

Dear Students,

Welcome you to the Medsin UCL Conference on 'Healthy People, Healthy Planet: Climate Change and Global Health"! This is the 2009 Annual Medsin South-East Regional conference and we are delighted to welcome students from Southampton, Bath, Bristol, Brighton, Peninsula and all across the London Universities.

Medsin UCL this year has prioritised widening participation and education in global health across the entire student body, engaging with all departments. In October 2008 we hosted the annual Medsin National Conference with our theme of "Power & Politics in Global Health", attracting over 450 students and world renowned speakers. This year we have launched and published UCL's first Global Health Magazine, Perspectives, and it is now in its third issue. And last but not least, we have launched the UCL Global Health Education Project.

In addition to this we also run a variety of projects, ranging from teaching sex education in secondary schools, to volunteering programmes as far afield as Ghana, to supporting organisations such as Médecins Sans Frontières.

We have also launched many new and successful campaigns at UCL this year. Stop AIDS began the year by hosting the annual Stop AIDS Speaker Tour; Malaria and Neglected Diseases Campaign organised the first ever global health lecture at UCL for medical students; Universities Allied for Essential Medicines passed a UCL Union motion on open access to UCL's patent information; and Healthy Planet successfully lobbied the Medical School to join the Climate and Health Council and sign their pledge.

Today is dedicated to looking at climate change from the health perspective, both as a curious student and as an impassioned advocate. We have so many wonderful speakers today who have such capacity to inspire and awe, but remember that today is about you.

It is about being Educated in the most pressing global health issue of the 21st century; it is about being Inspired to get involved and get engaged; and it is about finding the courage to take Action, be it through your lifestyle choices, your engagement in advocacy or in the simple act of signing a pledge or striving to learn more.

In whatever you do and wherever you go, we wish you the very best..

Medsin UCL. Educate. Inspire. Act.

Davina Kaur Patel, Medsin UCL Co-President

Mustafa Abbas, Medsin UCL Co-President, Healthy Planet National Coordinator