sites & Services Officer (Haider) and President (Sam).

Adrija, our Deputy President, has been hard at work arranging 1:1 meetings with each of our SU to discuss their plans for the year, how best to achieve these goals and how the exec team can help facilitate this. We've also managed to deliver Active Bystander and Welfare training to all of our SU as well as any CSP club captain that was available at the time of training. Welfare issues can be very widespread and giving each SU member the vital knowledge of how to deal with these issues and where to signpost them is essential. We also wanted to roll the training out to club captains in part to further help students with welfare but also to address the underlying club culture that can sometimes, unfortunately, lead to welfare concerns. Our ICSMSU believes club captains to be in a great position to champion these best practices and set the culture of their club from the beginning of the year. Our SU will continue to meet once monthly (alongside all the usual day-day communication) to reflect on the past month, discuss upcoming plans for the next month and address any issues that have arisen.

Nitya, in her capacity as BMB society president, plans to expand her committee with an additional social secretary to further increase the events for BMB students specifically. It's an area where ICSMSU could definitely improve and we've struggled with BMB student engagement for a number of years. Increasing the collaboration between ICSMSU and BMB society over the coming year will aim to address this. We want to make it clear to BMB students there are 100% a part of our ICSMSU and should feel free to engage with us whenever they need.

Aryan has used his role to secure a number of sponsors for our SU alongside doing the usual eActivities administration. He has managed to successfully coordinate several external stalls for the ICSMSU Welcome day and Freshers' fair. We are currently working on an inspirational morning set to take place in early November, for our Phase 1a students, on what it means to be a doctor and getting the most out of medical school. Aryan will be key in helping to organise sponsorship talks alongside some esteemed guest speakers.

Sahil has been getting to grips with how the website is run alongside creating social media posts – we're currently in the process of making a submission form for our SU to provide Sahil with details of posts for social media with a clear goal of posting a set number of times per week. We've moved all of our external opportunities to the website as the links often result in the newsletter reaching everyone's SPAM filter and going nowhere else. We've also discussed the need to centralise SU information and channel all of it through the website as not every student uses social media. This has resulted in some disconnect when communications do go out so we're keen to get this fixed and make sure that any and all ICSM info is available on the website.

Haider has had the enormous task of sorting through and stock checking all of our ICSMSU branded merchandise (and believe me, there's a lot that we've acquired over the years). This is in

the hope of setting up a clear system for selling merchandise. He will be taking orders throughout the year with a monthly collection date for students – unfortunately, posting merchandise is beyond the budget and capacity of our SU currently.

## **ICSMSU Academics**

Our academics team consists of Academic Chair (Julia), Academic Officer for Clinical Years (Rebecca), Academic Officer for BSc (Roshni), Academic Officer for BMB (Cris) and Academic Officer for early years (Rayyan).

On the back of the NSS results, our academic teams have put together an SU response with recommendations. The response highlights the need for proper student consultation on large-scale decisions (for example, the sale of St. Mary's). Moreover, student feedback showed the need for clearer and more frequent communication with students on upcoming changes. Students felt that when information was communicated, it was often unclear or very late. In particular, students brought attention to the need for better communication on issues such as sexual assault with the need for faculty to communicate what actions they'd taken in addressing these issues. Furthermore, our academics team recommended that faculty address the discrepancies students experience when at different hospital sites such as differences in the level and quality of teaching they received. This NSS response was taken to the most recent Staff-Student Liaison Group (SSLG) and communicated to faculty for them to action several of the recommendations. Finally, the NSS response allowed the team to identify that students felt welfare support was well signposted but unfortunately, even if contacting the right people, the actual support received was sometimes below what was advertised. Equally, students felt that sometimes their welfare concerns weren't understood or could be met with apathy. This was of concern to our SU and something we highlighted very clearly as an issue that would need addressing.

As our new students joined us and existing students moved into their new year, members of our academics team were able to give welcome talks during the induction weeks on how to get the most out of medical school. We used these talks as an opportunity to highlight the resources available to students, what our SU is all about and how to approach their upcoming year at medical school. We also ran a 2 hour Q&A for the Phase 1a students which received amazing feedback and it was great to see loads of students engaging with us, even in their first few weeks at Medical school.

As mentioned previously, the feedback boards have been a triumph with lots of student engagement. The ability to display day-day feedback and queries has meant students are much more aware of what's happening within ICSM as well as getting faster, more efficient feedback to their queries. The boards will also add some much-needed structure to our SSLGs. The smaller, granular issues can be addressed using the feedback boards and once monthly meetings between heads of years and the academics team & year reps. This will open up SSLGs and allow us more time to focus on the big picture issues students are facing.

Our next big goal for academics is to begin preparations for our centralised mock exams which provides students with a vital opportunity to practice their skills and what they've learnt before they take on the real exams.



Year rep elections have been carried out, and at the time of writing, we are just waiting for the latest results. Once we have our reps, we hope to coordinate a training day with ICU as well as a meeting to discuss the use of these feedback boards and how to approach SSLGs to get the most out of them.

## **ICSMSU Ents**

Our Ents team consists of the Ents Chair (Aoife), Social Secretary (Maya) and our ICSMSU RAG chair (Renée).

Our Freshers' fortnight was a much needed return to form and the team did an amazing job of delivering a fun-packed two weeks. Our theme this year was 'Indiana Bones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Phoenix' which was accompanied by a Freshers' intro video. The video provided a fun look at our SU members and meant we all had wanted to dance to 'Low' by Flo Rida, which, of course, was enjoyed by all 100% with no issues.

We hosted our iconic events such as The Reynolds Show, Boat Party and the Fulham Palace Run and sold more tickets than we've ever sold for some of these events (such as the FPR afterparty in Heaven nightclub). We did face some issues along the way and it's served as an excellent learning opportunity to improve further on our future events and for Freshers 2022. One of the biggest issues we faced was delivering these in-person events with COVID-19 safety in mind. Where possible, we used social distancing and facemasks as a safety tool and even had multiple sittings for our Fresher dinner to maintain social distancing.

Our SU were key in stewarding at these events and the fast pace and demanding nature of it all has led to a great team-bonding experience and we're all the better for it. Our SU also wanted to thank the amazing hard-work done by our Fresher buddies, who were also on hand to help with the events and ensure Freshers' were mingling and meeting as many new people as possible.

Now the team is hard at work planning a number of events for the current Phase 1b (year 2) students as they missed out on an in-person Freshers'. We fully acknowledge that this cohort will possibly be feeling a little left out and isolated from ICSM considering the past 18 months.

We are incredibly grateful to our faculty for funding the Freshers' passport bursary. This scheme allowed us to award 68 students, from widening participation and lower household income bands, with a completely subsidised passport granting them entry to all the events. This scheme was hugely successful and the possibility of expanding it to include other events in the future is something our SU are keen to work on and deliver. Life at ICSM and in London can be immensely expensive for our students and creating schemes to lower this financial burden is of the utmost importance.

Renée had a successful RAG day during Freshers' and has had great engagement with the new students. Her committee have all bonded exceptionally well and are now working on the Masquerade Ball which will raise money for their chosen charities. This year the charities being supported are 'Hope for Children' which is an international charity working to deliver education,

healthcare, child rights projects and livelihoods to thousands of children per year. 'Anthony Nolan' is a charity dedicated to saving the lives of people with blood cancer and blood disorders, and thanks to their efforts and support from funders and organisations such as ICSM RAG, 3 people a day are now given a second chance at life through donor recruitment.

## **ICSMSU Welfare**

Our welfare team consists of Welfare Chair (Camellia aka. Cammy), Vice chair for campaigns (Jabed), Vice Chair for Wellbeing Representation (Phillipa) and Wellbeing Officer for BMB (Sophya).

Sophya's role is new this year and will help to increase coordination and welfare support for BMB students in particular. Cammy was elected into her position much later than the rest of our SU but has already done a fantastic job at coordinating with ICU welfare to work on issues such as increasing support in cases of harassment. She and I will also be looking to make a combined effort on creating/updating policies on dealing with these incidents as well as our approach to dealing with more general incidents within CSPs. Phillipa delivered her welfare report at our recent SSLG highlighting some of the worries and concerns our students are facing. The feedback was well-received and actioned by faculty and included the need for more notice regarding placement allocations, clearer communication on examinations and the subsequent release of exam results and exam averages.

The team and in particular, Jabed, are now moving on to launch welfare campaigns using social media to bring awareness to some welfare related issues. The first campaign will be bringing awareness to Drink Spiking on the back of the national surge in reported incidents. We want our students to feel safe at whatever event they're attending and, moving forwards, we will be making it good practice to ensure that venues we hire are taking measures to mitigate these problems, such as ensuring staff are trained on how to deal with this type of incident.

The welfare team have already highlighted to faculty the need to communicate the outcomes of these incidents. Students lack faith in the welfare support systems when they don't see or hear about how the incidents were dealt with. We hope by releasing the anonymised outcomes, students will see that they are being listened to and that they will be supported when these unfortunate incidents occur and are reported.

## **ICSMSU Clubs & Societies**

Our Clubs and Societies team consists of the Clubs and Socs Chair (Pedro), Vice chair for Sports & Arts (Nick), Vice Chair for Volunteering and Academics (Nia) and a Management Group Treasurer.

Firstly, we want to thank Lauren, our management group treasurer. Lauren has been a vital member of the SU and we really want to thank her for all the hard work she has put into the role for the past two months, dealing with eActivities and answering individual financial queries. Lauren has resigned from her position which is a stance our SU fully supports. We will be looking to elect a new MGT as soon as possible via an online EGM. We will soon be formally announcing this on the back of this November council meeting.

The team has been incredibly self-sufficient this term, working tirelessly to support our 60+ strong ICMSU clubs and societies. They've hosted a Freshtival day during Freshers' to get students acquainted and engaged with the sports clubs through a variety of fun challenges on the day. They were on hand to support the clubs and socs stalls at Freshers' fair and some of our clubs have seen record numbers of sign-ups (just see ICSM Badminton if you don't believe me). Using our social media (@icsmsclubssocs), we've been able to run takeovers for clubs to talk about what their clubs are all about and what they get up to throughout the year. Clubs and socs events will continue to be promoted via our social media channels and the clubs and societies section of our SU newsletter.



**THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR FANTASTIC VOLUNTEERS. YOU REGULARLY GO ABOVE AND BEYOND TO FAR EXCEED THE EXPECTED DUTIES OF A VOLUNTEER, AND EVERYONE IS VERY GRATEFUL THAT YOU ALL WORK TIRELESSLY TO IMPROVE THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE OF ALL THOSE WITHIN OUR ICSM COMMUNITY.**

Our Social Media:



[www.icsmsu.com](http://www.icsmsu.com)



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