



Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine

of the Royal College of Physicians of London

REPORT FROM THE ACADEMIC DEAN FOR THE AGM 3 JUNE 2008

1. Introduction

1.1 The Academic Committee (AC) has met on three occasions over the past year.

1.2 The composition of the committee is given in Appendix A and my thanks go to the members for their work over the past year. Dr Debbi Rogers has joined the committee as Chair of the Forensic Science Committee.

1.3 The Academic Dean is also responsible for co-ordinating Faculty representation on external committees (see Appendix B) and I am very grateful to all those members who give their time and service on the various committees.

2. Membership exam and examiners

2.1 The Membership exam will be in two parts: Part I testing core knowledge common to the medico-legal advisors and forensic physicians, to include general forensic medicine and sexual offence medicine. Part II will consist of a range of modules relevant to each speciality and test the knowledge, skills and attitudes of the applicant. The part I exam will be an MCQ and part II a written paper and OCSE. Applicants will have to show that they have worked in the field for three years.

2.2 An advert for examiners was circulated in January and a number of applicants have been shortlisted for training. The appointment of examiners is made by the Faculty Board after completion of satisfactory training.

3. Annual Conference

3.1 Andy Dott, the conference secretary, and Cath White (organiser of the sexual offence medicine session) are to be congratulated for an excellent programme for the conference this year. We would welcome feedback on this year's conference.

4. Educational Programme

4.1 **Initial training courses:** The Faculty continues to run an initial training course for forensic physicians with the NPIA. Ian Wall is the lead for this and will soon be advertising for tutors to assist with the delivery of this course. The next course is in September.

4.2 **Development training courses:** The last jointly organised development training course for forensic practitioners was held with the Metropolitan Police Service in April. These courses have been very successful. We are now planning to continue this training four times a year with the first Faculty course to be held at the RCP on Saturday **September 13th**.

4.3 There is a Joint Conference with the RCP entitled "**Multiple Medico-Legal Jeopardy**" on **Thursday November 27th**. Mike Devlin has been the lead for the Faculty for this course.

5. Educational documents

5.1 The Committee welcomes feedback on the documentation produced. All documents except the forensic sampling document are available on the website. The sampling document can be access in the Members' only area (open to Fellows, Members and Affiliates).

5.2 Over the past year further documents have been reviewed and revised as appropriate:

Guidelines for doctors asked to perform intimate body searches. Guidance from the BMA and FFLM (2007)

Medical Care of Persons Detained under the Terrorism Act 2000 – Recommendations (2007)

Paediatric forensic examinations – Pro forma (2007)

Operational procedures and equipment for medical rooms in police stations and victim examination suites –Recommendations (2007)

Fitness for detention and interview - Pro forma (2007)

Mental Health Act Assessment - Pro forma (2007)

Section 4 RTA Assessment Form - Pro forma (2007)

Head Injury Warning Card – Recommendations (2007)

Custody officer training outline – Recommendations (2007)

Nicotine dependent detainees in police custody – Faculty view (2008)

Consent from patients who may have been seriously assaulted – Recommendations (2008)

Consent from children and young people in custody in England and Wales Recommendations (2008)

Managing blood borne virus exposures in custody – Recommendations (2008)

The Physical Signs of Child Sexual Abuse has been published by the RCPCH – a great deal of work and co-ordination has been required for the production of this document which involved many members of the FFLM.

6. Research

6.1 Near Misses in Police Custody – IPCC/Faculty/MPS report has been published March 2008.

7. Faculty consultations

7.1 The Faculty has consulted on a number of issues most recently on the computerised record system NSPIS and the management of acute behavioural disturbance in police custody.

8. Standing Committee for HCPs

8.1 A standing committee with representatives from professional groups representing HCPs working within the police custody environment – nurses and paramedics - has been set up and had their first meeting to determine terms of reference. This committee is chaired by Jason Payne-James.

9. Medical Students

9.1 The Faculty office now has a database of individuals who are prepared to assist with medical student attachments.

9.2 Faculty representatives attended the RSM careers fair for medical students in November 2007.

10. Website

10.1 Dr Sanjeev Gaya has been appointed to oversee and edit the website.

10.2 Details of conferences and training courses can be found on the website.

11. Other matter of interest

11.1 The Academic Committee has reviewed “The Safer Detention and Handling of Persons in Police Custody” and sent comments to the Home Office.

11.2 The AC also commented on the draft “Clinical Guidelines on Drug Misuse and Dependence” Update. The final guidance document was published in December 2007.

Dr Margaret M Stark
Academic Dean

29th May 2008

APPENDIX A

The Committee is composed of :

Dr Guy Norfolk (President)
Dr Stephanie Bown (VP MLA)
Dr Elizabeth Stearns (VP Coroners)
Dr Jason Payne James (VP FP)
Dr George Fernie (Registrar)
Dr Peter Schutte (Treasurer)
Dr Jeanne Herring (Chief Examiner)
Dr Andy Dott (Conference Secretary)
Dr Dick Shepherd (Forensic Pathologist)
Dr Cath White (SOE)
Dr Ian Wall (David Jenkins' Professor)
Dr Debbi Rogers (Chair of the Forensic Science Committee)
Dr Margaret Stark (Academic Dean) Chair

APPENDIX B

June 2008 - Membership of Committees:

ACPO Working Group on Rape and Adult Sexual Offences	CW
Adult FME Guideline Development Working Group	GN Chair/CW/Jan Welch
Department for Transport & PACTS	Ian Wall
Diploma in Sexual Assault Medicine Working Party	Vicky Evans/Cath White
Doctors in Secure Environments, RCGP	Sanjeev Gaya
ECLM	Peter Franklin/J.Payne-James
Forensic Science Committee	Debbi Rogers (Chair)
Forum for Preventing Deaths in Custody	Jason Payne-James
Herald Project	Eddie Josse
International Centre for Drug Policy (ICDP)/National Advisory Board	Margaret Stark
National Programme on Substance Abuse Deaths (np-SAD)	Margaret Stark
The Medical Council on Alcoholism	Michael Wilks
National Custody Advisory Forum	Guy Norfolk /J.Payne-James
NICE - Identification of children with suspected abuse	Ian Wall
NSPCC Health Liaison Committee	Jeanne Herring
RCPCH Standing Committee for Child Protection	Sheila Paul
RCPsych Liaison Committee (incl. Section 136 Standards Group)	Jason Payne-James