

FACULTY OF FORENSIC & LEGAL MEDICINE

of the Royal College of Physicians of London



Registered Charity No 1119599

REPORT FROM THE ACADEMIC DEAN 10 MAY 2013

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Academic Committee (AC) has met on four 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 Two Assistants to the Academic Dean, Dr Shirjeel Tahir and Dr Frank Voeten have been appointed to help with the ever increasing work load generated through the Academic Committee.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 Special thanks must go to Dr Sheila Paul who has represented the Faculty on the RCPCH Standing Committee for Child Protection for many years. Her input was I know very much valued. She will be succeeded by Dr Linda Teebay.
- 1.6 I will be demitting office as Academic Dean when I take over as President at the AGM. I would like to put on record my heartfelt thanks to the office staff without whom my task would be impossible. In particular Sarah Llewellyn has worked over and above the call of duty to support the Academic Dean and the Academic Committee. I know I leave the post in the good and capable hands of my successor, Professor Ian Wall.

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. Huge thanks are due to Dr Andy Dott, Chief Examiner, ably assisted by his Deputies, the Leads, and the Examiners. Thanks are also due to Angela Hall and Keira and the team from St George's.
- 2.2 Following the retirement of Professor Sean Hilton as External Examiner for MFFLM, Mr Kevin Hayes, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, has become the External Examiner.
- 2.3 This was the last examination diet to be led by Dr Dott who will shortly retire from his post as Chief Examiner. Dr Helena Thornton has been appointed as his successor. Dr Dott has again overseen the delivery of a successful Membership Examination.
- 2.4 The Chief Examiner's Committee has met formally on several occasions over the last year, in addition to a number of teleconferences and much email traffic.

- 2.5 Part I of the Membership examination was held in October 2012 at the Royal College of Physicians and Part II in April 2013 at St George's, London. There were 26 candidates for Part I: 23 actually took the exam, of whom 16 passed and 9 failed. There were 17 candidates for part II: 10 for general forensic medicine (GFM) of whom none passed; six for sexual offences medicine (SOM), three of whom passed; and one medico-legal adviser who also passed.
- 2.6 Applications are to be invited for new candidates to train as examiners.
- 2.7 Kevin Hayes has been involved in overseeing the examination as External Examiner. He has offered to assist with training in setting and marking written exam papers next year.
- 2.8 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.
- 2.9 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.
- 2.10 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.
- 2.11 Sarah Llewellyn has been helpful, efficient and hardworking in supporting the examination and over the OSCE/OSPEs, attending on both days along with Patricia Gilbert (written paper - invigilator) and Anna Dare (OSCEs).
- 2.12 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. It is still hoped change to the new method of global marking for the OSPE/OSCEs and this will require further training to accommodate this.

3. New examinations

- 3.1 Plans are going ahead to establish the new examinations of Diploma in Legal Medicine and Diploma in General Forensic Medicine and it is hoped have the first diet in 2014.
- 3.2 The President has written to the Master of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries to indicate our wish to take over the running of the Diploma of Forensic and Clinical Aspects of Sexual Assault as part of our development of our examination portfolio.

4. The Diploma in Forensic Human Identification [DipFHID]

- 4.1 Professor Peter Vanezis has worked with the Chief Examiner as Deputy Chief Examiner for this examination to ensure this examination is run in accordance with Faculty guidelines.
- 4.2 In the October 2012 diet there were 7 candidates, all of whom passed the examination and are due to submit their dissertations by 3 June 2013.
- 4.3 The examiners have also been asked to look at the format of the examination and consider how it might be updated in line with the other Faculty examinations. As yet, little progress has been made.
- 4.4 The next examination will be held in October 2013.

5. Curriculum Subcommittee

- 5.1 After discussions with the incoming Academic Dean, it has been decided by the Board that this work will be undertaken as soon as possible. The Subcommittee will be chaired by the President.

6. Credentialing

- 6.1 Following the completion of the Credentialing Pilot ably led by Professor Ian Wall, the latter is now to represent the Faculty on a GMC Working Group set up to look at how this would work across the profession in reality, the GMC having accepted in principle that this is the way forward.
- 6.2 The Academic Committee is delighted to see that Dr Peter Green and Dr Jason Payne-James have both been recognized on the Specialty Register via the CESR route. The GMC has accepted that this route is open to other Fellows of the Faculty and some senior members of the Faculty have undergone training by the GMC in the process of CESR approval.

7. Conference Subcommittee

- 7.1 The conference subcommittee has been ably chaired by Dr Will Anderson. The subcommittee has met regularly by teleconference over the last year. They are to be congratulated on their organisation of a successful conference in Leeds this year.
- 7.2 Next year's Annual Conference will be held on 16 & 17 May 2014 at The Queen Hotel in Chester.
- 7.3 If you have any topics for Faculty Conference, please do let the Academic Dean or Chair of the Conference Subcommittee know.

8. Training and Education Subcommittee

- 8.1 The joint initial training course with the College of Policing (previously the NPIA) has been held once in the past academic year and further courses are planned for 2013/14.
- 8.2 One very successful development training course (DTC) has been held in London in the last academic year, ably organized by Dr Will Anderson and his team.
- 8.3 Development training for Medico-legal Advisors has been organized by Dr Angelique Mastihi and will run in September 2013 in Manchester.
- 8.4 Dr Peter Green ran a very successful training course to contribute to the portfolio for Level 3 Safeguarding in October 2012. Such training has now become a requirement for forensic physicians and Dr Green is organising something similar this October.
- 8.5 A number of training courses addressing training needs to underpin basic competencies in clinical forensic medicine, particularly general forensic medicine, and open to all healthcare professionals working in the forensic setting, have been run in the last year. Topics have included Mental Health, Road Traffic Medicine, Mental Health, and the documentation of injuries. Further courses are planned over 2013/4.
- 8.6 The Immediate Life Support Course to address issues arising in a forensic setting continues to run.
- 8.7 The committee continues to review and revise FFLM documents as required and welcomes feedback. All documents – guidelines, recommendations, pro forma, 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).

8.8 Over the past year, many documents have been reviewed and revised as appropriate and published on the website. We have developed Quality Standards in both General Forensic Medicine and Sexual Offences Medicine with our colleagues in nursing and the paramedics, and these are due to be published soon.

9. Forensic Science Subcommittee (FSSC)

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

9.2 Dr Bernadette Butler as Chair has ably steered the Subcommittee through an ever increasing workload. Dr Tom O’Gorman has resigned as Deputy Chair of the FSSC, having gone to work in Australia. He is to be succeeded by Dr George Fernie.

9.3 In July 2012 and January 2013, the updated *Recommendations 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 this month.

10. Research Subcommittee

10.1 The committee has met by teleconference in the last academic year with Professor Paul Marks as Chair.

11. Sexual Offences Forum

11.1 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, by email and on their secure area of the website forum.

11.2 The Forum has met face-to-face on two occasions in the last academic year.

11.3 The Forum now has its own secure area on the Faculty website.

12. Collaboration with Department for Transport to set up and run training courses for trainers in response to changes in Road Traffic Legislation

12.1 The Academic Dean and Professor Ian Wall have attended a meeting at the DfT in which this was welcomed as a proposal and approved in principle. It is hoped that the Faculty will run courses for Trainers so that they can deliver a Faculty course locally to those HCPs who will be doing assessments under s4 Road Traffic Act (driving under the influence of drugs). It is expected that once rolled out, only HCPs who have successfully undertaken the training course will be able to undertake such assessments.

13. Children and Young People in Secure Settings Standards (CYPSS)

13.1 The Academic Dean has represented the Faculty on the Project Board for CYPSS at RCPCH. The initial work has now been completed and the Standards are to be launched on 10 June 2013. The Standards are jointly badged by RCPCH (lead college), RCPsych, RCGP, Faculty of Public Health and FFLM.

Dr J Victoria Evans
Academic Dean

APPENDIX A

The Academic Committee as at April 2013 is composed of:

Dr George Fernie (President)	Mr Tim Miles (Custody Paramedic)
Dr Catherine White (VP FP)	Dr Andy Dott (Chief Examiner)
Dr Nicholas Clements (VP MLA)	Professor Paul Marks (Chair Research Subcom)
Dr Roy Palmer (VP Coroners)	Ms Jennie Smith (representative UKAFN)
Dr Peter Schutte (Registrar)	Dr Jenny Holmes (Nurse Liaison)
Professor Ian Wall (Credentialing Lead))	Dr Shirjeel Tahir (Assistant to AD)
Dr Michael Devlin (Treasurer)	Dr Frank Voeten (Assistant to AD)
Dr Shade Alu (representative RCPCH)	Dr Victoria Evans (Academic Dean and Chair)
Dr Miranda Horvath, David Jenkins Professor	Dr Bernadette Butler (Chair For Sci Subcom)
Dr Jason Payne-James (Editor Journal)	Dr William Anderson (Chair Conf. Subcom)

APPENDIX B

Committee Representation (as at April 2013)

	Intercoll. H'care Stds for Children & Young People in Secure Settings (CYPSS) Project Board Meeting
Vicky Evans (VE)	All Party Group for Domestic and Sexual Violence on Improving Police Procedures
	Staffordshire Early Adopters Stakeholder Meeting
	National s12 Advisory Group
	Improving the response to the needs of Victims of Sexual Assault
	Stakeholder Event: Sexual Assault Services – The Future
Cath White (CW)	Violence Against Women and Children
	Sexual Violence Forum
	Child Sexual Exploitation Health Working Group
	ACPO Working Group on Rape and Adult Sexual Offences
	National SARC Advisory Board
CW/VE	DFCASA Management Board
George Fernie	Medical Examiners
	Police Healthcare National Stakeholder Group Oversight Board
	Doctors in Secure Environments, RCGP
Ian Wall	Independent Advisory Panel Preventing Deaths in Custody
	Physical Signs of Child Sexual Abuse – male/anal signs working party
	Enforcement Procedures against Drink Drivers and Other Offenders
	FFLM/NPIA/TU Introductory Course in CFM Review Meeting
Linda Teebay	RCPCH Standing Committee on Child Protection
Felicity Nicholson	Blood borne virus Strategy Group
Michelle Carroll	BASSG Adolescent Sexual Health Interest Group
Alyson Jones	Domestic Violence expert group
Jenny Holmes	RCPsych Liaison Committee /S136 working group
Jason Payne-James	ECLM
Ujjal Sarkar	NSPIS Working Group
Sandy Fielding	FFLM Sexual Offence Examiner Forum
Bob Peckitt	Child Trafficking Advisory Group
	International Centre for Drug Policy (ICDP)/National Advisory Board
	National Programme on Substance Abuse Deaths (np-SAD)
Michael Wilks	HMIC/HMIP Custody Stakeholder Group
	The Medical Council on Alcoholism
Kranti Hiremath	BMA Forensic Medicine Committee
Will Anderson	Review of the IPCC's work in cases involving a death