

# FACULTY OF FORENSIC & LEGAL MEDICINE

of the Royal College of Physicians of London



Registered Charity No 1119599

## Registrar's Report for 2013 -2014

### Board Meetings

The Board met throughout the Faculty's 9<sup>th</sup> year on

1. 7 October 2013.
2. 3 February January 2014.
3. 28 April 2014.

The Minutes of these meetings are available on the website to give an indication of the discussion that took place. The Minutes are both full and accurate with limited redaction on sensitive issues, particularly those involving named individuals. This reflects the Board's wish to be open and transparent, thereby helping to fulfil its obligation to the public as a registered charity.

### Attendances

#### FFLM Board attendance

	7/10/13	3/2/14	28/4/14
Dr J Victoria Evans	✓	✓	✓
Dr Peter Schutte	✓	✓ (phone)	✓
Dr Michael Devlin	✓	✓	✓
Professor Ian Wall	✓	✓	✓
Dr Peter Green	✓	✓	✓ (PM)
Dr George Fernie	x	✓	x
Professor Paul Marks	x	x	x
Professor Carol Seymour	n/a	x	x
Dr Will Anderson	x	✓	✓
Professor Richard Shepherd	x	x	✓ (phone)
Dr Catherine White	✓	x	x
Dr Sarah Redvers	✓	✓	x
Ms Annie Norman	x	✓	✓
Mr Clive Constable	✓	x	x
Dr Patrick Cadigan	x	x	n/a
Dr Mike Robertson	✓	✓	✓
Mr Phil Willan	x	x	✓ (phone)

## Academic committee attendance

Name	Jul 13	Sep 13	Jan 14	Mar 14
Professor Ian Wall (Academic Dean)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dr Vicky Evans (President)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dr Michael Devlin (Treasurer)	✓	✗	✓	✗
Dr Peter Schutte (Registrar)	✓	✓	✓	✗
Dr George Fernie (VP MLA) (FSSC Chair)	✓	✓	✗	✓
Dr Peter Green (VP FP)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Professor Paul Marks (VP MC)	✗	✗	✓	✗
Professor Carol Seymour (VP MLA)	n/a	n/a	✓	✓
Dr Bernadette Butler (FSSC Chair)	✓	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dr Helena Thornton (Chief Examiner)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dr Will Anderson (Conference Secretary)	✓	✓	✗	✓
Dr Cath White (Sexual Offence Lead)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dr Shade Alu (RCPCH)	✗	✗	✓	✗
Dr Frank Voeten (Assistant to the AD)	✗	✗	n/a	n/a
Dr Shirjeel Tahir (Assistant to the AD)	✗	✗	✓	✓
Dr Jason Payne-James (JFLM Editor)	✓	✗	✓	✗
Ms Jennie Smith/Ms Sue Fewkes (UKAFN)	Sue	Jennie	Jennie	Jennie
Dr Jenny Holmes (Nurse Liaison)	✓	✗	✓	✓
Mr Tim Miles (College of Paramedics)	✓	n/a	n/a	n/a
Mr Martin Berry (College of Paramedics)	n/a	✓	n/a	n/a
Ms Jacqueline Lindridge (College of Paramedics)	n/a	n/a	✓	✓
Professor Robert Forrest (Research Chair)	n/a	✓	n/a	n/a
HHJ Peter Thornton (David Jenkins Chair)	✗	✗	✗	✓
Mr Vijay Patel (College of Social Work)			✓	✓

## Revalidation committee attendance (All teleconferences)

	Dec 13	Mar 14
Dr Nick Clements (Chair)	n/a	n/a
Dr Peter Green	✓	✓
Dr Michael Devlin	✗	✓
Dr Victoria Evans	✓	✓
Dr George Fernie	n/a	n/a
Dr Sandy Fielding	n/a	n/a
Dr Matthew Lee	✓	✓
Dr Neil Margerison	✗	✗
Professor Paul Marks	✗	✗
Professor Carol Seymour	✗	✓
Dr Peter Schutte	✓	✓
Professor Richard Shepherd	✗	✗
Dr Cath White	n/a	n/a
Dr Jeaneatte McGorrigan	n/a	✓
Dr Sally Old	n/a	✓
Dr Ronnie Lowe	n/a	✓

## Fellowship committee attendance

	Jul 13	Nov 13	Mar 14
Dr George Fernie	✓	✓	n/a
Dr Peter Schutte	✓	✓	✓
Dr Nick Clements	✓	n/a	n/a
Dr Andrew Reid	✓	n/a	n/a
Dr Roy Palmer	✓	✓	✓
Dr Jeremy Smart	✓	✓	x
Prof Richard Shepherd	✓	x	x
Dr Cath White	x	x	x
Dr Julia Neild	✓	✓	x
Dr Vicky Evans	✓	✓	✓
Dr Peter Green	x	x	x
Prof Paul Marks	n/a	x	x
Dr Philip Lumb	n/a	n/a	✓
Carol Seymour	n/a	n/a	✓

## Board Membership

Dr George Fernie resigned as Vice-President (MLAs). Prof Carol Seymour was the only candidate to stand for election to replace him, and was duly appointed.

Professor Richard Shepherd came to the end of his term as ordinary member of the Board. An election was held for his replacement, and Dr Winnie Maguire was successful and takes up her appointment at the AGM.

Ms Annie Norman, a forensic nurse, co-opted onto the Board and Dr Michael Robertson and Mr Phil Willan, lay members, continue as members of the Board.

All have given excellent service to the FFLM.

The Board consists of:

President:	Dr J Victoria Evans
Registrar:	Dr Peter Schutte
Treasurer:	Dr Michael Devlin
Academic dean:	Prof Ian Wall
Vice-President FPs:	Dr Peter Green
Vice –President (MLAs):	Prof Carol Seymour
Vice-President (Coroners):	Prof Paul Marks
Ordinary Members:	Dr Will Anderson Dr Cath White Dr Sarah Redvers Dr Winnie Maguire
Co-opted members	Ms Annie Norman Dr George Fernie
RCP appointees	Mr Clive Constable Vacant
Lay Members	Mr Phil Willan Dr Michael Robertson

## **Promotion of forensic and legal medicine**

The FFLM will:

- Continue to work with Government to raise the profile of forensic and legal medicine and to contribute to and develop new policy
- Seek opportunities to promote the specialty to medical undergraduates
- Seek opportunities for sharing educational and good practice work with colleagues overseas
- Seek to publish articles to promote forensic and legal medicine awareness
- Seek to improve communications and press coverage
- Develop marketing and promotional literature

## **Education and training**

- Implement Faculty specialist examinations successfully and continue to refined these
- Maintain good communication links with the GMC and Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (AOMRC)
- Maintain Introductory Training Course for Forensic Physicians & Healthcare Professionals
- Maintain Development Training Courses
- Maintain e-learning course with Ulster University for membership examination
- Maintain and review faculty educational documents
- Maintain and support Forensic Science Committee
- Update Forensic Sampling guidance every 6 months
- Maintain a Research sub-committee
- Run an Annual Conference
- Produce new or updated guidance as appropriate

## **Professional development and standards**

- Respond to GMC consultation documents
- Contribute to associated work of other bodies such as the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE)
- Maintain Faculty CPD scheme including manual process for accreditation of courses relevant to Faculty members
- Promote guidance for Faculty members on CPD
- Promote participation in Continuing Professional Development
- Encourage members to recognise that CPD participation is becoming mandatory
- Review effectiveness of CPD scheme with feedback from Faculty members
- Maintain appraiser training courses
- Maintain Faculty appraisal service
- Monitor developments in relation to revalidation
- Continue to build on work to develop curriculum
- Participate in GMC credentialing pilot with hope of achieving specialist status through this mechanism - see appended report
- Promote Fellowship nomination procedure
- Continue to revise the Faculty examination
- Maintain Faculty CPD web-based on-line scheme
- Evolve guidance for Faculty members on CPD based on GMC requirements

## Governance, Resources and Internal Matters

- Present audited accounts to Board and AGM
- Present budget forecast
- Review standard of service provided by current auditors
- Review standard of service provided by C Hoare & Co
- Review the Standing Orders and Governance Regulations to ensure they are fit for purpose
- Review staffing and resources
- Develop in house policies and procedures
- Review faculty document management system
- Continue development of Faculty website

## Membership trends

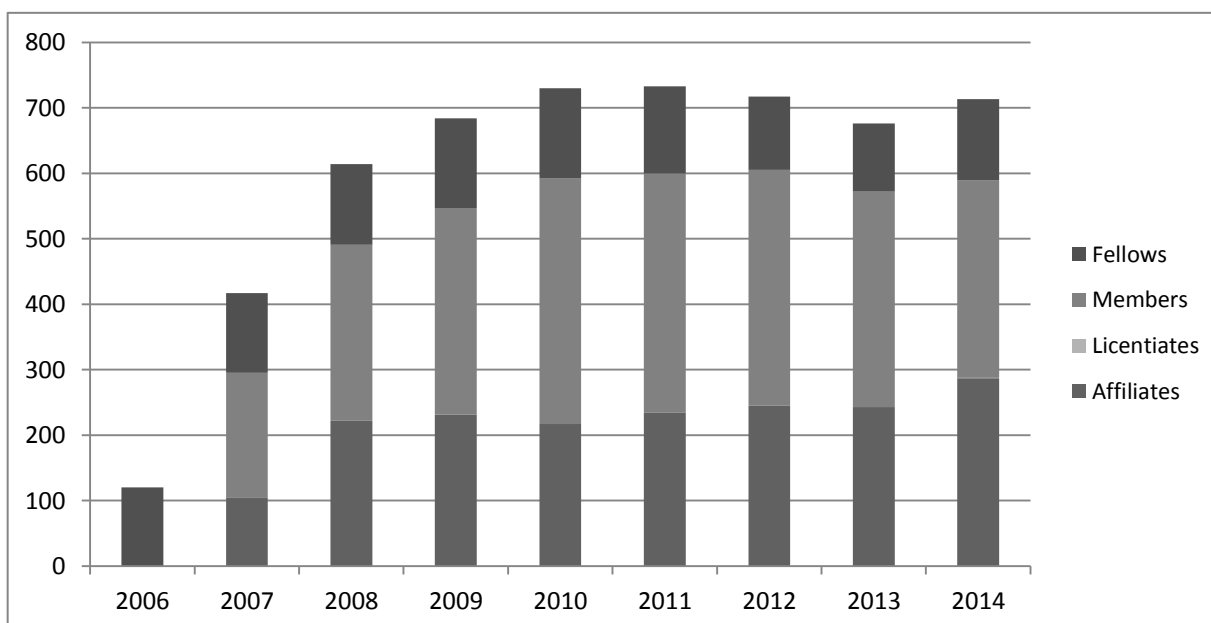
The membership numbers have picked up since last year, primarily due to an increased number of joining Affiliates.

We have also elected our first Licentiate who qualifies on the grounds that she already possesses the DFCASA. This is an exciting new development. Licentiate examinations will be held for the first time in 2014.

The following table gives the numbers for Associates, Affiliates, Licentiates, Members and Fellows since the inception of the FFLM.

The figures exclude retired and honorary membership.

Year	Affiliates	Licentiates	Members	Fellows	Total
2006	0	0	0	120	<b>120</b>
2007	105	0	190	122	<b>417</b>
2008	222	0	269	123	<b>614</b>
2009	231	0	315	138	<b>684</b>
2010	217	0	375	138	<b>730</b>
2011	234	0	366	133	<b>733</b>
2012	245	0	360	112	<b>717</b>
2013	243	0	329	104	<b>676</b>
2014	287	1	301	124	<b>713</b>



As seen in previous years, Forensic Physicians (a category which includes Sexual Offence Examiners) make up the bulk of the membership.

Forensic Pathologists are the second most numerous group, followed by MLAs.

Most of our membership is in the UK, with Australia second and the Republic of Ireland third.

As predicted in my report last year, the balance between joining Affiliates and joining Members (i.e. MFFLMs) is strongly in favour of Affiliates.

### **Associate Membership**

The Board approved admission criteria for Associate membership on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2014 and a number of applications are currently being processed.

#### From the Standing Orders 2013:

##### *2.12 Associate Membership Criteria*

*Individuals who are ineligible for Membership of the Faculty may wish to Associate. Associating with the Faculty entitles the individual to the full range of academic, educational and other facilities available to full Members. The distinction will be determined from time to time by the Board. Associates do not have voting rights and are not able to use their association as a designator.*

*Association with the Faculty is open to those who:*

##### *2.12.1 fulfil criteria determined from time to time by the Board*

#### The Board determined on 28/04/2014:

Associating with the Faculty entitles the individual to the full range of academic, educational and other facilities available to full Members. The distinction is that Associates do not have voting rights, will receive an electronic copy of the Journal of the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine, and are not able to use their Association as a designator.

Association with the Faculty is open to those who are not working in the field but able to demonstrate an interest in forensic or legal medicine.

Demonstrating an interest will include possession of a legal or forensic qualification, such as:

- Diploma of Legal Medicine (DLM)
- Diploma in Human Forensic Identification (DipFHID)
- Diploma in the Forensic and Clinical Aspects of Sexual Assault (DFCASA)
- Diploma in Forensic Medicine (DFM)
- Diploma in Forensic Medical Sciences (DFMS)
- Diploma in Forensic Medicine and Bioethics (DFMB)
- Master of Medical Law (LLM)
- Master of Arts in Medical Law & Ethics (MA)
- Bachelor of Law (LLB)
- Graduate Diploma in Law
- Barrister
- Solicitor
- Writer to the Signet (Scotland)
- Member of the Faculty of Advocates (Scotland)

This is not an exhaustive list.

Demonstrating an interest will also include a formal application to sit the FFLM's DLM or DipFHID.

The first sitting of the **Diploma of Legal Medicine and Part 1 of the Licentiate and Membership examinations take place on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2014, and the closing date for applications for these was 9<sup>th</sup> May.** I will leave it to the Academic Dean to provide further details. All qualifications with the exception of the MFFLM will be open to non-doctors.

The number of Fellows is not as high as it could be, and I would encourage all those who feel they may qualify to apply. To assist in this, the Board agreed on new guidance which I reproduce here in full:

*To progress from MFFLM to FFFLM requires more than simply having a higher qualification such as a master's degree or Fellowship of another medical Royal college or faculty, and doing the job unsupervised for 5 years. FFFLM is a mark of seniority in the field of forensic & legal medicine, not simply length of time served. The Committee looks for evidence of more than length of experience, and needs to satisfy itself that:*

- (1) You have made a significant impact on the service where you work, in your field, and*
- (2) You have made an out of the ordinary contribution to undergraduate or postgraduate medical education.*

*Successful FFFLM applicants in the past have by way of example, offered evidence of some of these mentioned below:*

- held a professorial chair or other senior appointment (such as head of department) in an academic institution,*
- been instrumental in setting up a new service or department where none had existed in the locality before,*
- written a textbook or chapters in textbooks in the specialty,*
- regularly taught groups of medical students in the specialty,*
- served as an examiner in an RCPATH or MFFLM (or equivalent) speciality examinations,*
- sat on a governmental working party to help establish government policy as it may affect the specialty,*
- served on a committee of the FFLM,*
- set up a training course in the specialty,*
- sat on a medical fitness to practise or disciplinary panel,*
- held the post of Clinical or Medical Director or equivalent,*
- been a lead author in articles in the specialty, published in peer reviewed journals,*
- chaired a conference attended by medical colleagues,*
- presented original research (not just an audit) at an international medical conference,*
- supervised the specialist training of a number of colleagues,*
- managed, mentored, co-ordinated or employed a team of fully qualified colleagues working in the specialty,*
- has been approached by peers on more than one occasion to give a second professional opinion.*

*This is not an exhaustive list. It is not possible to say how many of the above would be enough to sway the decision of the Committee, but the list paints a picture which may help you. It might be helpful if you were to show this to your referees and ask them, in the light of the examples listed above, to give you more focussed support for your application*

## **Staff**

Clare Johnson as Faculty Manager, Sarah Llewellyn as Information and Learning Coordinator, and Charlene Campbell, Accounts and Subscriptions Administrator, provided an excellent service during the last 12 months in challenging circumstances.

## **Website**

The FFLM is investing in a new website, designed from scratch. This was necessary because the existing website is based on obsolete software, and we require functionality which it cannot provide. The new website will assist the staff provide an efficient service and cater for the increasing complexity of the various new categories of membership.

## **Journal**

The Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine goes from strength to strength as our flagship publication and there are an increasing number of articles relating to legal issues, reflecting the breadth of our membership. The Editor has provided additional detail in his report.

## **David Jenkins Chair in Forensic and Legal Medicine**

His Honour Judge Peter Thornton QC, the Chief Coroner, is the Chair for 2013 – 2014.

## **W G Johnston & David Jenkins Memorial Funds**

Dr A Irvine & Professor A Busuttill have been joined by Dr R Palmer to administer these Funds, reporting to the Treasurer.

## **Conclusion**

It has been a year of enormous change and development for the FFLM. We have made excellent progress and I remain supremely confident in the future of the FFLM.

**Dr Peter Schütte FRCP FFFLM MRCGP DMJ  
Registrar**

**2 May 2014**