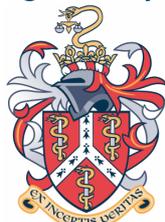


FACULTY OF FORENSIC & LEGAL MEDICINE

of the Royal College of Physicians of London



Registered Charity No 1119599

REPORT FROM THE ACADEMIC DEAN

13 MAY 2011

Since the last AGM, Dr Margaret Stark has demitted office and Dr Victoria Evans was appointed as the new Academic Dean, taking over at the beginning of April 2011. The Academic Committee would like to express their thanks for Dr Stark's hard work and inspirational leadership during her time in office and I would like to add my thanks for her considerable assistance to me as incoming Dean. We all wish her well in Australia.

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.

1.3 The Academic Dean is also responsible for coordinating 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. The Membership Examination

2.1 The examination is a priority for the Faculty and therefore for the AC and Chief Examiner's (CE) Committee, particularly given that this was the first examination diet in which Objective Structured Practical Examinations (OSPEs) for the medico-legal advisors (MLAs) were held. Huge thanks are due to Dr Jeanne Herring, Chief Examiner, ably assisted by her Deputies, the Leads, and the Examiners.

2.2 This will be the last examination diet which will be led by Dr Herring who will demit office in June this year. Her unstinting encouragement, occasional remonstrance and perseverance have led to the development and delivery of a Membership Examination of which I believe the Faculty can be proud.

2.3 The Chief Examiner's Committee has met formally on four occasions over the last year, in addition to a number of teleconferences and much email traffic.

2.4 The post of Chief Examiner is currently being advertised (having been deferred until the new Academic Dean was in post) and I look forward to working with Dr Herring's successor.

2.5 Part I of the Membership examination was held in October at the Royal College of Physicians and Part II on 06, 20 and 21 April 2011 at St George's, London. There were 21 candidates for Part I: 20 actually took the exam, of whom nine passed and 11 failed. There were 11 candidates for part II: eight for general forensic medicine (GFM) of whom seven passed, one with a merit; two for sexual offences medicine (SOM), both of whom passed; and one medico-legal adviser who also passed with merit.

2.6 Of the nine new examiners selected for training in January 2010, seven successfully completed their training and their appointment has been ratified by the Board. One examiner has deferred for family reasons and one examiner has dropped out.

2.7 Applications have been received from three new candidates to train as examiners and these are currently being considered.

2.8 Professor Sean Hilton has been involved in overseeing the examination as External Examiner and was able to attend the Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs). He was very pleased with the progress that had been made, especially given that the Part I questions are now in the "Best of 5" MCQ format, and the marking of the Short Answer Questions had been restructured.

2.9 The OSCEs and OSPEs have taken a great deal of work and all of the examiners continue to gain experience in writing, trialling, revising and rehearsing these with actors. The MLAs had their first taste of devising and running OSPEs and have learnt much from this endeavour.

2.10 Angela Hall and the team at St George's, including the actors, have as ever been invaluable in ensuring the examinations, in particular the OSCEs and OSPEs ran without a hitch. Special thanks are due to Ms Hall for her enduring patience in guiding us through the intellectual process, ensuring that the examination content was appropriate and that nothing was forgotten on the day; and, to Keira Anderson, the Assistant Registrar who continues to explain the mysteries of Angoffing.

2.11 Next academic year there will be some other changes in personnel: Dr Andrew Dott is demitting office as MCQ Lead and will be replaced by Dr Michael Powers QC; Dr Dott and Dr Herring will demit office as GFM OSCE Leads and will be replaced by Dr Meng Aw Yong; I will demit office as SOM OSCE Lead and will be replaced by Dr Helena Thornton.

2.12 Dr John Holden is to take over from Dr Hugh Stewart as the MLA Deputy Chief Examiner; and, applications have been invited to fill the vacancy for GFM Deputy Chief Examiner vacated by Professor Wall.

2.13 All examiners have given up a large amount of time and effort to making the examination a success, especially so in the run up to Part II of the examination.

2.14 Sarah Llewellyn has been helpful, efficient and hardworking in supporting the examination and over the OSCE/OSPEs, attending on both days along with Toni Nichols.

2.15 In keeping with suggestions made by the external examiner, Professor Sean Hilton, the Faculty Board has decided that, in future, outstanding candidates in each of GFM, SOM and MLA may be awarded a Merit or Distinction depending on their level of attainment in the Membership examination.

2.16 The challenge for the new academic year is to continue to build our bank of questions and stations for each part of the examination and to consolidate the skills of examiners for the Membership examination in doing so.

3. The Diploma in Forensic Human Identification [DipFHID]

3.1 The Board have agreed that a new examination in forensic human identification will be accepted by the Faculty.

3.2 Professor Peter Vanezis has agreed to become Deputy Chief Examiner for this examination and will join the Examination Committee.

3.3 It is hoped that the first examination diet will be held in September this year.

4. Curriculum Subcommittee

4.1 The Board have approved a new Subcommittee to develop a Curriculum for MLAs and FPs. This is a challenging task and is to run in tandem with the Credentialing Pilot so that each might inform the other.

4.3 The Subcommittee will be chaired by the Academic Dean.

4.2 Applications of interest from the membership to engage in this important work will be invited shortly.

5. Work Place Based Assessment

5.1 The Board has approved in principle the appointment of a Work Place Based Assessment (WBPA) Lead and applications for this will be invited in due course.

5.2 The development of WBPA will inform the Credentialing Pilot led by Professor Ian Wall, so this work is urgent as the Pilot will need to be completed by December 2011 and a Report sent to the DOH in January 2012.

6. Conference Subcommittee

6.1 Dr Michael Devlin and the conference subcommittee have met regularly by teleconference over the last year. They are to be congratulated on their organisation of a successful conference at the RSM in October 2010 as well as the conference this year in May 2011.

6.2 As the pricing structure from RCP (London) had changed, it was necessary to urgently consider a change of venue for May 2011. This has been successfully achieved by the Faculty Manager and the Conference is now being hosted at the Holiday Inn Regent's Park.

6.3 Next year the Annual Conference will be in Edinburgh at the Royal College of Physicians Edinburgh, on 11-12 May 2012.

6.4 If you have any topics for Faculty Conference please do let the Academic Dean or Chair of the Conference Sub-Committee know.

7. Training and Education Subcommittee

7.1 The joint initial training course with the NPIA has been held on three occasions over the past academic year and a further three courses are planned for 2011/12. Several attendees have now been awarded the Teesside University Certificate in Postgraduate Professional Development in Forensic Medicine.

7.2 Two very successful development training courses (DTCs) have been held in London in the last academic year.

7.3 In November 2010, Dr Peter Green took the lead in organising a day of training for Level 3 Safeguarding which was very well received. Such training has now become a requirement for forensic physicians and it is hoped that this will be repeated over the next academic year in March 2012.

7.4 Another DTC was held in March 2011 which was attended by 44 delegates. Feedback was good. Thanks are due to Dr Will Anderson and Dr Caroline Fryar who led and chaired this course.

7.5 A further DTC is planned for November 2011.

7.6 Dr Meng Aw Yong has been developing on an Intermediate Life Support Course to address issues arising in a forensic setting. It is hoped that this will be run as a day course in the next academic year.

7.7 The committee continues to review and revise Faculty documents as required and welcomes feedback. All documents - guidelines, recommendations, proformas, fact sheets, and, policy statements are available on the website with a few that can be accessed in the Members' only area (open to Fellows, Members and Affiliates).

7.8 Over the past year the following documents have been reviewed and revised as appropriate:

- Body diagrams
- Medical care of persons detained under the Terrorism Act 2000
- Examination of adult complainants of domestic violence (proforma)
- Management of Choking in Police Care and Custody - Recommendations for Police Personnel
- The Role of the Healthcare Professional
- The Role of the Independent Forensic Physician
- Acute behavioural disturbance: guidelines on management in police custody
- Safe and Secure Administration of Medication in Police Custody (Recommendations)
- Intimate searches in Police Custody
- Recommendations for healthcare professionals asked to perform intimate body searches
- Taking blood specimens from incapacitated drivers
- ACPO/FSS/FFLM Guidance in Criminal Paternity Cases
- Guidance for best practice for the management of intimate images that may become evidence in court (Guidelines)
- Role of Forensic Pathologist
- What happens Now? (Fact sheet)
- Proforma for adult female and male forensic sexual assault examination

8. Forensic Science Subcommittee (FSSC)

8.1 The Subcommittee has met on two occasions in the last year.

8.2 Dr Bernadette Butler has taken over the Chair from Dr Deborah Rogers.

8.3 In July 2010 and January 2011 the updated Guidelines for the collection of specimens from complainants and suspects were put on the website and these will be reviewed again at the next meeting of the FSSC at the end of May 2011.

9. Research Subcommittee

8.2 The committee has met once in the last academic year.

8.3 In January 2011 guidelines regarding research were placed on the website.

8.4 It is hoped that the workshop on research run by Professor Paul Marks at the conference will inspire more of our members to undertake some projects of their own.

10. Sexual Offences Forum

10.1 This is led by Dr Sandy Fielding and continues to attract lively debate and an opportunity for information sharing between clinical directors and lead forensic physicians mostly by e-mail.

10.2 The Forum met on a single occasion at the St Mary's Conference in Manchester in February 2011.

Dr J Victoria Evans
Academic Dean

APPENDIX A

The Academic Committee as of April 2011 is composed of:

Professor Ian Wall (President)
Dr Catherine White (VP FP)
Dr Nicholas Clements (VP MLA)
Dr George Fernie (Registrar)
Dr Peter Schutte (Treasurer)
Dr Bernadette Butler (Chair Forensic Science Subcommittee)
Mr Jerry Randle (Custody Paramedic)
Dr Michael Devlin (Chair Conference Subcommittee)
Dr Jacqueline Mok David Jenkins Professor in Clinical Forensic Medicine
Dr Jason Payne-James (Editor Journal)
Dr Jeanne Herring (Chief Examiner)
Dr Andrew Reid (VP Coroners)
Professor Peter Vanezis (Chair Research Subcommittee)
Ms Jo Delaforce (or representative) UKAFN
Dr Margaret Stark (Academic Dean and Chair up to April 2011)
Dr Victoria Evans (Incoming Academic Dean and Chair)

APPENDIX B

April 2011 - Membership of Committees:

ACPO Working Group on Rape and Adult Sexual Offences
Blood Borne Virus Committee (ACPO)
CMO's Expert Group on the Care of Suspected Internal Drug Traffickers Whilst
Custody
CJS/DH National Advisory Group
Diploma in Forensic and Clinical Aspects of Sexual Assault (DFCASA)
Management Board (Society of Apothecaries)
Doctors in Secure Environments, RCGP

ECLM

Home Office Policing Healthcare Group

HMIC/HMIP Custody Stakeholder Group
Independent Advisory Panel Preventing Deaths in Custody
International Centre for Drug Policy (ICDP)/National Advisory Board

Medical Examiner's Working Group
National Programme on Substance Abuse Deaths (np-SAD)

The Medical Council on Alcoholism
National Section 12 Advisory Group
NSPIS Working Group
RCGP Clinical Priority Group on Domestic Violence
RCN Custody Nurses Meeting
RCPCH Child Sexual Abuse Book – Project Board/Steering Group
RCPCH Standing Committee on Child Protection
RCPsych Liaison Committee

Dr Cath White
Dr Felicity Nicholson
Professor John Farnan and in
Dr Meng Aw-Yong
Professor Ian Wall
Dr Cath White
Dr Vicky Evans
Dr Christine Bassindale
Dr George Fernie
Dr Jason Payne-James
Dr Peter Franklin
Dr Jason Payne-James
Professor Ian Wall
Dr Michael Wilks
Professor Ian Wall
Dr Margaret Stark
(Dr Victoria Evans)
Dr George Fernie
Dr Margaret Stark
(Dr Victoria Evans)
Dr Karin Englehart
Dr Michael Wilks

Dr Ujjal Sarkar
Dr Alyson Jones
Ms Elisabeth Jeffries
Dr Mary Pillai
Dr Sheila Paul
Dr Jason Payne-James