

# Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians



## Report from the Academic Dean – May 2009

### 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 Guy Norfolk and Dr Dick Shepherd will finish their tenure this month and we will be delighted to welcome Dr Guy Rutty and Gerry Randle.
- 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 and provide feedback.

### 2. Establishment of subcommittees to support the work of the AC

The amount of work that needs to be undertaken by the academic committee has increased exponentially especially with the development of the exam so it has been decided to set up a number of sub-committees to assist in managing this workload.

#### 2.1 Examinations sub-committee

##### Membership:

Jeanne Herring (Chief Examiner & Chair)  
Andy Dott  
Margaret Stark (Academic Dean)  
Hugh Stewart (Deputy Chief Examiner, MLA)  
Ian Wall (Deputy Chief Examiner, GFM)  
Cath White (Deputy Chief Examiner, SOM)

The exam was announced on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2009, on target. This involved a huge amount of work from very many people but special thanks to Andy Dott for his work on the regulations' document.

We have held two training weekends over the past year to train the proposed examiners. Over the summer the MCQs, SAQs and OSCEs and OSPEs are to be written. The exam regulations and terms of reference for both this committee and for the examiners have been prepared. The regulations have recently been circulated to all.

## **2.2 Conference sub-committee**

### **Membership:**

Mike Devlin (MLA & Chair)  
Karin Englehart (Deputy Coroner)  
George Fernie (Registrar)  
Clare Pillinger (FFLM Manager)  
Professor Peter Venezis (Forensic Pathologist)  
Dr Peter Schutte (Treasurer)  
Janet Young (Forensic Physician)

### **Terms of reference:**

- The Committee reports to the Board through the Academic Committee.
- To consider all matters relevant to the conferences of the Faculty.
- To report to the Academic Committee arrangements for conferences in hand.
- To report to the Academic Committee suggestions (from within the committee and without) for future conferences.
- To consider all matters relating planning and delivery of conferences.
- To consider all matters relating to joint conferences with which the Faculty may wish to be associated.
- To prepare an annual budget of projected income and expenditure for consideration by the Treasurer and Executive Committee.
- To recommend delegate fees for conferences for consideration by the Executive Committee.
- To identify suitable academic topics and themes for conferences to reflect the work of all constituent elements of the Faculty.
- To advise the Academic Committee on strategy relating to the content, planning and delivery of conferences.

## **2.3 Training and Education Subcommittee**

### **Membership:**

Emma Cuzner (MLA)  
Bill Dolman (Coroner)  
Anne Harrison (Forensic Physician)  
Dick Shepherd (Forensic Pathologist)  
Margaret Stark (Forensic Physician & Chair)

**Terms of reference:**

- To advise on the training and educational programme for the Faculty;
- To advise on Faculty educational documents; reviewing documents in existence as required and discussing ideas for new documents.

**2.4 Forensic Science Subcommittee****Membership:**

Dr Deborah Rogers (Forensic Physician & Chair)  
Julie Allard (Forensic Science Service)  
Bernadette Butler (SOE, The Haven)  
Stephanie Fellows (LGC Forensics)  
Susan Fewkes (UKAFN)  
Bob Fousert (Tek-Niche Products Ltd)  
Mike Hopson (WA Products (UK) Limited)  
Adrian Jones (Tetra Scene of Crime)  
Tim Lawrence (Scenesafe, Forensic Science Service)  
Jennie Lewis (Cellmark Forensics)  
Rebecca Mayfield (LGC Forensics)  
Mary Newton (Forensic Science Service)  
Kirsty Potter (NPIA)  
Byron Thorne (ACPO Rape Support Programme)  
Dr Cath White (SOE, St Mary's SARC)

**Terms of reference:**

- To ensure that all relevant forensic samples are collected in a way that maximises the recovery of potential forensic evidence whilst minimising the distress to the examinee.
- Maintain guidelines on forensic sampling which will be updated as there are developments in the field of forensic science.
- Establish channels of communication between the FFLM and the forensic service and kit providers.
- Communicate good practice to forensic practitioners responsible for obtaining the samples and the teachers of those practitioners

**2.5 Research sub-committee**

In March we requested expressions of interest from Fellows and Members who have a proven track record in medical research to chair this subcommittee. We received a number of expressions of interest and Professor Guy Rutty has been appointed and agreed to chair this sub-committee.

**Terms of reference:**

- To develop a UK research agenda for forensic and legal medicine. The agenda will reflect any nationally agreed research priorities and the need to develop evidence-based forensic and legal medical practice.
- To identify suitable research topics to implement the research agenda.

### **3. Educational documents**

3.1 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).

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

Healthcare of detainees in police stations. Third edition. FFLM/BMA (2009)

Consent form for FP examination – Pro forma (2008)

Consent form for photographs – Pro forma (2008)

Guidance on the management of acute behavioural disturbance in police custody – Guidelines (2008)

Forensic Physicians as witnesses in criminal proceedings – Recommendations (2008)

Guidelines on Paediatric Forensic Examinations in Relation to Possible Child Sexual Abuse – Guidelines 2007

Recommended Equipment for Obtaining Forensic Samples from Complainants and Suspects – Recommendations 2009

The FFLM has also worked with the Royal College of Psychiatrists in the production of the report "Standards on the use of Section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 (2007) Report of the multi-agency group led by the Royal College of Psychiatrists

College Report CR149, September 2008. Thanks to Jason Payne-James for his work on this group.

Special thanks to Sarah Llewellyn who supports the Academic Committee's endeavours.

**Dr Margaret M Stark - Academic Dean May 2009**

## APPENDIX A

### The Committee as of May 2009 is composed of:

Dr Guy Norfolk (President) [Ian Wall President-Elect]  
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 and Chair of the Examination Subcommittee)  
Dr Mike Devlin (Conference Secretary and Chair of the Conference Subcommittee)  
Gerry Randle (Custody Paramedic)  
Dr Dick Shepherd (Forensic Pathologist) [Professor Guy Ruddy Chair of the Research Sub-Committee]  
Dr Cath White (SOE)  
Dr Debbi Rogers (Chair of the Forensic Science Subcommittee)  
David Jenkins Professor in Forensic and Legal Medicine  
Dr Margaret Stark (Academic Dean) Chair

## APPENDIX B

### April 2009 - Membership of Committees:

ACPO Working Group on Rape and Adult Sexual Offences	Cath White
Department for Transport & PACTS	Ian Wall
Diploma in Sexual Assault Medicine Working Party (Society of Apothecaries)	Vicky Evans
Doctors in Secure Environments, RCGP	Cath White
ECLM	Sanjeev Gaya
	Peter Franklin
Herald Project	Jason Payne-James
International Centre for Drug Policy (ICDP)/National Advisory Board	Eddie Josse
Medical Examiners Working Group	Margaret Stark
Ministerial Council on Deaths	George Fernie
	Jason Payne-James
National Programme on Substance Abuse Deaths (np-SAD)	Guy Norfolk
The Medical Council on Alcoholism	Margaret Stark
National Custody Advisory Forum	Michael Wilks
	Guy Norfolk
NICE - Identification of children with suspected abuse	Jason Payne-James
NSPCC Health Liaison Committee	Ian Wall
NSPIS Working group	Jeanne Herring
	Sanjeev Gaya
Outsourced Providers' Forum	Ian Wall
RCPsych Liaison Committee	Jason Payne-James
Sexual violence initiative board	Cath White
	Debbi Rogers
Working Group on service specification for child sexual abuse, RCPCH	Sheila Paul