

FACULTY OF FORENSIC & LEGAL MEDICINE

of the Royal College of Physicians of London



Registered Charity No 1119599

Academic Dean's report for 2014 -2015

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Academic Committee (AC) has met on four occasions over the past year and this is my second Annual Report.
- 1.2 The composition of the Committee and attendance at meetings are given in the Registrar's Report.
- 1.3 The following report to the AC:
 - Forensic Science Subcommittee
 - Training and Education Subcommittee
 - Research Subcommittee
 - Conference Subcommittee
 - Curriculum Subcommittee
 - Sexual Offences Forum
 - Chief Examiner's Committee
- 1.4 The Academic Dean is also responsible for coordinating Faculty representation on external committees (see Appendix A) and I am very grateful to all those members who give their time and service on the various committees and provide feedback.
- 1.5 The FFLM publish a Bulletin on a frequent basis, which gives details of new events, consultations, courses, items of interest etc.

2. The Membership Examination

- 2.1 Dr Helena Thornton continues as Chief Examiner. 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 Thornton, ably assisted by her Deputies, the Leads, and the Examiners. Thanks are also due to Angela Hall and Keira Anderson and the team from St George's.
- 2.2 Mr Kevin Hayes, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, continues as External Examiner and he reviews all question papers and marks.
- 2.3 The Chief Examiner's Committee has met formally on three occasions over the last year, in addition to a number of teleconferences and much email traffic.
- 2.4 Part I of the Membership examination was held in June and December 2014 at the Park Crescent Conference Centre and Part II in March 2015 at St George's Hospital Medical School, London. In June

2014, 16 candidates took the Part I examination, 7 candidates passed. Of those that failed, 7 achieved the DLM pass mark and were awarded a DLM. In December 2014, 22 candidates sat the Part I examination and 15 passed with an overall pass rate of 68%. Of the 7 that failed, 5 were awarded a DLM. There were 17 candidates for Part II in March 2015: 11 for general forensic medicine (GFM) of whom one passed; one for sexual offences medicine (SOM) who passed; and five medico-legal advisers, four of whom passed.

- 2.5 The Board remains concerned about the low pass rate in Part II GFM. The Part II examination consists of a Short Answer Question (SAQ) paper and 14 station OSCE. Over the past year we have continued examination preparatory courses for both GFM and SOM concentrating on the OSCE examinations and this has led to 66% of GFM candidates passing the OSCE. However, it is the SAQ paper that candidates are finding it difficult to pass and we will be putting on a series of Webinars covering much of the Part II syllabus later in the year in the hope that this will lead to an increased pass rate.
- 2.6 Two new examiners were appointed and trained over the last year making a total of 46 examiners. Equality and Diversity training is mandatory for all examiners.
- 2.7 The OSCEs and OSPEs have taken a great deal of work and all of the examiners continue to gain experience in writing, trialing, revising and rehearsing these with actors.
- 2.8 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. At the March 2015 Part II examination 36 different OSCE/OSPE stations were held. 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, who provides statistical analysis of all results.
- 2.9 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.
- 2.10 2014 was the first year that the Part I MFFLM was held twice a year. The number of examination questions was increased to 125 and this will be increased further over the forthcoming year on advice from our educational advisers. We have continued with domain based marking of OSCEs and OSPEs and this has worked well; 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 continue the smooth introduction of new examinations.
- 2.11 Due to the office move and time spent developing the new website, there will only be one diet of Part 1 examinations in 2015 (14 October) but we will return to two diets in 2016.

3. New examinations

- 3.1 The first diets of the new Diploma of Legal Medicine (DLM) were held on 27 June 2014 and 1 December 2014. This examination is open to all and is a knowledge test identical to Part I MFFLM but marked at a lower level. Any doctor passing Part I MFFLM will now automatically be awarded the DLM. 12 candidates sat the examination in June 2014 and 10 passed of whom 5 gained a distinction and will be exempt from Part I MFFLM, if eligible. 14 candidates sat the examination in December 2014 and 13 passed with an overall pass rate of 93%. All those who passed will be exempt from Part 1 MFFLM, if eligible.
- 3.2 Following negotiations with the Society of Apothecaries, the Diploma in Forensic and Clinical Aspects of Sexual Assault (DFCASA) transferred to the FFLM on 1 March 2014. The regulations were revised to incorporate FFLM policies and procedures and some further revisions will be made later in 2015.

The first Part I examination was held on 27 June 2014, 8 candidates sat the examination and all passed. In December 2014, 2 candidates sat the examination and one passed.

- 3.3 The first Part II DFCASA OSCE examination was held at the same time as the Part II MFFLM examinations in March 2015. Candidates generally undertake the same OSCEs as the MFFLM candidates but the pass marks are set at a lower level. 4 candidates sat the Part II OSCE and two passed but both of these candidates still have other parts of the examination to complete before passing the DFCASA. One further candidate successfully passed the DFCASA in September 2014.
- 3.4 Following the change to Standing Orders in 2013 and the introduction of the Licentiate category of membership, some holders of the DFCSA are now applying for Licentiate (LFFLM) status.
- 3.5 A new Licentiate examination for General Forensic Medicine (GFM) was introduced in 2014. This is set at a level of basic competence and is mirrored on the DFCSA for Sexual Offence Medicine (SOM). The first Part I was held in December 2014; two candidates sat the examination and both passed. If candidates are unsure whether it is better to opt for the Licentiate or Membership examinations, they should contact the office and can be given advice from either the Chief Examiner or Academic Dean.
- 3.6 The next Part I Licentiate examinations will be held on 14 October 2015.
- 3.7 Both the Licentiate examinations require an element of educational supervision. In order to comply with best practice and meet GMC requirements for July 2016, the FFLM put on a successful Educational Supervision course, in conjunction with the RCP Education Unit, in January 2015. A further course will be held later in 2015/early 2016. We are collating a database of trained Educational Supervisors such that it will be mandatory for Licentiate candidates to have a trained Educational Supervisor from July 2016.
- 3.8 Currently there are no exemptions for any parts of our examinations. The United Kingdom Association of Forensic Nurses (UKAFN) have developed Advanced Standards in Education and Training (ASET) as a competence framework for Advanced Forensic Practitioners working in sexual assault settings or custody settings and which are built into current forensic courses at Staffordshire University. One aspect of the latter is a case portfolio that is similar to our own Compendium of Validated Experience (COVE), which occurs in both our Licentiate examinations. We have been requested to consider, if these tested the same competencies, whether passing the relevant part of the ASET could lead to exemption from the relevant COVE and vice versa. The Board has agreed to this providing the two sets of competencies are mirrored and there is quality control over ASET preceptors to match our own Educational Supervisors training and GMC requirements. The ASET is the property of UKAFN rather than any specific university.

4. The Diploma in Forensic Human Identification (DipFHID)

- 4.1 This examination is run in conjunction with the Professor Peter Vanezis from the Cameron Forensic Sciences Unit where a preparatory course for this examination is held.
- 4.2 19 candidates sat the Part 1 examination in June 2014 and 5 candidates completed the dissertation element of the examination and were awarded the DipFHID in August 2014.
- 4.3 The next examination will be held on 14 October 2015.

5. Curriculum Subcommittee

- 5.1 It has not been possible to make progress on the development of the curriculum over the past year. However it is planned to progress this over the forthcoming year.

6. Conference Subcommittee

- 6.1 Dr Will Anderson has chaired the conference subcommittee and Will has gone to enormous lengths to ensure this year's conference has continued. The subcommittee has met regularly by teleconference over the last year.
- 6.2 2016 is the 10th anniversary of the founding of the FFLM and for this reason, it is provisionally planned to hold the conference in London provisionally on 6-7 May 2016. Further details will follow in due course.
- 6.3 It is provisionally planned to hold the 2017 conference in Belfast.
- 6.4 If you have any topics or suggestions for the FFLM Conference, please do let the Academic Dean or Chair of the Conference Subcommittee know.

7. Training and Education Subcommittee

- 7.1 The joint Introductory Training course with the College of Policing in Durham in January 2015 was cancelled by the College because of lack of numbers. However, a very successful course was held in London for the Metropolitan Police and the States of Jersey Police over 2 weekends in March/April 2015. It might be that this method of delivery may be a better way forward and the course is currently being evaluated. A further course in Durham is planned for June 2015.
- 7.2 The following one day courses have been held over the past year, the majority having been fully subscribed:
 - Documentation of injuries/Photography course
 - SARC Best Practice Day
 - Child Safeguarding Update Day
 - Drink and Drug Driving Training Day
 - Adult Safeguarding Course
 - MFFLM/LFFLM Exam Revision days (SOM and GFM)

I am very grateful for the hard work and enthusiasm of Will Anderson, Jenny Holmes and Rudo Masanzu in putting together these interesting and valued courses.

- 7.3 A detailed programme of other one day courses for the forthcoming year will shortly be available on the website and it is planned to have courses on:
- Drink and Drugs Driving
 - SARC Best Practice Day
 - Child Safeguarding Update
 - Death in Custody
 - Legal Medicine Update
 - MFFLM/LFFLM Exam Revision Days (SOM and GFM)

Over the past year, there have been significant changes to Drink and Drug Driving Legislation and members have been updated on this via the Bulletins.

- 7.4 The committee continues to review and revise FFLM documents as required and welcomes feedback. All documents – guidelines, recommendations, proformas, 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, Licentiates and Affiliates). The following documents have been published over the past year:

- Guidance for best practice for the management of intimate images that may become evidence in Court
- Recommendations for the Collection of Forensic Specimens from Complainants and Suspects
- Drug driving guidance issued to healthcare professionals
- Proforma – Forensic Medical Examinations Forms
- Recommendations - Safe and Secure Administration of Medication in Police Custody
- Recommendations – Assessment of Persons with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities in Police Custody
- Recommendations – Child Safeguarding: Information Sharing Guidance for Healthcare Professionals working in Police Custody

8. Forensic Science Subcommittee (FSSC)

- 8.1 The Subcommittee has met on two occasions in the last year.
- 8.2 Dr George Fernie has chaired this committee over the past year but has tendered his resignation due to his work as Senior Medical Reviewer for Scotland. Professor Margaret Stark has been appointed as chair of this committee and Dr Kranti Hiremath to fill the vacancy for a doctor working in GFM.
- 8.3 In July 2014 and February 2015, 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 next month.

9. Research Subcommittee

- 9.1 Professor Paul Marks resigned as Chair of this Subcommittee in 2013 and despite advertising the position of Chair to the membership, no applicants came forward. Dr Natalie Hayes has accepted the invitation to chair this subcommittee but is current on maternity leave.

10. Sexual Offences Forum

- 10.1 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 a web based format.

10.2 The Forum has its own secure area on the FFLM website and changes to how posts are made has led to continued activity on the forum.

11. Credentialing

11.1 Following the completion of the Credentialing Pilot, the Council of the GMC agreed to develop a regulatory framework for credentialing and the President and Academic Dean represented the FFLM on this Working Party. The Council of the GMC agreed a process to obtain a credential and this will now require primary legislation to take further.

11.2 It was hoped a credential would lead to specialist status but has been confirmed that this will not occur though it is likely that a credential will be regarded as having “parity with a subspecialty”. The Board was very disappointed about this and has agreed to make a further bid for specialist status. However, there is currently an embargo on creating new specialties as a result of the Shape of Training Report.

11.3 There remains the CESR route to the Specialty Register.

11.4 We continue to watch and inform developments in Europe via the European Union of Medical Specialties (UEMS) to see if this will lead to specialist status and Professor Dennis Cusack will give an update on this at the AGM.

12. E-learning courses

12.1 The courses for Part 1 MFFLM, DLM, DFCASA and part 2 MFFLM(SOM) were completely re-written and re-launched on 1 April 2014 and increasing numbers are subscribing to these courses. It is hoped to develop e-learning courses for GFM in addition to the planned webinars over the forthcoming year.

13. Suspected Internal Drug Traffickers

13.1 The President and Academic Dean are now liaising with NHS England to develop guidance on this issue.

14. World Forensic Festival and World Police Medical Officers Conference

14.1 This was held in Seoul, South Korea from 13-17 October 2014 where Dr Jason Payne-James completed his Presidency of WPMO. A full day of original research was presented. FFLM Fellow, Dr John Gall, from Australia was elected as the next President and plans are underway to formalise the WPMO concept in a formal structure as an international association of clinical forensic medicine. Further information will be available later in the year.

Conclusion

The past year has been an incredibly busy and difficult one for the Academic Committee. It is hoped that with the appointment of additional staff, the FFLM will be well placed to move forward with increased training opportunities and new examinations. I would like to put on record my thanks to the vast number of people, too numerous to mention on an individual basis, without whom my task would be impossible.

**Professor Ian Wall FRCP FFFLM FRCGP FACLM MFMLM DMJ
Academic Dean**

1 May 2015

APPENDIX A

Committee Representation (as at May 2015)

Vicky Evans	NHS England Clinical Reference Group
	All Party Group for Domestic and Sexual Violence on Improving Police Procedures
	Improving the response to the needs of Victims of Sexual Assault
	Police Healthcare National Stakeholder Group Oversight Board
	Substance Misuse scoping for HMIP
Cath White	Violence Against Women and Children
	ACPO Working Group on Rape and Adult Sexual Offences
	National SARC Advisory Board
	Medical Forensics Specialist Group
George Fernie	Medical Examiners
	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
	Drug driving competencies
Will Anderson	Drug driving competencies
Linda Teebay	RCPCH Standing Committee on Child Protection
Felicity Nicholson	Blood borne virus Strategy Group
Michelle Carroll	BASSG Adolescent Sexual Health Interest Group
Ronnie Lowe	Domestic Violence expert group
Jenny Holmes	RCPsych Liaison Committee
	Nurse Liaison – UKAFN Steering Group
Jo Molony	National s12 Advisory Group
Jason Payne-James	ECLM
Sandy Fielding	FFLM Sexual Offence Examiner Forum
Michael Wilks	HMIC/HMIP Custody Stakeholder Group
	The Medical Council on Alcoholism
Dr Kranti Hiremath	BMA Forensic Medicine Committee
Dr Sheila Paul	RCPCH CSA Post Project Board
Dr Mac Ransom	Medical Informatics