

# THE FACULTY OF FORENSIC & LEGAL MEDICINE



OF

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF  
LONDON

## **PROPOSAL TO EXPAND FELLOWSHIP TO INCLUDE THOSE WITH LICENTIATE**

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Registered Charity No 1119599

## **Proposed changes to Standing Orders to be considered at the 2024 Annual General Meeting to expand Fellowship to include those with Licentiate**

As the only fully inclusive organisation providing qualifications for those working within the field of Forensic & Legal Medicine it seems sensible to review the criteria for Fellowship.

At present, those individuals who are members via passing the Licentiate are not eligible to apply or be nominated for Fellowship.

Until now this historical anomaly in the standing orders hasn't been a significant issue due to low numbers and the relative short period of time that those examinations have been running.

Licentiate membership may be held by Nurses, Paramedics, and Doctors working within the field. Licentiate members have the same voting rights as Members and Fellows. It therefore seems appropriate to expand the opportunity for those Licentiate members to be considered for Fellowship if they make a distinguished contribution to the field.

We propose to amend the standing orders at 2.7 to include Licentiates along with Members.

The current standing orders are as follows:

### **ADMISSION OF FELLOWS**

2.7 Fellows (other than Foundation Fellows) are elected by the Board. Only those members of the Board who are Fellows may vote in Fellowship elections. Criteria for the election of Fellows are determined by the Board. Fellows are elected from Members who have made a distinguished contribution to Forensic and Legal Medicine. Fellows may also be appointed as follows:

#### **Foundation Fellowship**

2.7.1 The College in Council shall name persons, otherwise eligible for Foundation Membership, who are of eminence and have made a distinguished contribution to Forensic and Legal Medicine to be the first Fellows. Such persons may be known as Foundation Fellows (who are appointed to Foundation Fellowships). This route closed in the year 2006.

2.7.2 The College in Council shall name Dento-Legal Medicine practitioners, otherwise eligible for Foundation Membership, who are of eminence and have made a distinguished contribution through dento-legal practice to Forensic and Legal Medicine to be the Foundation Fellows. These Foundation Fellows will provide expertise and leadership for development of formal academic standards for Dento-Legal Advisors and contribute to the establishment of the dento-legal component of the MFFLM examination. This route closed on 31 July 2021.

2.7.3 The College in Council shall name doctors working in Secure and Detained Settings (SDS), otherwise eligible for Foundation Membership, who are of eminence and have made a distinguished contribution through practice in secure and detained settings to Forensic and Legal Medicine to be the Foundation Fellows. These Foundation Fellows will provide expertise and leadership for development of formal academic standards for doctors working in Secure and Detained Settings (SDS) and contribute to the establishment of the SDS component of the MFFLM examination. This route will close on 31 July 2024.

#### 2.7.4 Fellowship by nomination

Candidates for Fellowship will normally self nominate, although they may receive encouragement and support from Fellows to do so.

Fellows can be elected from:

2.7.5 Members of the Faculty of at least five years' standing (or in the case of Foundation Members, those who have been eligible for Foundation Membership for at least five years) who are making significant contributions to the practice of Forensic and Legal Medicine.

2.7.6 Members of the Faculty of less than five years' standing (or in the case of Foundation Members, those who have been eligible for Foundation Membership for less than five years) whose distinction in any department of Forensic and Legal Medicine is such as to warrant early and exceptional admission to Fellowship.

We propose the following modest amendment:

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We have a number of Licentiates who continue to make significant contributions to the field and it seems to me the right thing to do to recognise this.

**Dr Alex Gorton**