



FFLM Newsletter

September 2010

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.

Four items in particular deserve special mention. Firstly, we have had two successful bids for funding from the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges for our work in preparation for revalidation – for our e-cpd system and also for additional appraiser training – see below for more details. We are also collaborating with the RCGP Secure Environments Group with a revalidation pilot which will involve Forensic Physicians working in the West Midlands. I would encourage colleagues in this part of the country to take part as the information will be vital to future revalidation developments.

We are determined to raise the profile of the faculty – you will see the range of documents on which we submit consultation responses. In addition we have appointed Mike Hutchinson as our Public Relations Adviser. More details of this initiative are available on the website and in my diary.

Over the past year I have represented the faculty on the Taskforce for *Violence Against Women and Children*. The Report has now been published and the recommendations accepted in principle by the previous government. Of great importance is recommendation 21 – the FFLM should set standards in Forensic and Legal Medicine. Over the summer we have undertaken a public consultation on our proposals for quality standards in forensic medicine and plan to launch these at our October conference. Please do try and attend.

Finally, a reminder that the procedures for Fellowship of the Faculty have been reviewed and changed to be a fairer assessment process. There

has been very little response to these changes and I would urge you to study them and, if appropriate, consider applying. 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 of the website 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

Elections

The following new Vice Presidents took office on Friday 7 May: Dr Catherine White (VP Forensic Medicine), Dr Nick Clements (VP MLAs) and Dr Andrew Reid (VP Medical Coroners). In addition, Dr John Farnan and Dr Anthea Martin were elected as Ordinary Members of the Board.

The Board would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr Jason Payne-James, Dr Stephanie Bown and Dr Elizabeth Stearns for their work as Vice Presidents and Dr Victoria Evans and Dr Carol Seymour for their valuable contributions as Board Members over the last 3 years.

Presidential Election

Election papers have now been posted to all Fellows and Members who are eligible to vote in the presidential election and the deadline for returning ballot papers is 12 noon on Friday 15 October.

EVENTS

FFLM Autumn Conference Friday 15th October 2010

The conference has two main themes of credentialing and teenage autonomy, in addition to a sexual offences workshop and a statements for the coroner workshop.

The event will take place at the Royal College of Physicians, London and will be followed by a gala dinner. The conference programme and a booking form are available on the FFLM website <http://fflm.ac.uk/faculty/FFLMautumnConference2010/>

FFLM Safeguarding Children Course Saturday 27 November 2010

This course is being organised by Dr Peter Green and will take place on Saturday 27th November 2010. Further details will be available shortly on the events page of the FFLM website <http://fflm.ac.uk/eventdetail/3000180>

Introductory Training Course 11 – 15 October 2010

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

FFLM Annual Conference 2011 Friday 13th and Saturday 14th May 2011

The next FFLM conference will take place on Friday 13th and Saturday 14th May 2011. The conference will take place at the Royal College of Physicians, London. The Annual General Meeting of the FFLM will take place on Friday 13th May.

Further details about the conference and the AGM will be available in due course from the website <http://fflm.ac.uk/faculty/Conference2011/>

APPRAISER TRAINING

The FFLM is planning two further appraiser training courses and details will be on the website in the next few weeks. There will be one standard appraiser training course and one advanced appraiser course for people who have completed the standard course and regularly conduct appraisals.

We are delighted to announce that the FFLM has received funding from the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges to run a revalidation pilot which includes a pilot specifically looking at appraisal. As a result of this, the FFLM is able to offer appraiser training for FFLM members at a subsidised rate. To take advantage of the subsidised rate, delegates may be required to complete additional feedback questionnaires, participate in a series of interviews or be part of a focus group.

Further details on appraiser training courses and the revalidation pilot will be available from the FFLM website in due course.

FFLM BOARD & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

FFLM Board	4 th October, 2010 31 st January, 2011 27 th April, 2011
Fellowship Committee	1 st October 2010 13 th January 2011
Revalidation Committee	13 th September 2010 7 th March 2011
Academic Committee	8 th September 2010 19 th January 2011 13 th April 2011
Chief Examiners Committee	3 rd December 2010

CONSULTATIONS

The FFLM 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 FFLM website <http://fflm.ac.uk/consultations/> and responses are invited through the forum.

We recently consulted the membership on our draft quality standards document and the results will be available in due course. The draft document can be downloaded from the FFLM website:

fflm.ac.uk/upload/documents/1268996729.pdf

GENERAL INFORMATION

Change of contact details

If you change your correspondence address, please log in to the website and update your 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. Those who have not yet signed up to pay by direct debit can download the mandate and complete it for future subscription years.

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 Athens access please email info@fflm.ac.uk and we will set up a login and password for you. You are also entitled 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 FFLM and will incur travel expenses please refer to the committee toolkit on the website. This will give you access to the expenses claim form, committee report form as well as committee and house style guidance.

The toolkit can be accessed from <http://fflm.ac.uk/faculty/committeetoolkit/> but you must be logged in to view this page. FFLM members are reminded that travel can be booked through the FFLM 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 FFLM 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

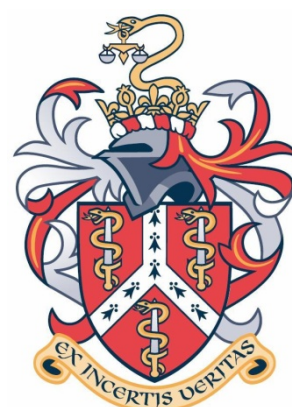
We will then enter these details into a database for that purpose here at the Faculty.

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.



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