

Hello Everyone,

We had a very successful AGM last Tuesday and thank you very much for all those who attended. However, we have yet to vote in a new President/Co-Presidents and there are also a couple of other positions still available; therefore we have another AGM coming up this Thursday at 6.00pm. All Medsin members are encouraged to attend – please read on for more information.

There is also a very important Student Stop AIDS event happening tomorrow (Tuesday) so please do read on to find out more about this event!

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1. Medsin UCL AGM – Part 2

Date: Thursday 26th March

Time: 6.00pm

Venue: Room 347
UCL School of Slavonic and Eastern European Studies
16 Taviton Street (very near the union)
(see map - http://www.ucl.ac.uk/maps/ucl-maps/map2_hi_res)

We will be voting for the new President/s for 2009-2010. There are also a few other positions that are still available:

- * Healthy Planet Campaign Coordinator
- * Water 4 All Campaign Coordinator
- * Vice President

If you are interested in applying for any of these three positions you MUST submit an application to medsin.ucl@gmail.com by Wednesday 25th March at the latest. Your application should outline any relevant previous experience and why you would be suitable for the job.

In addition, we are still looking for team members to help out with various tasks next year. We need team members for the following teams:

- * Events
- * Art and Design
- * Media and Communications
- * Global Health Education
- * Stop AIDS Campaign
- * Malaria and Neglected Diseases Campaign
- * Course Representatives

We really hope you can all make it - there will be lots of food and some fun and games too to help you all get to know each other - this is the last Medsin party the current committee can throw so we're gonna make it GREAT!

If anyone is interested in seeing 'The Age of Stupid', the new documentary on climate change by the Oscar-nominated director Postlethwaite, afterwards, a few of us are thinking about going to the 8.55 p.m. screening at Odeon Panton Street (near Covent Garden, check the film's website out at <http://www.ageofstupid.net/>).

Looking forward to seeing you all at the AGM!!

Best Wishes,
UCL Medsin 2008/9

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2. Medsin Student Stop AIDS: Action action!! - Tomorrow

Tuesday 24th March (Tomorrow)
10.00 - Arrive for briefing at Westminster and head for the Emmanuel Centre
<http://www.emmanuelcentre.com/> Map: <http://tinyurl.com/clbrkv>

11.30 – 12.30 Panel Discussion with minister and other guests

12.30 – 15.30 Head to parliament to meet with MPS and Lords

15.30 Go to swimming pool to do photo stunt

17.00 Head for a celebratory drink

This month we're promoting the StopAIDS campaign <http://www.medsin.org/news/310>. Right now they're asking everyone to help them advocate for a fairer way of funding and supply HIV medicines to patients in developing countries - called a patent pool.

If ministers, drug companies and researchers commit to this it could bring better health to countless people! So read on for more!

Push for the Pool!

Now is an exciting time to contribute to the Stop AIDS campaign and we're doing all we can to make it as accessible and easy to do as possible. This year our campaign focus is on the "Push for the Pool".

Over 33 million people are living with HIV but only one in three has access to the treatment they need to stay alive. This is often because the cost of treatment is unaffordable for poor people and the governments of developing countries.

Patent pools can lower the cost of life-saving HIV medicines whilst ensuring that companies are rewarded for developing new drugs. We need to push for a patent pool in which pharmaceutical companies allow generic versions of their drugs to be produced in return for a fair royalty. This will help people around the world access the medicines they need to stay alive. For more detailed information please visit:

<http://www.msfacecess.org>

ACTIONS:

*** 2 minutes at your computer now * Join the "Push for the Pool" online:**

<http://www.stopaidscampaign.org.uk/PushForPool.asp>

*** A few hours on campus ***

Order some actions cards from stopaids@medsin.org. Set up a stall and drum up some support for the "Push for the Pool" on campus.

*** Day in London: Tuesday 24th March ***

Join our day of action on Tuesday 24th March in and around Westminster. This is the day to truly be inspired into campaign action, with a guaranteed buzz provided by the members of Student Stop AIDS societies across the country. If your new to campaigning this promises to be a day to inspire your internal campaigning zeal!

In the morning there will be a panel discussion with Ivan Lewis MP, a minister at the UK government department for international development (DFID). Then in the afternoon we will be heading over to Westminster to meet with our MPs to tell them about the campaign and current concerns: the establishment of an effective patent pool and the \$5 billion deficit for 2009/2010 in the Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria. Find attached a template letter to invite your local MP to the event.

The day will culminate with a campaign action: as yet to be confirmed but swimming pools are in the pipeline.

*** At the Medsin Global Health Conference: 28th and 29th March ***

Join our joint campaign stunt with Universities Allied for Access to Essential Medicines (UAEM). To mark World TB day UAEM and Stop AIDS are asking for your participation in drawing attention to the issue of access to medicines and the role public support, university action, pharmaceutical company cooperation and government commitment have to make in increasing access to essential TB and HIV medication

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