

FACULTY OF FORENSIC & LEGAL MEDICINE

of the Royal College of Physicians of London



The 9th Annual General Meeting of the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine, held on Friday 06 May 2016 at the Royal College of Physicians of London.

MINUTES

1. Apologies: an apology was received from Dr P Schutte.
2. Minutes of the last meeting: these were approved as a correct record. There were no matters arising from the minutes not included on the agenda.
3. Award of Diplomas to newly elected Honorary Fellows and Fellows, and to successful candidates in the FFLM examinations: Diplomas had been awarded to the recipients listed on the Appendix to these minutes. Those in bold were present to receive their diplomas.
4. President's report: The President reported that 2015/2016 has been a very challenging but satisfying year with a new headquarters, new administrative team members and new senior officers. In order to ensure the smooth running of the FFLM regular weekly meetings took place between the senior officers and the administrative team at FFLM HQ. A quarterly meeting of regular Senior Officer/Vice-Presidents meetings had also been introduced. This method of working reduced delays in decision-making; many of these meetings were held remotely using a WebEx system of conferencing. The essential functions of the FFLM were in the very capable hands of Charlene Campbell, Tessa Lewis and Jay Barton-Costa. The roll-out of our new website had simplified many tasks. Dr Payne-James gave his personal thanks, and thanks on behalf of the Faculty, to Charlene, Jay and Tessa. A major challenge during the year had been the bizarre and perverse decision of the Home Secretary to cancel the planned transfer of police custodial healthcare services to the NHS. Prior to this decision the FFLM (with its clinical partners, the United Kingdom Association of Forensic Nurses and the College of Paramedics) had been at the leading edge of defining and raising standards and had been closely involved in planning for the transfer to the NHS. The Faculty had produced much guidance and recommendations for the clinical and forensic aspects of police custodial healthcare and sexual assault referral centres and had engaged with the new commissioners of custody healthcare services: the newly-elected Police and Crime Commissioners. In addition evidence was given to the review on deaths and serious harm in police custody, set up by the Home Secretary and chaired by Dame Elish Angiolini. Vice-President (Medico-Legal Advisers) Carol Seymour had been tasked with pushing forward with the specialty application for Forensic & Legal Medicine, which was progressing well; a Specialty Advisory Committee, under the auspices of the JRCPTB, was being established. The President welcomed the new FFLM Vice-Presidents: Dr John Holden (MLAs), Professor Bob Forrest (Medical Coroners), and Dr Andrew

Wilkinson (Forensic Physicians), and thanked the outgoing Vice-Presidents, Professor Carol Seymour, Professor Paul Marks, and Dr Peter Green. Plans were in place for the FFLM to revalidate those who had no designated body, or responsible officer. In summary, in these challenging times the FFLM continued to be the central focus for raising standards in forensic and legal medicine and protecting vulnerable people who come into contact with the justice systems, in any setting.

5. Registrar's report: The Registrar reported that a major priority on taking up his post was the need to recruit two new members of staff - Jay Barton-Costa and Tessa Lewis - and to welcome back Charlene Campbell from maternity leave. At the same time, setting up a communications and meetings framework in which decisions could be taken, shared and acted on had enabled the Faculty to respond quickly and decisively to the many emerging challenges faced by its three main sections. The weekly meetings between the office team and the Senior Officers, and the regular Senior Officers/Vice-Presidents meetings had increased our capacity to have the FFLM's name and influence at the heart of the discussions about custody healthcare commissioning, deaths in custody, death certification, medical advice to coroners, specialist recognition and revalidation. Improvements in internal communications had improved responses to key organisations; these include the Home Office, Department of Health, Ministry of Justice, Parliamentary Select Committees, CQC, Police and Crime Commissioners, IPCC, HMIC and the Government's adviser on Terrorism legislation. Regular contact with the membership had increased through our Friday bulletin. The website had been significantly improved, with much easier access to Faculty documents, and an enhanced news section, as well as increased use of social media, especially through Twitter and Facebook. On membership, there was a continuing steady decline in the Membership by examination category, but an overall slight increase due to increased Affiliate and Associate membership. The long-term decline in the Membership category was a worry, as it reflected the reduced incentive for doctors working in custody healthcare to hold a relevant qualification. The documents for the AGM contained one innovation: an "infographic", designed to be an accessible method of explaining the role of the forensic physician to press and other contacts. Professor Ian Wall was retiring from the post of Academic Dean, and the FFLM was in the process of appointing a successor. Ian had been particularly supportive in guiding the new Senior Officer team during the first few weeks of their posts. The Registrar paid particular tribute to the office "team": Charlene, Tessa and Jay. Their contribution to the work of the Faculty had been immense and invaluable.
6. Amendments to Standing Orders (SOs): The Registrar explained that experience of overseeing the election of the new Vice-Presidents, and the appointment of the new Academic Dean, suggested that the nomination timetable required an excessive period of notice. The AGM approved changes to the SOs to reduce these intervals. In addition, the AGM approved a change to the SOs regarding membership by allowing the inclusion of a category of "medically qualified practitioners who are judged by the Fellowship Committee to hold a qualification relevant to any new membership category approved by the Board" to allow for an expansion of membership into new areas. The AGM also approved a change to the SOs to allow co-option of up to three additional members for a specified period, which would be no more than three years in the first instance. Co-opted members would have the same voting rights as appointed members of the Board. The AGM approved a change to make it clear that if membership of the Board ended, any FFLM office held would also be vacated. Finally the AGM approved a SO change to clarify the roles of the Vice-Presidents in the executive arm of the Faculty.

7. Treasurer's report: The Treasurer presented the Accounts and Report for the year ending 31 December 2015. Net assets had increased to £347,544 at 31 December 2015, with total assets and reserves at year end increasing to £693,383. The accounts and trustees' report was available on the FFLM website.
8. Academic Dean's report: The full report would be made available on the FFLM website. The Academic Dean reported on the activities of the Academic Committee, and those committees reporting to it. The Board had agreed to close down the Research Subcommittee, and had also decided to close the Sexual Offences Forum. The terms of reference of the Curriculum Subcommittee had been redrafted. Part I of the Membership examination was held in October 2015 at the Royal College of Physicians of London and Part II in March 2016 at St George's, University of London Medical School. In October 2015, 33 candidates took the Part I examination, 18 candidates passed. Of those that failed, 11 achieved the DLM pass mark and were awarded a DLM. There were 22 candidates for Part II in March 2016: 14 for general forensic medicine (GFM) of whom two passed; six for sexual offences medicine (SOM) of whom five passed; and two medico-legal advisers, one of whom passed. The Board remained concerned about the low pass rate in Part II GFM. The Part II examination consisted of a Short Answer Question (SAQ) paper and 14 station OSCE. Over the past year examination preparatory courses for both GFM and SOM had continued, concentrating on the OSCE examinations, and the pass rate for the GFM OSCE had remained reasonably high at 57%. However, it was the SAQ paper that candidates were continuing to find difficult to pass despite putting on a series of webinars specifically for GFM. Over the forthcoming year, it was planned to also develop an e-learning course for GFM and additionally, the Board had agreed that Part 2 passes from March 2016 can be carried forward to future years for a limited time (four years from passing the Part I examination) and it was hoped that this would lead to an increased overall pass rate. Four new examiners had been appointed and had commenced training over the last year making a total of 37 examiners. Further adverts for more examiners had recently been made and the Board expected to appoint additional examiners shortly. The committee continued to review and revise FFLM documents as required. All documents - guidelines, proformas, recommendations, fact sheets and policy statements - were available on the website, some accessed in the Members' only area (open to Fellows, Members, Licentiates and Affiliates).
9. Editor's report - Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine: The full report is available on the Faculty's website.
10. Award of David Jenkins Chair in Forensic and Legal Medicine: The recommendation that the 2017 lecture should be given by Professor Paul Matthews was approved.
11. There were no items of any other business.
12. The date of the 2016 AGM was given as 05 May 2016, at the Hilton Hotel, Belfast.

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Award of Honorary Fellowship, Ordinary Fellowship, Membership by Examination, and Diplomas, 2016 AGM

Honorary Fellowships

Brenda Hale, Baroness Hale of Richmond

Dr Helen Hammond

Fellowships

Dr Ahmed Alyahya

Dr John Holden

Dr Meng Aw Yong

Dr Martin Barrett

Membership by examination

Dr Sandip Hindocha

Dr Philip Zack

Dr Graeme Walker

Diploma of Legal Medicine

Dr Amir Abdalla

Dr Sukhendu Banik

Dr Quamar Bismil

Dr Christine Bradford

Dr Andrew Breakell

Dr Ana-Maria Chiorean

Dr Bienfe Chiva

Dr Tanya Claxton

Dr Laura Dean

Dr Beth Durrell

Dr George Georgantidis

Dr Shaddy Ghazal

Dr Kathryn Halls

Miss Ayisha Hooper

Dr Michal Kaim

Dr Fawzia Khalid

Dr Tomasz Krzywdzinski

Dr Meera Ladwa

Dr Hakeem Lateef

Dr James Meade

Dr Rafiq Memon

Dr Paul Morris

Dr Myooran Nathan

Dr Peter Okey

Dr Joseph Palmer

Dr Sally Pickard

Dr Vladislav Podlipskij

Dr Nazia Raja

Miss Leila Rees

Dr Thomas Riddington

Dr Aamer Shamim

Dr Kate Shardlow

Mr Neil Shastri-Hurst

Dr Perna Shrivastava

Dr Adrian Spiteri

Dr Leanne Tee

Dr Graeme Walker

Dr Anna Wiles

Dr Catherine Williams

Dr Philip Zack

Licentiate

Dr Sarwat Bari

Dr Rashidat Rabi