

National Committee Applicants 2008-09

April 2008 Medsin-UK

Voting

Voting will then take place using a form of the Single Transferable Vote system at the SGA in Leeds on 26-27th April 2008.

If someone has applied for more than one position, and are not elected in category A, then their candidature will still stand for category B. If they are not elected here then their candidature will go on to category C. It is thought that this is a fairer way of running elections, so as not to discourage competition for the positions of president and vice-presidents.

CATEGORY A

President:

1 Applicant, Helen Preston:

Experience

Starting with involvement in a local project in 2005, I soon became an active member of the Manchester committee.

At the beginning of 2006 I was selected as the Event team leader for the Organising Committee of the UK August Meeting of the IFMSA. Spending 18 months working on this conference not only furthered my leadership and team working skills but also gave me a valuable insight into the workings of Medsin and the IFMSA. Attending three IFMSA conferences has increased my awareness of our international partners and highlighted to me ways in which we can utilise our relationship effectively.

Since being elected as Vice President for Branches 2007-2008 I have worked closely with both the National Committee and the local Branch Presidents, aiming to strengthen the relationship between National and local Medsin.

In addition, I have become involved with GHAP's defend our primary health care campaign, giving me broader experience in the campaigning aspect of the network.

With these experiences, combined with my passion for this organisation, I am certain that I will be able to lead the National Committee, and continue the success of the last few years.

Ideas for next year

I believe that next year we have the potential to make important changes within Medsin. This year we have considered many ideas that will have a positive impact on the network, including name change, membership and structure changes. Should I be elected, next year will be a time for turning these discussions into action, allowing the network to progress into the professional organisation that it strives to be. I will do this by:

Increasing input from the network on important issues by prioritising the organisation of the branch presidents meeting, activities board meeting and campaigns days.

Improving and allowing more time for small working groups at GAs and ensuring clear outcomes from every meeting.

Working closely with the VPE and treasurer to create an action plan as to how we can secure sustainable funding for the network

Ensuring that the National Committee are well supported and are working efficiently as a team

Continuing to build on Medsin's relationship with the IFMSA and encouraging their development as an effective International Global Health network

Working with our external partners to strengthen the network and continue to build our reputation

Motivation

My experience in Medsin so far has been character building, educational and extremely enjoyable. I have realised the potential that Medsin has to become a respected Global Health network that is recognised by every medical student in the UK. It has already become one of the strongest student organisations in the country, and it is essential we continue to spread awareness of Global Health, helping to create future doctors who understand the wider issues surrounding medicine.

I feel that I have much more to give to the network and I believe that I have the motivation and enthusiasm to be a successful president. I know that this will be the most challenging year of my life so far. However, if given the opportunity, I will put all my energy into carrying forward old and new ideas to ensure that 2008-2009 is a memorable and successful year for Medsin UK.

CATEGORY B

Vice President for Branches

3 Applicants: Hayley Boyce, Erica Pool and Rafi Rogans-Watson

Hayley Boyce

If my best friend had just one word to describe me it would be dedicated. Given the opportunity to become VP Branches, this is just one of the attributes I would bring to the role.

I am currently in my third year at Newcastle and over this time I have been involved in Medsin on various levels. I started out on my local Marrow committee before being part of the organising committee for GHC07 and for UKAM, the IFMSA Conference held in Canterbury last August. Being part of the OC was hard work, not just late nights and early mornings throughout the conference but also the year long process of meetings and organisation that went into it. This experience makes me feel I am capable of balancing being part of national committee with university and other commitments.

For the last year I have been president of Medsin Newcastle, a large and active branch. During the year I have overseen the growth of Medsin beyond Medical Students, organised multiple events and also been involved in several campaigns in conjunction with Newcastle University Union. I have instigated the introduction of global health books into our library and am monitoring the progress of a global health curriculum. Being branch president has allowed me to see Medsin at its grass roots level and through the role of VPB I hope to share my experiences.

I have long been interested in becoming part of the National Committee after seeing how previous committees have worked together and how much fun they seem to have! I have taken time to observe the skills and commitment involved and gain experience so that I will be able to productively contribute to the role.

If elected I will strive to continue the good work done so far, not only previous VPB but also the whole national committee. I intend to increase peer support and sustainability by bring greater coherence and encouraging regular communication between branches within each region. By using the branch president's mailing list, I would like to encourage the sharing of ideas and discussion on

topics such as membership between all branches. Whilst doing all of this I aim to respect branch autonomy and understand that what works for one branch will not always work for another. I plan to work both as a team and individually with all of the national committee, helping them share information with and gather input from branches, increasing participation and opportunities for local branch members to play an active role in the network. I especially intend to work closely with VP Projects to think of ways branches can better liaise with and support the projects running at their university – something I recognise to be a common problem.

Medsin regularly excites and inspires me, especially when the network comes together at the National Conference and GHC and I have the opportunity to be surrounded by like minded people with a similar passion for global health.

In conclusion, a simple girl, from simple beginnings wishing to take her first steps in changing the world of global health (well maybe!).

Erica Pool

Being VPB....

I believe that strong, effective branches are a vital part of Medsin and want to work to make them stronger.

I would really enjoy working closely with local branches as well as having input into the National Committee, including providing support for the President.

I would look to continue the great work that Helen has put in and hold a Branch Presidents meeting at every national event as well as during the year.

I have found these meetings really valuable in sharing ideas and solving problems together. I've especially enjoyed the opportunity to form friendships with other Branch Presidents. I would expand this through the creation of a BP-forum where BP's can chat and help each other throughout the year. Through this, and telephone calls, I would also increase the level of contact between the National Committee and Branches.

My Experience

I became aware of the Medsin network when I attended the National Conference in Bristol. I returned to Yorkshire buzzing with enthusiasm and immediately set up a branch of Who4WHO Campaign and started my Medsin life!

I have experience at a local level – having been Branch President, volunteered for local Projects and worked on Campaign committees. I have interacted with the Head of the School of Medicine and LUU Union Council and so can advise and support branches in doing the same. I've worked hard at forming a strong relationship with our Medact branch and would encourage Branches to interact with external organisations at a local level, possibly working with VPE.

I have experience at a national level – having attended Branch Presidents' meetings as well as having worked on the national Campaigns Team and attended the Activities Board meeting. This, as well as having discussed the role with National Committee members past and present, gives me a real understanding of what being on the NC entails – I am ready for the challenge!

Hosting a national or regional event can be a great experience for a Branch. It gives the committee something to work towards and achieve together. It can really unite the members of the local Projects and Campaigns displaying the network at it's best. At Leeds I have hosted both a Regional Conference and a national General Assembly. This is invaluable experience that I feel would equip

me to fully support branches holding these events as having been there and done it myself I really understand what it's like to take on such a job.

Why me?

I'm really enthusiastic about this position and would give it my all.

I'm going to be intercalating next year, whilst the course will be challenging, it will also give me the time to commit fully to the responsibilities of the role.

I have learnt a so much being President of a strong branch and have a lot to offer the Branches – in advice, experience and encouragement.

I have the necessary skills for the role being organised, friendly and approachable. I also work well with others and understand how important it is that the NC works well as a team.

Rafi Rogans-Watson

My experience...

I first became involved with Medsin after the Bristol conference, and my activities since then demonstrate the passion I have for the Network, and my desire and ability to get things done. In the past 18 months I founded and led a flourishing StopAIDS Society in Brighton (our first ever campaign!), and became National Coordinator for the StopAIDS Campaign and Medsin Treasurer. In that time I attended 3 Medsin GAs and 4 conferences; 5 National Committee (NC) meetings; the Activities Board meeting; the IFMSA Canterbury conference; the Sexpression national conference; over a dozen meetings with major NGO's in the Stop AIDS Campaign; and external meetings on Medsin's behalf. I'm just completing International Health at UCL and looking forward to my fourth-year in Brighton.

Not having been a branch president remains a weakness in my application, but a number of experiences have made me believe I would be a good VPB. I was heavily involved in Medsin-Brighton, and experienced the challenges (and solutions) of establishing a branch, attracting members, and collaborating with local projects/campaigns. Helen's idea for each of the committee to communicate with two branches also allowed me to support Medsin-Barts. Secondly, being involved in Medsin-Brighton and then UCL (where I've contributed to National Conference'08 organising) has given me insight into the different obstacles that larger branches may face. Finally, as StopAIDS coordinator I've communicated with 30 societies around the country, and I would apply my experience to work effectively with Medsin branches.

My ideas...

I've learnt a huge amount from working closely with Helen and I would build on her excellent work; further strengthening regional conferences and increasing communication between branches, and with the national committee. The new Branch President (BP) meeting enabled branches to directly influence important decisions, and made the whole committee more aware of their views. Whilst branches don't need more rules, they often want more information and I'd work with BPs to ensure this by:

- Producing short guidance pages on ethical-funding, use of the charity status, approaching Student Unions, and other FAQs.
- Producing a Medsin calendar so BPs can plan for events, busy periods, etc.
- Writing the "Setting up a branch" section on the website.
- Creating an "Inspirations" webpage with tips/ideas for Medsin-explained nights, global-health careers fairs, etc.

- Working with the campaigns team to periodically send out short bulletins that branches could give to their members (eg. outlining the campaign, how to take local action, and any upcoming events).
- As Treasurer, I've also come to believe that branches should receive rather than provide Medsin's financial support, and I'd work with the Treasurer/VPE to try and make this possible.

I feel I've made a valuable contribution to the committee this year: as Treasurer, but more importantly as part of the team. I've always tried to contribute to any issue dealt with by the NC, and to support Gemma wherever possible. I've learnt so many lessons about being on the committee and the importance of supporting each other, and I think with my experience I could help even more.

Vice President for Projects

1 Applicant, Mark Prince:

For the past 5 years I have been involved in Marrow at Peninsula Medical School. I have acted as one of the Peninsula co-ordinators since 2005 and was national co-ordinator during 2007. I have been involved in Medsin activities for the past 18 months, attending two IFMSA meetings and helping Marrow to achieve trans-national status at the August meeting in 2007. Following this, I have decided to run for the position of vice president for projects for the following reasons:

I want to be able to assist the many different Medsin affiliated projects in expanding to new branches, interesting new members and smoothly handing over to the next co-ordinators. Having been national co-ordinator for Marrow over the past 12 months, I feel I have gained a sufficient amount of experience to be a useful point of contact in this role and have a good appreciation of the challenges that commonly arise.

The projects have always been my main area of interest within Medsin. This role would allow me to become more involved with different projects whilst also being able to offer assistance and advice to project co-ordinators when needed.

Over the past 18 months I have really enjoyed being involved in Medsin's activities. I have been part of the delegations attending two IFMSA general assemblies as well as numerous Medsin events in the UK. This role would enable me to continue my involvement in Medsin's general activities whilst being responsible for an area that I am particularly interested in.

Vice President for Externals

2 Applicants, Vanessa Jessop and Sadhia Khan.

Vanessa Jessop

I joined the Medsin network in 2005, and have increased my involvement over the past 3 years. I have been Treasurer for the Edinburgh branch for the last 2 years, and was recently voted Co-president for 2008-09.

I have attended the National Conferences for the past 2 years, delivering a workshop for IPPNW in Dundee, and gave a talk on Access to Healthcare and the Defend Primary Healthcare campaign at the Scottish Regional Conference in March. I recently attended the GHC in Oxford and will be attending

the EuRegMe IFMSA Conference, TNT and SGA in April.

In 2006 I was part of the organising committee for the Alma Mata Annual Conference held in Edinburgh, and organised a speaker series last year entitled 'International Health for Dummies', which included talks by representatives from IPPNW, UNHCR and TAC.

I am currently on the committee of UAEM Edinburgh and also involved with Defend Primary Healthcare. I have written for Compass, The Journal (Edinburgh's student newspaper) and the IFMSA about access to healthcare for vulnerable migrants, as well as speaking at a House of Commons Open Meeting and making a submission to a government inquiry into health inequalities. In addition, I have contacted Edinburgh University Debating Union to organise a public debate about the issue and will be presenting a motion at the MSC Conference. I am currently working as part of a team to collect and collate submissions to a 2004 government consultation on the removal of access to primary care.

I am keen to develop Simon's work on Medsin-Alumni as well as looking at the possibility of introducing a membership fee. I would like to research the possibility of applying for funding from UK medical schools, in exchange for global health input into the MChB curriculum, as a way of raising money and incorporating greater global health teaching in the UK. I plan to examine funding received by organisations such as Alma Mata and Medical Justice, which have a similar remit to Medsin, to identify potential sponsors. I would also research the possibility of creating an Annual National Fundraising and Awareness Day, employing a co-ordinator to oversee the event and inviting applications from Medsin projects and campaigns and charities and NGOs affiliated to medsin for a percentage of funds raised.

I have a previous degree in Law and I am interested to gain an understanding Medsin's charity status and the requirements that must be met in order to maintain this status.

During my gap year I worked as a university administrator, gaining experience in dealing with the public in person, in writing and by telephone, answering queries, minuting meetings and maintaining databases. In 2006 I worked as a project co-ordinator in Kenya, and was required to write a project reports for the charity's trustees. I am keen to meet with Medsin's external partners and gain a greater understanding of the network's relationship with the IFMSA and BMA, as well as charities and NGOs, such as Medact, working in a similar remit to Medsin. I would welcome the opportunity to deputise for the president, and also develop relationships with organisations in Scotland to raise Medsin's profile north of the border.

Sadhia Khan

My name is Sadhia Khan and I am currently a first year medical student at the University of Manchester. What initially attracted me to Medsin was its intriguing involvement with medical students across the world, the fact that it is not secluded to individuals solely within the medical field. Medsin have managed to cover a significant number of topical issues as well as having created different branches of the organisation at Universities across the country. I find Medsin to be a very fascinating organisation as it allows medical students to share their knowledge with those in the global, scientific, as well as the local community. After having attended the recent conference on global health and education in Oxford, it has allowed me to realise the potential that Medsin has as a global organisation within the IFMSA, and this really did open my eyes to the global picture. It was further a very interesting weekend in terms of the diversity of global topics covered, and the impact that an organisation such as Medsin can have on making steps to tackle these global dilemmas. These events should be more easily accessible to a wider range of public communities. It is my understanding that these conferences are not cheap and it is therefore important to raise Medsin's image in order to receive greater funding and create more of an awareness of medical issues

amongst international communities. I believe as VPE, I would be able to achieve this, as I possess a wide range of good communication and inter-personnel skills. I strive to meet deadlines, have an outstanding work ethic and am a responsible, mature individual. I relish the opportunity to work as VPE for such an organisation as Medsin as well as being part of the national committee.

CATEGORY C

Secretary

1 Applicant, Vanessa Jessop:

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Treasurer

2 Applicants, Mori Mansouri and Erica Pool

Erica Pool

Being Treasurer....

It is important for Medsin-UK's functioning that it's accounts are managed well.

As treasurer I would have responsibility for the financial administration and book-keeping of Medsin-UK and would commit to this position fully.

I would really enjoy having input into the National Committee meetings and working closely with all members, especially Vice President for Externals in fundraising.

I would look to continue and further Rafi's good work as Treasurer.

My Experience

I became aware of the Medsin network when I attended the National Conference in Bristol. I returned to Yorkshire buzzing with enthusiasm and immediately set up a branch of Who4WHO Campaign and started my Medsin life!

Treasurer specific experience:

Whilst being Branch President I have been involved in making many budgets, such as for the SGA this year. In this role I have also secured funding from our Medical Schools Representative Council.

I have experience at a local level – having been Branch President, volunteered for local Projects and worked on Campaign committees. Whilst at Leeds I have been involved in hosting a Regional Conference (2007) and National Spring General Assembly (2008). I have interacted with the Head of the School of Medicine and LUU Union Council and so can advise and support branches in doing the same. I've worked hard at forming a strong relationship with our Medact branch and would encourage Branches to interact with external organisations at a local level, possibly working with VPE.

I have experience at a national level – having attended Branch Presidents' meetings as well as having worked on the national Campaigns Team and attended the Activities Board meeting. This, as well as having discussed the role with National Committee members past and present, gives me a real understanding of what being on the NC entails – I am ready for the challenge!

Why me?

I am competent in using Excel, Paypal, Google checkout and various formats of online banking (I manage the joint bank account in my student house – I think my housemates think bills pay themselves!)

I'm going to be intercalating next year, whilst the course will be challenging, it will also give me the time to commit fully to the responsibilities of the role.

I would really welcome the opportunity to have input into the National Committee. Being treasurer would involve working with all members of the National Committee – I would be suited to this aspect of the role being friendly and approachable. In addition to this I am organised and work well in teams.

Mori Mansouri

I am currently working with a few of my colleagues from Universities Allied for Essential Medicines (UAEM) to explore the ins and outs of an alliance of universities across North America and Europe,

each committing to and developing a Global Health Research Fund. University contributions would be matched by other donors such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

In the past, I've coordinated highly successful fundraising events and been involved in writing a number of grant proposals. I worked in the Sales and Accounting departments of a couple of import and export companies which greatly improved my understanding of financial matters and book keepings skills. I also received training on how to be an effective treasurer by Edinburgh University's Student Association and served as a treasurer for a local society.

In my three years with Medsin, I've been involved at the local, national and international level. Locally, I served as a branch president, an active member of a number of projects and campaigns, and on the international exchanges committee. At the national level, I coordinate the UAEM campaign and organised Alma Mata's Global Health Directions 2006 conference. Internationally, I am a member of UAEM's coordinating committee and IFMSA's Pharma Free Alliance.

Aside from Medsin, I have gained invaluable experience through my active involvement in other organisations, particularly Alma Mata's working group, BMA as a deputy chair for the SMSC, and MSF in Dubai. This accumulated experience has taught me how to get things done and how to turn an idea into action or a complaint into actual change.

If elected as Treasurer, I look forward to building on the momentum generated thus far by the current national committee and our ever-expanding network. In addition to fulfilling my constitutional duties, I will have a six-fold agenda:

1. Transparency: Build on current initiatives to expand financial responsibility, accountability and transparency and publish regular financial reports on the medsin website.
2. Financial Helpline: I aspire to set up a financial helpline for any financial problems branches, projects and campaigns might encounter.
3. Travel Assistance Fund: I would like to increase representation and participation of members in Medsin's general assemblies and the decision-making process by exploring setting up a travel assistance fund.
4. Donations: I will work closely with the Alumni director to establish a scheme for collecting donations from medsin alumni. I will also set up an electronic form on the medsin website for one-off donations. We will make full use of the Gift Aid tax relief of all donated money.
5. Fundraising: I will work with the VPE to fully exploit our fundraising capabilities.
6. Broaden sources of revenue generation: I will work with the rest of the national committee to identify new sources of income for the organisation e.g. bonds and low risk stock portfolios.

I understand the complexities of medsin and its activities, and acknowledge the hard work involved. I'm asking for your vote because I'm enthusiastic and excited about putting in the time and energy required to implement the aforementioned changes and to manage Medsin's finances. I have many new ideas and the necessary experience to make this happen.

Campaign's Director

1 Applicant, Jonny Currie:

Motivation

Advocacy is increasingly being recognised as key to creating the change to tackle and reduce global health injustices.

The beauty of campaigning is that armed with a passion for change, recognition of need and the cooperation of willing supporters, any individual may engage in tackling the unjust structures that perpetuate social inequalities. It is with such characteristics and a yearning for positive change that I wish to take on this role, to lead Medsin to further successes in advocacy.

Experience

I have seen this year the need to build campaigning in Medsin at a grassroots level, as the first campaigns-coordinator in Bristol. In this role I have organised StopAIDS/Oxfam and Defend Primary Healthcare campaign stunts involving media publicity and organised a successful campaigns training day.

This year I've aided the Malaria and Neglected Disease Campaign in encouraging the university to adopt pro-global health research principles, starting with the support of the student union. I have coordinated also this year the Defend Primary Healthcare campaign locally. Additionally, I have been involved with other campaigning groups including STAR and Amnesty.

During my involvement with GhAP nationally I have been struck by the fantastic momentum of the campaign; a testament I believe to the infectious enthusiasm of Medsin-ers to campaign given a moving topic and effective leadership.

Furthermore, I have been selected as a participant to the Oxfam Change campaigns training programme next month, after which I will work with Oxfam in the community to lobby politicians, mobilise support and engage with the media.

Finally, my involvement over the years with Marrow and the ukAM07 OC will undoubtedly be valuable in coordinating, organising and the other roles a National committee member naturally has.

Plans and Vision

Medsin has made great strides in the field of campaigning since its first national HIV campaign in 2002. To add to these, I would wish for Medsin to achieve next year:

Locally

National campaigns-training day akin to TNT allowing individuals to return to branches to disseminate training

Develop campaigning materials for preparation 'How to' of campaigning for branches for release at AGA

Develop network of local campaigning coordinators in each branch to facilitate organised, collective action

Nationally

Campaigns at a national level have been working well in the last year. I hope to build upon this existing structure by:

Focussing energy on solidifying Campaigns Team
Publicised, concerted National Days of Action
Further Conference actions

Support campaigning efforts in Medsin Projects' activities

In addition I want to develop:

E-campaigning
Monitoring and evaluation of campaigning

Internationally

Partnerships with like-minded international organisations (e.g. University Coalitions for Global Health)
Links with 'stakeholders' in developing countries
Represent Medsin campaigns to IFMSA

It is my wish to further direct Medsin into being a true leader in the field of global health advocacy. Should I be afforded the opportunity of coordinating its campaigning at a national level, I feel well equipped to make this vision a reality.

Training Director

2 Applicants: Louise Mulcahy and Sarah Phipps

Louise Mulcahy

I would like to stand for the Training Director post held by Daisy Acres 2007-2008. My motivation for this application stems from my belief that I am equipped with the relevant skills and experience for this position and that I consider this to be an inimitable opportunity to become more involved with Medsin as a network of branches, projects and campaigns. In addition, with four years of expertise within the Medsin network under my belt, I believe I can more than adequately contribute to the National Committee and Medsin network at numerous levels and along a number of different avenues.

Albeit I will have just completed my TNT course as of the SGA, I am an enthusiastic and dedicated individual, up for a challenge and truly committed. Moreover, through my time as the current National Co-ordinator for the Medsin Project Marrow, I have gained experiences synchronous with the role of Training Director laid down by the constitution. For instance, at present I work alongside, co-ordinate and support a national team, 32 UK Marrow groups and external members of the Anthony Nolan Trust. I am experienced in the organisation of local, regional and national meetings

and conferences and I have been involved in the creation and distribution of specific needs documentation - including training needs – and resource packs.

As for working within and as part of the Medsin National Committee I have firsthand experience in working alongside others as part of a national team and possess complete appreciation for the amount of hard work, commitment, time and enthusiasm one needs. More importantly, I feel I can offer the skills I have acquired over the years - primarily in project management, fundraising, publicity and in the management of finances and resources - to all persons within the committee.

As of September 2008 I will be intercalating in a Masters in Research in Public Health at the University of Manchester. Excitingly, this is an online course and thus my studies are wholly flexible and I am not restricted by any means or at any time of the year to a particular city in the UK or country in the world! Therefore I will be able to dedicate a large amount of time to this role and the committee and will be readily available to those across the network who request training.

I believe the opportunity in becoming Training Director 2008-2009 to be a fantastic, unique and exciting prospect that will help to further improve my communication and presentation skills, open the door for me to become more involved with Medsin and in providing me with the aptitude to help Medsin branches, projects and campaigns in becoming as successful as they possibly can be at a local and national level. Furthermore, it would be a wonderful opportunity to work beside others involved in Medsin and the IFMSA who are so passionate and hands-on as regards to establishing positive changes surrounding global health and health equality issues.

Sarah Phipps

I'm Sarah and am in my 4th year at Peninsula Medical School. Next year I will be intercalating. Tackling inequalities and developing people are two things I love and am passionate about. Therefore I feel highly motivated and driven to take on the role of training director for Medsin. I am...

- Determined
- Enthusiastic
- Organised
- Friendly
- Driven
- Passionate about training & education

I have loved all of my experiences as a trainer so far and taken up all opportunities to develop my skills as a trainer. I believe that training aids people in implementing their knowledge and ideas, allowing the network to function more effectively. I am keen to see that training in the Medsin is maintained and continues to develop.

Medsin and me

I first heard about and got involved with Medsin in 2006. I began to set it up at Peninsula, and I have been co-ordinating the branch since then. My main interests are training and the global health education project (GHEP). I have been involved with Peninsula Marrow since my first year, and was part of the National Marrow committee 2007. I have a strong commitment to Medsin – making every effort to attend all of the GHCs, NCs, AGAs, and SGAs, despite being way down in the depths of the South West!

There are so many things I admire about Medsin. In particular I think it provides brilliant education on global health, as well as letting us meet and work with so many diverse and enthusiastic people.

Having enjoyed my experiences in the network so far I hope to build on these and think that being a part of the national committee is a way I can do that.

Training Experience

I have training experience both nationally and locally. I attended TNT (training new trainers) in April 2007 and had a great time. Before this I trained at our local Marrow training days. Since TNT I have run a wide variety of training sessions at:

Imperial SGA

Southampton AGA

Marrow AGM

Oxford GHC

I also organised and trained at a local training day in Exeter. As part of the National Marrow committee I helped organise the Marrow AGM last November. I was specifically responsible for putting together and organising the timetable & workshops.

Currently I am facilitating a small working group on Medsin's relationship with the IFMSA. Furthermore I will be assisting Daisy (Medsin's current training director) in running this years TNT. I think this will give me excellent experience and preparation for taking on the role of training director.

Finally...

Without training from Medsin I would not have had the confidence or skills to be able to successfully do so many things. Consequently I appreciate how important training is to individuals and the network. I think that training is an essential component of Medsin, and lots of fun. Therefore I would be delighted to take on the role of training director 😊

Technology and Communications Director

2 Applicants: Matt Brandwood and Vladimir Choi

Matt Brandwood

I first became involved in Medsin at the end of my first year, joining the fledgling Newcastle committee, subsequently spending two years as the webmaster. In late 2006 I joined the organising committee for GHC07 in Newcastle as their webmaster. It was at this conference where I introduced the idea of online workshop sign-ups in order to streamline the running of the conference on the day, as well as putting this information onto delegate tags. This idea has been continued very successfully at both NC07 in Dundee and more recently at GHC08 in Oxford. I hope to work very closely with the NC08 team to centralise this system and provide online workshop booking for all future Medsin conferences from the national website. This will simplify the tasks of future conferences when developing websites and promote a more integrated feel to the network. Immediately prior to starting my current term as Technology & Communications Director last August I spent a fantastic but hectic time in Canterbury at ukAM07 as one half of a technology team charged with providing computer and audio-visual services to a conference of over one thousand international delegates. Both the most stressful and most rewarding Medsin experience I have ever had, I believe that it showed my ability to learn quickly and adapt to challenging situations such as

helping to set-up, man and trouble-shoot an entire ad-hoc AV system in a tent as well as being to set-up wireless internet access in more languages than I can count.

I've learnt a lot in the past 8 months and now have a good knowledge of Ruby on Rails which is the language Medsin.org is written in, as well as the various complicated idiosyncrasies related to running and updating the site. I have added the national committee blog to the website, as well as the ability to protect pages and undertaken a general re-organisation of the website pages to help make the site a little easier to access. I have also undertaken a moderately sized rewrite of the site code to bring it up-to-date with the current Ruby on Rails software. I also provided assistance to the GHC08 committee with their workshop booking system when their webmaster was away. Also this year, in addition to Medsin conferences, I attended the Alma Mata conference in London and was on Medsin's delegation to the IFMSA March meeting in Monterrey, Mexico.

Still in the pipeline for the rest of this year are plans to implement alumni registration, help streamline and simplify voting with the help of the website and to centralise a conference registration system for future conferences with the help of the NC08 team.

Next year I intend to do an intercalated BSc in International Health and would love to be able to continue the work I've started this year. Learning how to program the website has been a complicated process and I feel that it would have been a waste to acquire this expertise over several months and then not be able to fully exploit it for the good of the network. I've had a fantastic time this year and working as technology director has been the most enjoyable role I've held in network so far.

In conclusion, this year I have already gained the knowledge needed to undertake the role. I would love the opportunity to continue the work I've started and build on the knowledge of Medsin I already have and help work to further global health education and advocacy through strengthening the existing network and developing Medsin's voice externally.

Matt :)

Vladimir Choi

My name is Vladimir Choi, and I'm a first-year medical student at Barts and The London. I was born in Hong Kong, but was raised in Vancouver, Canada, where I did a BSc in Microbiology and Immunology at the University of British Columbia. I came to the UK, and specifically London, to broaden my horizons academically and artistically. I have not been disappointed. Although I was unsure of the workload as a medical student, I have gradually involved myself in an array of diverse activities that contribute to my personal development as a well-rounded doctor and individual.

As an amateur musician, I could not have expected the opportunities available to expand my musical horizons. Not only do I regularly attend concerts throughout the world-class concert halls of London, but I play in the University of London Symphony Orchestra as a first violinist. I am also the leader of the Barts and The London Orchestra and led the United Hospitals Orchestra in its annual concert at Southwark Cathedral in February. On the academic side, with my interest in global health and infectious diseases, I've been to numerous lectures related to such topics at the Royal Society of Medicine, British Society for Parasitology, Royal Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, and Imperial College throughout the year. More notable events include the Alma Mata Conference last November and the Medsin Global Health Conference in Oxford last month.

After nearly a year as a medical student, I now have more insight as to what I can do in the time that is available to me. It is at this stage where I feel I am ready to take a big role as Communications and Technology Director for Medsin. I believe this position will not only jump start my involvement in Medsin in a positive way, but also bring to the organization my diverse background and experiences.

At an early age, I was caught up in the excitement of the Internet and begun building websites for

school assignments. Since then, I have designed and maintained web sites for numerous individuals and organizations, among them an up-and-coming publishing house (Libros Libertad), a university (British Columbia Institute of Technology), and a world-renowned poet and dramatist (J. Michael Yates). In those 8 years, I have experimented with design and built up a practical knowledge base applicable for all kinds of projects. My strength lies in clean and common-sense design with minimal code based on XHTML/CSS and efficient content management with PHP/mysql. I know how to deal with e-mail accounts, database management interfaces, domain name providers, and hosting services, and am ready to expand my knowledge and skills through books and websites at any time. This includes the Ruby on Rails platform on which the Medsin website is based, and anything else the National Committee or the Network might require to carry out its activities efficiently. My work as a freelance web designer has given me the professional mindset with which to interact with others in order to ensure the best outcomes possible.

Aside from all the code, the Communications and Technology Director sits on the National Committee and gives input on general Medsin matters. I have experience working with others on committees in various capacities. I was a member of the Board of Directors of the Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society for 2 years, where I witnessed the operation of one of Canada's National Historic Sites and all the paperwork and interpersonal interactions that go on within a non-profit organization. At my previous university, I was the Department Representative for Microbiology and Immunology on the Science Undergraduate Society Council for 2 years, and sat on the Academic Committee. I was also a Student Representative on the Science Curriculum Committee, where I provided the student voice for changes to the academic framework in the Faculty of Science. I also feel that having not been involved with Medsin before, I will bring a fresh viewpoint to the table, and look forward to working with the organization for years to come.

To summarize, I have the combination of web design know-how and willingness to learn, experience of working in committees, as well as a vested interest in global health, which I believe make me well-positioned to take on the role of Communications and Technology Director of Medsin for 2008/09.

Thank you for reading,
Vladimir

Publicity Director:
No Applicants.

If you are interested in this role, come along to the SGA following the guidelines available here: (<http://www.medsin.org/about/nationalcommittee/apply>) where applications will be re-opened.

If you have any comments or questions about the voting, please ask the committee, at committee@medsin.org.

Thanks,
Gemma