

RFUCMS UCLMS RUMS - HUH?



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GUEST WRITER

ON October 1st 2008, UCL changed the name of its medical school from the "Royal Free and University College Medical School (RFUCMS)" to "UCL Medical School (UCLMS)".

The original name of the medical school was first created when the University College Hospital medical school, which merged with the Middlesex Medical school in 1987, joined with the Royal Free Medical School in 1998.

The decision to change the name was made to

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fully reflect the institutions involved in medicine at UCL. Professor Ed Byrne, the head of the medical school, told the MedStudent "The world's greatest medical schools, e.g. Harvard or Stanford, all represent

both the teaching and research at their university. The medical sciences part of UCL, formed by a merge of RF, MS and UCH MS, with 4 large post-graduate institutes, together are a very strong institution. Yet we felt that the RFUCMS name of the medical teaching department did not reflect all of these associations. However, the name "UCL Medical School" is one that does represent all of these institutes, making it one of the strongest medical schools in Europe."

The Response

The recent removal of the Royal Free from the Medical school's name was not welcomed by all, however, and there has been a mixed response amongst both medical staff and students at UCL.

Others shared his opinion. From a 2nd year medical student; "I think that changing the medical school name does not reflect the so called "merger" with UCL, more a takeover! The Royal Free heritage has been lost from the name by calling us UCLMS and the only way we have managed to maintain our identity as a historic medical school has been to fight to preserve RUMS. It is imperative that the Free is remembered, especially as the first medical school to admit women!"

Some viewed the change more favourably. A 4th year student told us, "I personally think it's a good thing that the

IT'S AN ABSOLUTE JOKE, I THINK THEY ARE TRYING TO DILUTE OUR HERITAGE. THE MEDICAL SCHOOL, HUNTLEY STREET, THE SPORTS TEAMS WILL ALL BE INTEGRATED INTO THE UCL GLOBAL BRAND, WITH OUR AUTONOMY AND OUR HISTORY TO BE LOST FOREVER." - UCL STUDENT

name has changed to UCL as RUMS was not recognisable to lay people, and even medical students from other universities. The name UCLMS clearly links us with UCL and its student body, and its prestige as an institution, something that I am proud of. RUMS was relatively recently coined so I feel there is no reason to feel particularly nostalgic about that name. "

Losing a history?

It has been argued that name change risks losing the history behind the Royal Free's title. The "Free" hospital was founded by William Marsden a famer's son who dreamt of, and eventually became a surgeon. In 1827, he was passing St

Andrew's church in Holborn when he saw a very ill young lady in the doorway. Yet he was unable to have her admitted into a hospital as she had no letter from a patron or subscriber of the hospital.

Though Marsden arranged lodging for her, she died 3 days later. The following year, Marsden founded the Free hospital, where anyone could be treated without a patron's letter. The "Royal" prefix was added when Queen Victoria became its patron in 1837.

Yet, Prof Byrne stressed that "the enormous contribution of the Royal Free to the Medical school will be recognised, and was one of the reasons for changing the campus names from Hampstead back to the Royal Free, to give it a title to ensure it was adequately described".

The names of the original medical schools now encompassed by UCL MS have not been lost completely, however. Though the Medical school had hoped for RUMS to change its name to reflect the medical school's new image, a secret ballot at the RUMS WGM on 13th Nov 08 voted to keep RUMS as it was. However, it now stands for the Royal free, University college and Middlesex Med Students", to reflect each of the medical schools in UCL's history.

mslocal



GKT
Becky Samuels
GKT Medsoc President



guy's, king's & st thomas'

Well it has been a busy old-time South of the river this month, first of all le Beaujolais Nouveau est arrive á GKT! Yes the new vintage was sampled by some of the most delicate palettes in town and those palettes were feeling particularly delicate the morning after the annual event.

This month we also showcased our best comedy talent in the Christmas Show. And just this week our Freshers took to the London streets for Jingle RAG raising over

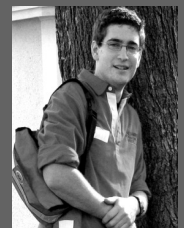
£4,000 for our RAG charities, we hope it's a sign of things to come for RAG week in February. Coming up in the New Year the Fashion Show Committee will bring haute couture class to the campus with Fashion Week and the Fashion Show and the MedSoc Musical Theatre will be bringing the West End to Guy's with Anything Goes. Finally we wish our 100 skiers a fun and safe Journey to Val D'Isere and everyone else a very happy Christmas holiday.

royal free & university college



Dan Swerdlow
RUMS Clinical President

RUMS



An exciting few weeks have past at UCL since the last instalment of MS. The annual MDs Comedy Revue went off with a bang, with large audience in the Bloomsbury theatre being treated to (or with!) something 'completely C.diff-erent'. At the RUMS Welcome General Meeting, the name of our students union was debated in the light of the recent change in the name of the School to UCL Medical School (previously Royal Free & UC Medical School). The overwhelming result of the vote, at what was one of the best attended general meetings concluded that the name

of the union should remain as RUMS. The acronym, despite appearing cosmetically unchanged, now stands for Royal Free, University College and Middlesex Medical Students Society.

In other news... RUMS in collaboration with the School has begun work on a survey of harassment and bullying in the Medical School, the results of which we hope will be very interesting. We have also heard in the last week that our dean, Prof Ed Byrne, will sadly be leaving UCL for Australia at the end of this academic year. RUMS wishes him well in his new post.



Billy Street
RUMS Medical Students' & Sites'

Jesse Panthagani
RUMS Pre-clinical President



As the leaves fall and the long lazy autumn evenings turn into ridiculously cold, 'oh my God, why won't the bus come, it's bloody freezing, here it is - oh great there are no seats left' nights the giant that is RUMS has lurched into life. A very well attended WGM provoked great debate and discussion on a number of hot topics such as our name, the medical school's name, and the bar up at the Royal Free Hospital.

A new social calendar for Huntley Street has been put in place, bringing back the legendary 99s on a Monday to complement the outrageously good looking prices of Bar £1.50 on a Friday night. And lastly the RUMS Winter Ball is taking shape, ready to be released on medics of all ages on the 9th of February. Long live RUMS!

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