



FFLM Newsletter

October 2009

Introduction from the President

It is over four months from our very successful annual conference and I am pleased to report on some new developments which are a testament to the hard work of the Board, various committees and our staff over the summer.

Three items in particular deserve special mention. Firstly, the part 1 membership exam will commence in October and I would like to thank Dr Jeanne Herring and the team of doctors who have worked extremely hard in formulating this examination.

Revalidation is getting closer and we have now written core competencies for appraisal, run a successful appraiser training course and have the necessary appraisal documentation available on a new website page.

The procedures for Fellowship of the Faculty have been reviewed and changed to be a fairer assessment process. Further information on all of these is contained in this newsletter with much, much more available on the website.

As well as the routine day to day work of the Faculty, I have also posted a diary on the Officers' page at <http://fflm.ac.uk/people/officers/> giving details of other meetings etc I have attended in order to promote the Faculty. As always, your opinions and feedback on any of the issues discussed in this newsletter are warmly welcomed and should be directed to info@fflm.ac.uk

NEWS

Board Elections

Professor Anthony Busuttill and Professor Peter Vanezis have been elected as Ordinary Members of the Board of the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine.

The Board would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr Michael Wilks for his assistance as a Board Member from 2007-2008 and also Dr Jan Welch who filled the casual

vacancy for one year, 2008-2009. The second vacancy was created as a result of Professor Ian F Wall's election as Faculty President. The Faculty also welcomes two new lay members to the Board, Mr Phil Willan and Dr Michael Robertson.

Specialist Recognition

Report from Professor Ian Wall, President

In our last Newsletter, Guy Norfolk gave a detailed update on the progress of trying to achieve specialist recognition. You may remember that the Department of Health (DH) and Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board (PMETB) were not supportive of the creation of a new specialty of Forensic and Legal Medicine but instead felt that a sub-specialty of other specialties was the appropriate way forward. The Board decided to apply for sub-specialist status of:

- General practice (80% of doctors entering Forensic Medicine come from a GP background)
- Genito-urinary medicine
- Emergency medicine
- Obstetrics and Gynaecology

We received agreement from Genito-urinary medicine, agreement in principle from the College of Emergency Medicine but the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) were not supportive of the idea.

On 21 April 2009, Guy Norfolk and I met with PMETB and the DH again and it was reiterated once more that we were unlikely to achieve specialist status if we reapplied. They also informed us that, unfortunately, the advice they had given us in terms of applying to be a sub-specialty of general practice was unlawful in that the RCGP cannot legally create sub-specialties but there was now a window of opportunity to request a change in regulations. Guy subsequently wrote to the chair of Medical Education England with a request that this be considered. Modular credentialing was also discussed at that meeting but our view, at that time on the information we were given, was that it would be unhelpful.

Specialist Recognition cont.d

Subsequently, the Board met on 30 April 2009 and decided that, despite the DH's view, we should make a further attempt to achieve specialist status and reapply. There was also strong support for this way forward when it was discussed at our AGM.

We have subsequently received a further letter from Medical Education England which now sheds new light on modular credentialing now defined as:

"...the accreditation of a distinct area of practice not currently recognised as a registered specialty or justifying a separate Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) / Certificate of Equivalent of Specialist Recognition (CESR) (for example breast disease management). This could occur pre-CCT/CESR, post-CCT/CESR or during service or training leading to specialist registration via CESR route."

Again it was stressed that another bid for specialist status was unlikely to be unsuccessful. After further discussion with the Board and the President of the Royal College of Physicians, we have decided to explore the concept of modular credentialing further. I will keep you informed of developments.

COMMITTEES

The Faculty Board

The most recent Board meeting took place on Monday 21st September. Key discussion points included next steps regarding the modular credentialing and reviewing the work achieved by the academic and recertification committee. More details on these topics can be found throughout the newsletter. Minutes of Board meetings are available on the 'faculty' tab of the website <http://fflm.ac.uk/faculty/boardandcommittees/>.

You must be logged in to view these pages.

Fellowship Committee

Report from Professor Ian Wall, President

The committee met by telephone conference call in July to finalise the changes the Board had previously approved to the Fellowship procedures. In summary, the previous procedures where all doctors were automatically considered for Fellowship after being eligible for Foundation Membership for seven years have been changed to allow doctors to self nominate after having been eligible for Foundation Membership for at least five years. Full details of the application procedures are available at <http://fflm.ac.uk/education/fellowship/>.

Academic Committee

Report from Dr Margaret M Stark, Academic Dean

There have been some changes to the AC over the summer and the current membership is as follows:

Dr Stephanie Bown (Vice President MLA)
 Jo Delaforce (UK Association of Forensic Nurses -UKAFN)
 Dr Mike Devlin (Conference Secretary & Chair of the Conference Subcommittee)
 Dr George Fernie (Registrar)
 Dr Jeanne Herring (Chief Examiner and Chair of the Examination Subcommittee)
 Dr Guy Norfolk (David Jenkins Professor in Forensic and Legal Medicine)
 Dr Jason Payne James (Vice President FP)
 Dr Debbi Rogers (Chair of the Forensic Science Subcommittee)
 Gerry Randle (Custody Paramedic)
 Professor Guy Ruddy (Chair of the Research Subcommittee)
 Dr Peter Schutte (Treasurer)
 Dr Margaret Stark (Academic Dean) Chair
 Dr Elizabeth Stearns (Vice President Medical Coroners)
 Professor Ian Wall (President)
 Dr Cath White (Sexual Offence Examiner)

Examination subcommittee (chaired by Jeanne Herring)

The Membership exam (MFFLM) was announced on schedule in April and the regulations and syllabus are on the website. Part I of the exam is to be held on 14th October at the RCP with Part II at St George's Hospital on April 7th and 8th 2010. Twenty-three examiners completed training and were appointed by the Faculty Board in September, along with the appointment of the external examiner. Full details of the appointments will be announced on the website in due course.

Conference subcommittee (chaired by Mike Devlin)

The RSM/FFLM joint conference was held at the Royal Society of Medicine, London on 16th and 17th October 2009. On the Friday, there was a general tribute to Michael Knight.

The 2010 Annual Conference will be held on 7th and 8th May 2010 at the Marriott Renaissance Hotel, Manchester. More details of the conference follow in this newsletter.

The dates for future conference have also been set:
 13th /14th May 2011 RCP Annual Conference, London
 11th /12th May 2012 RCP, Annual Conference, Edinburgh

The aim of future annual conferences will be to alternate London and other UK venues, with consideration given to accessibility in terms of public and road transport and conference facilities generally.

Committees cont.dForensic Subcommittee (chaired by Debbi Rogers)

The Forensic Science Committee (FSC) met last on 1st May 2009. In May the final versions of the 'Forensic medical examination forms 1-4' were put on the member-only part of the web-site along with the excellent diagrams from the Havens.

In July the updated Guidelines for the collection of specimens from complainants and suspects were put on the website and these will be reviewed at the next meeting of the FSC in November 2009.

Research subcommittee (chaired by Guy Rutty)

Guy Rutty has agreed to chair the subcommittee and out of the list of those who previously expressed an interest Professor Peter Vanezis, Dr Neil Langlois and Dr Paul Marks have all confirmed their willingness to form the core committee. They have been asked to agree terms of reference.

Training and Education Subcommittee (chaired by Margaret Stark)

The following publications have been produced this year:

- Healthcare of detainees in police stations. Third edition. FFLM/BMA (2009)
- Safe and secure administration of medication in police custody –Recommendations (August 2009) Endorsed by the RPS
- Telephone advice pro forma (custody) (2009) Reviewed September 2009
- Labelling Forensic Samples – Recommendations (2009)

The academic committee values feedback on any of the publications. If you feel that advice is needed on a particular subject then please contact the Academic Dean.

The Faculty continues to run the initial training course for forensic physicians with the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) accredited by Teesside University. Courses are planned for December, February, and March. Discussion is ongoing to amend/expand the course for other Health Care Professionals.

A development training questionnaire was recently sent to members with a closing date of 14th September so the results (at the time of writing) have yet to be evaluated. Please check the website for full details of courses, conferences, and publications.

The next Development Training Course will take place on 13th March 2010. For more information, check the Events page.

Revalidation Committee***Report from Dr Stephanie Bown, Vice President, MLA***

Following changes in June 2009, the membership is:

Dr Stephanie Bown (Vice President MLA)
 Professor Ian Wall (President)
 Dr Matt Lee (MLA and Chair of CPD Subcommittee)
 Dr Roy Palmer (Medical Coroner)
 Dr Michael Gregory (Forensic Physician)
 Professor Carol Seymour (MLA)
 Dr Jason Payne-James (Vice President FP)
 Dr Margaret Stark (Academic Dean)
 Dr Elizabeth Stearns (Vice President Medical Coroners)
 Dr Neil Margerison (Forensic Physician)

Thanks to Dr Peter Green, Dr Eddie Josse and Dr Guy Norfolk for their contribution and welcome to Dr Margerison who will join at the next meeting.

The committee has convened once by teleconference on 29th June 2009, since the last Board meeting on 30th April 2009.

Appraisal

The Faculty has developed appraisal documentation for each of the three disciplines and a multi-source feedback document. The documentation is available on the website <http://fflm.ac.uk/education/revalidation/>. NB you must log in to view and download it.

The content of these documents will be regularly reviewed by the Committee.

Appraiser Training

In conjunction with the East Midlands NHS Workforce Deanery, the Faculty has established appraiser training courses. The next training day will be held on Monday, 25th January 2010 – for details and a booking form, go to <http://fflm.ac.uk/eventdetail/3000164>. In due course a database of trained appraisers will be established.

Mike Gregory has agreed to take on role of Lead Appraiser in the Faculty.

Core Competencies

A single document setting out core competencies has been prepared by the committee and approved by the Board at the meeting on 2nd October 2008. The document includes both generic competencies, and competencies specific to the three fields of practice encompassed by the Faculty - forensic medical practitioners, medico-legal advisers and medically qualified coroners.

<http://fflm.ac.uk/education/revalidation/>

Committees cont.d**Revalidation**

Narrative on revalidation is available on the education page of the website:

<http://fflm.ac.uk/education/revalidation/>

Responsible Officers

The DoH has now published a consultative document <http://fflm.ac.uk/consultations/> which closes in October 2009.

The next Revalidation Committee meeting will be held on 10th November 2009.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Participation in Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is core to the practice of all disciplines of medicine. The Faculty, along with each other Medical College and Faculty, has developed guidance on appropriate CPD for doctors working within the disciplines it represents and hopes, in due course, to develop further resources for planning and recording CPD activities.

Faculty CPD guidelines

The Faculty CPD guidelines have been developed to match the principles agreed by the Directors of CPD (DoCPD) Committee of the Academy of Royal Medical Colleges <http://fflm.ac.uk/education/cpd/>

The guidelines may be used by those working within the fields of forensic and legal medicine as a part of the framework on which to base revalidation according to General Medical Council (GMC).

CPD recommendations

We have published Faculty CPD recommendations for doctors working in the fields of forensic and legal medicine <http://fflm.ac.uk/education/cpd/>.

Course Approval

If you are running a course / event and would like to attain CPD approval, please apply using the course approval form <http://fflm.ac.uk/education/cpd/>.

Courses will be assessed against the core competencies identified by the Faculty for those practising in Forensic and Legal Medicine and CPD points will be awarded for each hour of course content judged to fall within the qualifying criteria. No 'part-credits' will be awarded so courses will only be awarded credits for the total number of whole hours of relevant activity provided.

Future Faculty Meetings

Board	1 st February, 2010 26 th April, 2010 4 th October, 2010 31 st January, 2011 27 th April, 2011
Fellowship Committee	23 rd November 2009 21 st September 2010 13 th January 2011
Revalidation Committee	10 th November 2009 8 th March 2010 13 th September 2010 7 th March 2011
Academic Committee	19 th January 2010 14 th April 2010 8 th September 2010 19 th January 2011 13 th April 2011
Examinations Subcommittee	3 rd December 2009

EVENTS**FFLM Development Training Course**

The FFLM has been running a number of Development Training Courses for Forensic Physicians in the last few years. In order to ensure that training needs continue to be met, the Faculty has completed a questionnaire and the next course will take place on 13th March 2010.

Introductory Training Course

The National Policing Improvement Agency in conjunction with The Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians offer a one-week joint training course in foundation skills for Doctors and Healthcare Professionals working in Clinical Forensic Medicine. This course is accredited by the Teesside University leading to a University Certificate of Post Graduate Professional Development.

Further details are available from the NPJA website <http://www.npia.police.uk/en/1523.htm>

FFLM Annual Conference

The FFLM annual conference will take place on Friday 7th and Saturday 8th May 2010 at the Renaissance Manchester Hotel.

<http://fflm.ac.uk/faculty/conference2010/>

This year the conference will have two main themes - risk and revalidation. Further details about the conference format and invited speakers will be released in due course.

Members' papers

The conference subcommittee has decided to allocate time on day two of the conference for members' papers and we would therefore invite anyone who is interested in presenting a paper to email a copy of their paper for consideration by the committee. The presentation of the paper should not exceed ten minutes and precedence will be given to subject matter that fits in to the two main categories of risk and revalidation. All submissions should be emailed to info@fflm.ac.uk with the subject line "FFLM 2010 Conference – Members' Papers" by Friday 26th February 2010.

Poster Presentations

The committee has also decided to allocate time for poster presentations to take place during the lunch break on Saturday 8th May. Anyone wishing to be included in this session should email info@fflm.ac.uk with the subject line "FFLM 2010 Conference – Poster Presentations" by Friday 26th February 2010.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Change of contact details

If you change your correspondence address, please log in to the website and update the details online. Please send an email to info@fflm.ac.uk so that we can notify the publishers of the journal or your updated details. Your username for the website is your email address so if you change your email address, please email info@fflm.ac.uk so that we can update your contact details and also your website log-in.

Subscriptions Update

The subscription payment period has now ended with many members using the new direct debit system. We are aware that there were a number of technical issues with the online sign up but these have now been addressed and we also have a paper mandate that members can use if they would prefer not to sign up online. Those who have not yet signed up to pay but direct debit can download the mandate and complete it for future subscription years.

Have Your Say

The FFLM website has a membership forum and we invite you to log in and have your say. Forum topics include the opportunity to give your views on a consultation document, discuss news items or have a general discussion about the three fields covered by the Faculty. It is also an ideal place to ask a question and benefit from the wider knowledge of the Faculty.

To access the forum, please log in to the website and click on "forum activation" on the left hand menu and follow the instructions.

Consultations

The Faculty is asked to comment on numerous consultation documents. In order to reflect the views of the wider membership, consultation documents are published on the consultation tab of the Faculty website <http://fflm.ac.uk/consultations/>; responses are invited through the forum.

Website

We have noticed that a number of people have yet to log in to the website. If you have not yet logged in and need to retrieve your password, please visit the website at <https://fflm.ac.uk/password/> and enter your username (your email address). Your password will be emailed to you automatically. Logging in to the website will enable you to update your personal details, retrieve your membership number, view consultations, access Faculty publications (including the Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine, appraisal documentation, restricted access documents etc) and access the forum.

Access to Library Facilities

Please remember that Fellows, Members and Affiliates are entitled to access the RCP library resources. For online access please contact infocentre@rcplondon.ac.uk Please confirm that you have membership of the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine (not of the College) and they will set up a login and password for you. You are also able to visit the library on the second floor at the Royal College of Physicians.

Travel Expenses

If you are attending meetings on behalf of the Faculty and will incur travel expenses please refer to the expense claim form <http://fflm.ac.uk/faculty/expenses/> for details on how to make a claim. Members are reminded that travel can be booked through the Faculty office, often at a reduced rate and advance ticket purchases are considerably cheaper than tickets purchased on the day of travel.

Supporting the Faculty

The faculty receives regular requests from medical students and doctors interested gaining some work experience or shadowing in forensic and legal medicine.

We currently hold a database but would like to build on this, to utilise the skills, expertise and workload of faculty members and fellows.

If you would be prepared to “host” such students/doctors (from one day up to one week) with regard to your work (students are responsible for identifying own accommodation etc), or if you are happy to be contacted for advice in entering the specialty by email or telephone, please email the office at info@fflm.ac.uk and let us know:

- a) the specific kind of work experience/advice you could offer, (e.g. a day with a forensic physician, a day in coroners’ court, watching post-mortem examinations, a day in a medical defence organisation office, attendance at a sexual assault referral centre.)
- b) Your location
- c) your contact details for students

We will then enter these details into a database for that purpose here at the Faculty.

This information will not imply any obligation or need to accept any student at any time, but we would ask for your permission to direct a student to you if such a request arises. We are very aware of all of your time constraints and are aware that it is not always possible to accommodate, from a work point of view, students within your schedules.

We hope you will be able to support this initiative which we are sure will further raise the profile of forensic and legal medicine.

Any Questions?

If you have any questions, please email info@fflm.ac.uk and they will be forwarded on for appropriate response.



Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine
3rd Floor, 116 Great Portland Street
London W1W 6PJ

☎: 0207 580 8490
✉: info@fflm.ac.uk

www.fflm.ac.uk

Registered Charity number 1119599