

FACULTY OF FORENSIC & LEGAL MEDICINE

of the Royal College of Physicians of London



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Academic Dean's Report 2016 - 2017

Introduction

I was appointed to the Academic Dean (AD) post in June 2016, following Professor Ian Wall's tenure. It is an honour to have been appointed, but I am very well aware, that I have large footsteps to fill. More thanks will come later, but the Faculty owes a great debt of gratitude to Ian for the leadership, wisdom and care he demonstrated whilst the AD. I am very grateful to Ian who continues to provide advice, support and explanations to me.

I am still learning how to be an AD, and rather than take up unnecessary space and use too much paper, may I direct you to the relevant information in the Standing Orders: <https://www.fflm.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/FFLM-Standing-Orders-Document.pdf>

1. The Academic Committee (AC)

1.1 The (AC) has met four times since I became AD; in the past meetings were held three times a year, but more recently they have been quarterly and in relation to an increasing workload, this will continue. The AC would not function without the wonderful support of Mrs Tessa Lewis without whom things would not function smoothly. Membership details of the AC (and indeed others) can be found here: <https://fflm.ac.uk/about-us/board-and-committees/>

1.2 The following committees 'report' to the AC:

- The Chief Examiner's Committee (CEC)
- The Conference Subcommittee
- The Curriculum Subcommittee
- The Forensic Science Subcommittee (FSSC)
- The Photography in Custody & SARCs (PICS) Working Group
- The Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC)
- The Training & Education Subcommittee

1.3 The AC also receives various meeting reports from colleagues who attend meetings on behalf of the FFLM:

- Dr Cath White: NPCC Working Group on Rape & Adult Sexual Offences, National SARC Advisory Board, Medical Forensics Specialist Group, Central Elimination Database (CED) Project (SARCs)
- Dr Linda Teebay: RCPCH Standing Committee on Child Protection

- Professor Keith Rix & Dr Jenny Holmes: Mental Health in the Criminal Justice System
- Dr Margaret Stark & Dr Michael Wilks: BMA Forensic Medicine Committee (Recently, Dr Stark has stepped down from this role)

1.4 Dr Jenny Holmes has stepped down from the AC in the past year and I wish to thank her very much for all her work on behalf of the FFLM. Professor Keith Rix has kindly stepped into the role as Interim Mental Health Lead.

2. The Chief Examiner's Committee and the FFLM examinations

2.1 Dr Helena Thornton continues as Chief Examiner (CE) and is very well supported by her colleagues, as deputies and leads, as well as a cohort of examiners, all of whom give a huge amount of time to the examinations. This includes: blue-printing meetings, question writing, testing and quality assuring the examinations, (via standard setting meetings), as well as marking written assignments (COVEs and case books) and the SAQs and the OSCEs and OSPEs. There are post-examination meetings to review each exam, as well as the results. The CEC itself, has met four times in the last year. The examinations are a priority for the FFLM, and help to underpin its commitment to maintaining standards and quality of care. The membership examinations are especially important in the FFLM's specialty application.

2.2 The role of an examiner is voluntary and busy. We thank those who have contributed their time and energy to this work, and have stepped down. We wish to encourage others to apply when notices are placed in the Bulletin indicating that new examiners are being recruited. Training is provided and, as well as the existing webinars, more are planned.

2.3 Helena's term office as CE, ends in 2018 and, later in the year, the CE post will be advertised, so that there can be an overlap, in the early part of 2018, between Helena and the incoming CE.

2.4 The examinations and all the meetings and processes described above are supported by Mr Jay Barton-Costa, who is the examinations manager. The practical arrangements in terms of bookings, administration and direct communication with the candidates is managed by Jay. He collates the results and ensures they are available within the published time frames. He is an approachable & reliable first point of contact for the candidates, as well as the examiners.

2.5 The examinations work and quality assurance processes are supported by Ms Angela Hall as the Examinations Advisor and Mr Kevin Hayes as the External Assessor; more recently, Dr Margaret Stark has assisted with this. Angela & Margaret provided training to a large group of examiners in March and as noted above, more webinars are planned. Margaret has also developed mechanisms for feedback which examiners can use for CPD and appraisal purposes; again, essential support for this will come from Jay. I must not forget the other essential requirement: the actors. They become our simulated patients, parents or carers, police officers, solicitors or barristers. They contribute to the whole process, not just on the OSCE day, itself.

2.6 The work involved in running any examination is huge, and the overall the number of candidates is relatively small. As a result, the FFLM decided to run one diet (cycle) of

the Part 1 examination each year, from 2017, rather than two. The Part 2 examination continues to be offered once a year, as before.

- 2.7 The syllabus and regulations are 'living documents' which require review and updating regularly; this would not be possible without the help and support of Jay. In November 2016, a clarification regarding eligibility for the LFFLM (SOM) was required.
- 2.8 As noted in Ian's report last year, work was underway towards the convergence of UKAFN's Advanced Standards in Education & Training (ASET) and the Licentiate qualifications, in both GFM & SOM. The effect of this would be that those who possess the ASET could then be exempt from parts of the licentiate requirements (COVE and Case book), as competencies in equivalent areas would have already been demonstrated via the ASET. This work is near completion and will then require final approval by the Board. The FFLM wish to thank all those who have contributed to this work, including Drs Jenny Holmes, Caroline Jones, Rudo Masanzu, Margaret Stark and Helena Thornton, and also to Associate Professor Marg Bannerman at Staffordshire University.
- 2.9 The details of the various examinations can be found on the FFLM's examination page, here: <https://fflm.ac.uk/exams/>, along with details of dates and venues. The examination results are as follows:

2.9.1 Diploma examinations

Dip FHID:

June 2016: 11 candidates were expected to submit their dissertation; of whom 9 did submit, and 8 passed

DLM

June 2016: 11 candidates entered, of whom 10 sat the examination and 9 passed; of these 6 obtained a distinction which is the equivalent of an MFFLM Part 1 pass.

December 2016: 18 candidates entered of whom 9 passed

2.9.2 Licentiate examinations

LFFLM (GFM)

June & December 2016: There were no candidates for the Part 1 SBA paper

March 2017: There were no candidates to sit the OSCEs

LFFLM (SOM)

June 2016: 2 candidates sat the Part 1 SBA paper and both passed

December 2016: 3 candidates sat the Part 1 SBA paper and all passed

March 2017: 4 candidates sat the OSCEs and all passed.

2.9.3 Membership examinations

MFFLM Part 1

June 2016: 7 candidates sat the Part 1 SBA paper and 3 passed

December 2016: 4 candidates sat the Part 1 SBA paper and 3 passed

MFFLM Part 2

GFM

March 2017: 14 candidates sat the SAQ paper and 5 passed
6 candidates sat the OSCEs and 3 passed
(Of the above candidates, 2 passed both the SAQ & the OSCE)

SOM

March 2017: 4 candidates sat the SAQ paper and all passed
4 candidates sat the OSCEs and all passed

MLA

March 2017: There were no candidates for the SAQ or the OSPEs

The FFLM congratulates all those successful candidates and wishes to encourage others to consider obtaining qualifications.

3. The Conference Subcommittee

- 3.1 Dr Will Anderson has continued as conference secretary & to chair this committee; he has arranged an interesting & varied programme for us here in Belfast, following the successful London conference last year, which marked the FFLM's 10th birthday. Will has worked with all the committee members via regular teleconference, particularly supported by Mrs Tessa Lewis. The arrangements in Belfast would not have been possible without the help and local knowledge of Professor John Farnan. The FFLM is very grateful to everyone who has worked so hard to finalise and deliver this conference.
- 3.2 It has been proposed that the Conference alternate each year between London and a venue outside London. The 2018 Conference will be in London from 10 to 12 May 2018 and the venue will be confirmed in due course.
- 3.3 As we finish the conference, Will is stepping down from this role and interviews for this post will be held later in May, after the conference.

4. Curriculum Subcommittee

There is nothing new to report at present, but this will be an important subcommittee as it relates to both our specialty application (see paragraph 7 SAC) and also the CESR specific guidance (see paragraph 9.2).

5. The Forensic Science Subcommittee

Dr Margaret Stark continues to chair this committee, which meets twice yearly. However, a huge amount of work continues in the background e.g. answering queries, liaison with other agencies. The committee reviewed and updated its aims and objectives. Recently, the Forensic Science Regulator, Dr Gillian Tully and the President have written to the NPCC Lead for sexual offences, to try to ensure that feedback on forensic results is provided to clinicians.

The FSSC's work continues on reviewing the hair sampling guidance and also on the recommended equipment documents.

The FSSC has produced the following documents, in the last year:

- Recommendations for the Collection of Specimens from Complainants and Suspects, July 2016 & January 2017
- Recommendations for the Collection of Specimens from Complainants and Suspects - the evidence, July 2016 & January 2017
- SARC Storage of Forensic Samples & the Human Tissue Act: Frequently Asked Questions
- Proforma: Forensic Medical Examination Form
- Guidance on Paternity Testing

The FFLM wishes to thank Margaret and all her colleagues for their continued support and hard work.

6. The Photography in Custody and SARCs (PICS) Working Group

This is another huge piece of work which Dr Will Anderson has led. The guidance is completed and approved and is being formatted now for publication. Along with this, Will has worked with the Ministry of Defence School of Photography on a course. Details of this were given in a bulletin earlier in the year and there was an overwhelming positive response, such that the first course is oversubscribed; the date for it is yet to be confirmed.

In this project, Will has demonstrated a great 'task and finish' approach and the FFLM wish to thank him and all those who worked on this project; it is a fantastic achievement.

7. The Specialty Advisory Committee

This is the new incarnation of the Specialty Working Group, supported by the Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board (JRCPTB), and chaired by Professor Carol Seymour. The first stage application is well on the way to being completed. A subcommittee is being formed to develop Competencies in Practice (CiPs); we have experts from the JRCPTB to assist us, as well as inviting current trainees to join us so that we benefit from their up-to-date knowledge and experience of training. There is much change at present: the Shape of Training, and a requirement by the GMC for a new format for the specialty curricula, which is yet to be published. Information about CiPs in Internal Medicine can be found here:

<https://www.jrcptb.org.uk/sites/default/files/CiP%20proof%20of%20concept%20trainin%20presentation%20June%202016.pdf>

8. The Training & Education Subcommittee

- 8.1 Introductory Training Course. These have been held at Harperly Hall in conjunction with the College of Policing (CoP), although in 2016, some had to be cancelled. They also had University accreditation via the University of Teesside, (UoT). Other ITCs have been held in London. In the middle & latter part of 2016, the FFLM learned that the UoT no longer awarded their certificate and it seemed that the CoP were reviewing their support. The FFLM sees the ITC as very important and discussions are underway to re-establish the accreditation with UoT and announcements will be made in due course, as to how this will be delivered. Professor Ian Wall has stepped down as the Lead

Facilitator for the ITC. We have advertised for this post, but have yet to interview for it, but plan to do so in late Spring/early Summer. Again, the FFLM wishes to thank Ian and his colleagues for their commitment to and hard work in the ITCs.

8.2 Development & Training Courses (DTCs) (one day)

8.2.1 Those already held:

- Drink Driving Study Day 16/07/2016
- 4th Annual SARC Best Practice Day 17/09/2016
- Level 3 Child Safeguarding Day 29/10/2016
- Mental Health Issues in Custody 12/11/2016
- MFFLM & LFFLM Part 2 Examination Revision Day (SOM) 7/12/2016
- MFFLM & LFFLM Part 2 Examination Revision Day (GFM) 13/01/2017

8.2.2 Those planned:

- FFLM Appraiser Training 26/06/2017
- Drink-Drug Driving Study Day 1/07/2017
- 5th Annual SARC Best Practice Day 16/09/2017
- FFLM Appraiser Training 'top up for existing appraisers' 21/09/2017
- Level 3 Child Safeguarding Day 21/10/2017
- Mental Health Issues in Custody 11/11/2017
- MFFLM & LFFLM Part 2 Examination Revision Day (SOM) 15/11/2017

8.2.3 Those yet to be confirmed:

- Medical Issue in Custody
- Substance Misuse
- MFFLM & LFFLM Part 2 Examination Revision Day (GFM)

8.3 A poll was held in Autumn 2016 to identify other cities where the DTC days might be held, outside London. The most popular cities were Manchester & Birmingham. At least one of the courses and one of the revision days in 2017 will be held outside London.

8.4 Webinars: Plans are in progress for another series of webinars in 2017. Topics suggested have included: Strangulation, Human Tissue Act and Abortion Act, Drug Facilitated Crime & Toxicology, Infectious Diseases/BBV, Forensic Science: DNA analysis techniques. Any other suggestions would be much appreciated: please contact forensic.medicine@fflm.ac.uk or academicdean@fflm.ac.uk.

8.5 FFLM documents: Many documents are due or overdue for review and we are working through the list. We are very grateful to those who have reviewed or are in the process of reviewing and updating these publications. We welcome suggestions for new guidance or notifications for the need to update documents.

In parallel, we are also working on a robust archiving system, so that former documents can be found, which is essential in order to be able to demonstrate what standards and guidance was in place at a particular time. I would like to thank Charlene Campbell and Tessa Lewis for their work on this.

8.5.1 Documents published since June 2016 (not otherwise mentioned elsewhere):

- Child sexual abuse forensic medical examinations: interim guidance regarding number of examinations and maintenance of competence
- Proforma: Section 4 RTA Assessment (England, NI & Wales)

- Recommendations: Safe & Secure Administration of Medication in Police Custody
- A day in the life of a Medico-Legal Advisor – Infographic

8.5.2 Documents reviewed, or new document, to be published soon (not otherwise mentioned elsewhere):

- Quality Standards for doctors Undertaking Paediatric Sexual Offences Medicine (PSOM)
- Recommendations: Healthcare professionals asked to perform intimate body searches (joint guidance with the BMA)
- Quick Reference Guide: Intimate Searches in Police Custody
- Recommendations: The Management of Diabetes Mellitus in Custody
- Forensic Records - Frequently Asked Questions for all HealthCare Professionals
- Proforma: Fitness for Detention & Interview
- Proforma: Mental Health Assessment
- The Role of the Clinical Director in the SARC
- Proforma: Safeguarding form for use in Custody

8.5.3 Documents being reviewed at present or planned for review later in 2017:

- Management of Epilepsy in Custody
- Proforma: Adult Female & Male forensic sexual assault examination
- Consent from Children & Young People in Custody
- Peer review in sexual offences including child sexual abuse
- Forensic Physicians as Witnesses in Criminal Proceedings
- Recommendations: Taser®: Clinical Effects and Management of Those Subjected to Taser® Discharge
- Joint Guidance from RCPCH & FFLM on FGM assessment

9. Other Work

9.1 E-learning: We are liaising with the University of Ulster regarding an update to their e-learning course

9.2 CSER Specific guidance: Prof Carol Seymour & Dr Peter Green are working on this.

9.3 An update to the publication '*Substance Misuse Detainees in Police Custody: Guidelines for Clinical Management*', also known as the 'Blue Book', is due. This is published by the RCPsych, and discussions have taken place as to how the FFLM will work with them on this review and updated edition.

9.4 FFLM Working Party for HCPs who work with victims of torture (HWVT). This is co-chaired by Dr Peter Green & Dr Juliet Cohen. The most recent meeting was in early April, and their work on drafting the standards for the care of victims of torture in detention settings was progressing.

9.5 The FFLM was invited to become a partner of the National Network of Designated Healthcare Professionals for Safeguarding Children (NNDHP), of which Dr Peter Green is Chairman. Dr Sheila Paul is to be our representative on the NNDHP.

9.6 The FFLM became the 23rd member of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (AoMRC) on 01/10/2016, which is a great achievement and a testament to the hard work of Dr Michael Wilks and Dr Jason Payne-James. Along with this, and in part linked to the work on our Specialty Application & the Specialist Advisory Committee, we have

had a number of meetings with various Presidents, including: RCPATH, FPH, and forthcoming with the RCEM and Professor Terence Stephenson, the Chair of the GMC. Along with this has been work in briefing & meeting MPs and other Parliamentarians.

- 9.7 NHS England, via The NHS Public Health Functions Agreement, (Section 7A of the NHS Act 2006, as amended by the Health & Social Care Act 2012), are partly responsible for the commissioning of SARCs. We have had two meetings with them in relation to paediatric sexual offences services and the maintenance of competence. Whilst there will be further meetings and work, we shall also pay attention to children and young people in Custody.
- 9.8 A discussion document was sent to the FFLM for its views, by the British Association of Sexual Health & HIV (BASHH), Adolescent Special Interest Group (SIG). I am grateful to all the SARC leads who assisted me in producing a response the final version of which we sent in February.
- 9.9 Multi-professional/multi-disciplinary guidance group: Dr Peter Green and others suggested developing such a group who would look at clinical situations or topics where onward referral or senior advice should be sought. The group might also assist the FFLM in developing position statements on some topics. The group has yet to have its first meeting and whilst a number of topics have been suggested already, we would welcome other suggestions. Please email these to forensic.medicine@fflm.ac.uk.

10. Summary

I have been in post almost 10 months and hope that the above report demonstrates how busy the FFLM is and how your colleagues are working very hard, on your behalf:

- a) To improvement in standards and the quality of care for the vulnerable population of patients for whom we have responsibility;
- b) To support the education and training as well as the CPD of its members;
- c) To develop the FFLM and its influence, and in particular, its aim to achieve specialist recognition.

Lastly I want to thank everyone who has helped and supported me in the last 10 months; there are so many that I might miss some, for which I apologise.

Jason Payne-James, Ian Wall, Michael Wilks, Margaret Stark, Peter Green, Helena Thornton, Caroline Jones, Will Anderson, Rudo Masanzu, Nick Swift, Jenny Holmes, John Holden, Carol Seymour; and of course the FFLM managers: Charlene Campbell, Jay Barton-Costa and Tessa Lewis.

I would also like to thank Tim, my husband, for his unfailing support and that of my children Tom and Anna.

Dr Bernadette Butler
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GMC No: 2441223
Academic Dean

24 April 2017