

FACULTY OF FORENSIC & LEGAL MEDICINE

of the Royal College of Physicians of London



Registered Charity No 1119599

The 7th Annual General Meeting of the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine was held between 1515 and 1715 on Friday 16 May 2014, at the Queen Hotel, City Road, Chester CH1 3AH

Minutes

The AGM was chaired by the President, Dr J Victoria Evans.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Dr Payne-James
2. Minutes of the last meeting were ratified
3. Diplomas were presented to the following newly elected Honorary Fellows and Fellows: Dr Patrick Cadigan, Dr Mark Downing, Prof John Farnan, Rev Dr Daniel Haines.
4. MFFLM diplomas were presented to Dr Helen Mills (with merit), Dr Sarah Hull and Dr Bernard Jones.
5. Prof Carol Seymour was inaugurated as the new Vice-President, Medico-legal Advisers
6. The Registrar's Report appears on the FFLM website.
7. The Treasurer's Report appears on the FFLM website
8. The report from the Academic Dean appears on the FFLM website

Dr Eddie Josse asked about specialty registration. He said that when looked at originally, the Department of Health and Home Office indicated that specialty status would not be awarded because there were already too many specialties. Now that there is an NHS consideration about the provision of forensic care, how can the Department of Health refuse to give specialty status when every other specialty within the service has the classification? It seemed incongruous.

Prof Wall responded by saying that the FFLM had put forward a proposal in 2006/7 to create a new specialty, but the Department of Health felt it was not needed. An embargo was put on new specialties but an exception was made for sports medicine on the back of the Olympics. We have gone down credentialing route. There is a catch 22. Apart from a need to persuade the Department of Health, we also need to persuade all home nations to create a specialty. Training posts have to be created which means taking them off another speciality and no Postgraduate Dean will do

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that at the moment. We are watching Europe, seeing what is happening regarding credentialing. Prof Wall said it was a personal disappointment that credentialing will not be the same as specialty status.

Dr Evans said that we bring up speciality status whenever we are able to do so. Colleagues at the GMC say what we do is worthy of speciality status, the block is with politicians and at a level we are powerless to do anything about.

Dr Peter Green follow up Dr Josse's question and said the NHS is expanding to take in a new corpus of workers to provide forensic healthcare so the notion that Postgraduate Deans will have to push off trainees from another area does not seem right. Prof Wall said the point he made had come direct from from Professor Derek Galen, Postgraduate Dean for Wales and responsible for foundation training. In a cash limited NHS he did not think any Postgraduate Dean would want to lose training posts.

Dr Evans said if we can get standards for training in the NHS commissioning we have a springboard to try again. We have to chip away at it.

9. The Editor's Report appears on the FFLM website
10. The David Jenkins Chair in Forensic & Legal Medicine was awarded to Dr Cristina Cattaneo.
11. There was no Other Business
12. Date and time of next meeting was set for 1st May 2015 at 1515