

UCLMS Student EDI Newsletter



Welcome to the first EDI Newsletter! Firstly, thank you very much for signing up to hear about the exciting projects we have been doing.

A little about us: EDI stands for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and we are a team of students from the medical school working alongside an equivalent staff group to make UCLMS a better place for all. We are made up of subgroups who focus on different aspects, you can read more about what each group has been doing below.

Race, Ethnicity & Heritage

At the beginning of the year, the Race and Ethnicity Student Subgroup ran introductory sessions and a safe space discussion for Black students to welcome them to UCLMS. Throughout the year, they have continued to advise the medical school, hold them accountable for change and build relationships with those pursuing racial equity in medicine.

The subgroup has also been working on a student-led research project that aims to explore the attainment and lived experiences of Black students at UCLMS, as well as attitudes towards racism amongst medical students and alumni. They have managed to secure funding from the BAME Awarding Gap fund and UCL ChangeMakers, and are currently in the process of finalising the research methods for this project. Recently, the subgroup wrote a Letter to the Editor for the NEJM in response to an article published about racial bias in pulse oximetry measurement and are currently awaiting a decision.

Working with the Decolonising the Curriculum team, the subgroup has been involved in conversations with Senior Leadership Team to increase diversity and representation within lecture content. The subgroup have also been involved in raising awareness about a fund formed specifically for Black male medical students at UCLMS.

Faith & Religion

Welcome all! Everyone here at the EDI Faith team are proud to represent all students of a faith background at UCLMS. So far our team have been working on some exciting ideas including identifying areas in the UCLMS curriculum where religious and faith awareness and education could take place. As well as this, we are working on producing guidance to support students when navigating clinical dress codes during placements. Keep following this newsletter to stay up to date with our work! Should you have any specific faith related concerns we're here to help, so please reach out to us at: medsch.studentedi@ucl.ac.uk



EMAIL

medsch.studentedi@ucl.ac.uk

WEB

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/medical-school/about-medical-school/equality-diversity-inclusion>

INSTAGRAM

[@uclms_edi](https://www.instagram.com/uclms_edi)



Disability & Mental Health

Welcome! This year, the D&MH subgroup has grown in size and with that have come some exciting new ideas for developing our group. Here are some of the things we have been involved with:

- D&MH Network: we have set up a disability and mental health network to bring together medical students who want to learn more about these issues or are personally affected by them. We want to create a space where students feel comfortable to discuss important issues that relate to their learning or broader life. Please join the Facebook group here to get involved: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/3524944200928902>.
- A Doctor's Experience of Disability: our first event with a doctor talking about working with a disability is in the pipeline - watch this space.
- Student Support survey: we have set up a survey to gain better understanding of how students feel about the student support at UCLMS. This is an area we are very interested to learn more about to make the experience better for all students.
- Moodle Page: along with members from other subgroups, we are working to make our own Moodle page with resources for students to access.

Gender Equality

This term, the EDI's Gender Equality group has been focussed on creating a book and blog which will demonstrate why gender needs to be considered in medicine. We'll be working on this project for a while longer, but we've made a lot of progress already! At the start of term, we managed to get funding from UCL's Changemakers grant so that we could get the project underway. Since then the team has started working on a number of different essays, ranging on topics from gender difference in autism to the relationship between gender and pain. We'll be releasing these essays in a pdf handbook in the summer, and also making a website. This is something that we hope will continue to grow over the next few years, but, for the moment, we want it to serve as a blog where we continue to publish work (written by anyone who wants to contribute!) on the importance of considering gender in medicine.



LGBTQ+

Student EDI LGBTQ+ subgroup has had a busy few months since the committee for this academic year was established. Along with being in close contact with the staff subgroup of the EDI LGBTQ+ subgroup, we have been up to a number of projects autonomously.

- Successfully developed our very own EDI LGBTQ+ Commitment Charter which outlines who we are, what we stand for and what we are working towards. This is something we will continue to update and use in the future- a commitment we make to ourselves and the EDI Committee.
- Working together on a 'ChangeMakers' project titled 'Raising awareness of Microaggressions' with the aim of designing and disseminating posters around UCL Medical School and its partner hospitals. We have successfully recruited a graphic designer from SLADE to help design the posters and are currently in the process of producing five posters regarding microaggressions and its impact, relating to the subgroups of the EDI: LGBTQ+, Race, Ethnicity and Heritage, Disability and Mental Health, Gender Equality, Faith and Religion.
- Discussing the potential for a Moodle page to represent EDI at UCL Medical School. This is still in the works but along with various members of the Student EDI Committee, we are looking towards making an inclusive platform for all students to access. The Moodle Page will be used to promote the EDI and provide a multitude of resources to students whenever necessary.
- Helping to improve the 'Raising Concerns' platform, by partaking in focus discussions with the Quality Assurance team at UCLMS.

We are looking towards future projects, including introducing concepts of gender identity and trans health awareness into the medical school curriculum to pre-clinical students. We have been discussing how to incorporate this into modules such as Endocrine Systems and Reproduction through CPP etc.

We are also excited by the prospect of applying for future ChangeMakers grants, in order to make UCLMS more equal, diverse and inclusive for all.

Thank you for taking the time to read about our projects. We always welcome new ideas so please get in touch and keep an eye out for future updates.

The more people know about what we do, the more we can do to support them so please forward to friends and encourage others to sign of to our updates here:

<https://forms.gle/mnJuCgzUXbnnVoHA6>



From your Student EDI Team

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INSTAGRAM

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