

*"Atlas was permitted the opinion that he was at liberty, if he wished, to drop the Earth and creep away; but this opinion was all that he was permitted."* Franz Kafka

Do you know that feeling? That apparently you can make such a huge difference, all the resources are at hand, all the levers within reach, but still most of your dearest extra-curricular aspirations remain potential, are laid to rest, drowned in all your course work? And then term is over, examinations come up, first year, second year and so on and swoop - you're an Oxford alumni. But what have you really got involved with apart from signing up your name to loads of societies as diverse as can be? I want to become the Academic Rep for MedSoc because I think your wishes, complaints and suggestions should not only be heard but also acted swiftly upon. My representation shall give you the opportunity to spark MedSoc to organise events that you *really* want to make a contribution to and that get you a bit closer to making the difference. MedSoc must not be a mere party organisation (where members are granted a rather moderate discount on entry fees). Therefore, I want to

- **collect, channel and represent medical students' views** to be communicated to the relevant people
- **organise academic events suggested or supported by students:** I suggest surveying students. Vital discussions need enthusiasm, and enthusiasm roots in personal interest, which requires the topic to be readily understandable by and graspable for students of all levels. Our need for being lectured by renowned experts conveying a body of knowledge usually intimidating enough for a paling preclinical student to thankfully abstain from annoying everyone with his rather uninformed comments is being well catered for already. I want to organise events that you as students feel a need to address, understand or discuss which do not primarily involve inundating your email account with all sorts of suggestions for talks you wouldn't attend anyway. Also medics should get the chance to interact with other health-related professionals, e.g., psychotherapists, the police, or health insurance companies, to avoid getting trapped in the doctor's perspective.
- **keep you up to date about useful resources** for the course, probably for you to access on the MedSoc website. Since I do consider myself to be roughly acquainted to adjacent fields like psychology/psychotherapy, statistics, research methodology, and manuscript creation, I would like to add some useful material from those areas as well. Previously, I've been a statistics tutor for psychology students so if you need some help with your data or software (SPSS, HLM, LISREL etc.) I could try and help you.

Well, whose manifesto is this anyway? I am a first year medic at Oriel, was born in Germany and have come to Oxford to study medicine as my second degree. Having obtained a Master's equivalent in psychology from the Uni of Braunschweig in Germany I went to work as a research assistant at the Dept. of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology at the Uni of Bielefeld, Germany, for the six months preceding the start of my course in Oxford ([http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez?db=pubmed&cmd=DetailsSearch&term=nowak+heinrichs&log\\$=activity](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez?db=pubmed&cmd=DetailsSearch&term=nowak+heinrichs&log$=activity)). Neurology is most definitely the area want to delve into after medical school. Another plus: I'll be in Oxford for the major part of all vacations which should give me time to organise, communicate and prepare issues or events to be neatly set up for you upon returning for a busy term time. Probably, I don't appear to be the most talkative person at first glance, especially in early-morning lectures, but please don't hesitate to ask me should you have any questions or enjoy listening to a German accent.

Thanks and enjoy your pre-Christmas time!

Christoph Nowak