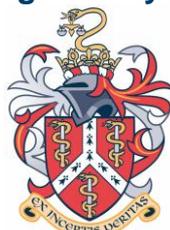


# FACULTY OF FORENSIC & LEGAL MEDICINE

of the Royal College of Physicians of London



## **Registrar's report to 2019 AGM**

This is my first Registrar's report and to begin I must add my tribute to the memory of my predecessor, Michael Wilks, who was of such great assistance to me as I took over this complex and varied job!

This report will cover the main components of what has been an extremely busy year. I am extremely grateful for the support of our outgoing President, Prof Carol Seymour, and the Senior Officers without whom little would be achieved. I am also extremely grateful to our office team: Charlene, Tessa and Jay, and we have now welcomed Janine Wise, Tessa's maternity leave cover.

It has been amazing to see the breadth of our Faculty's work in addition to the day-to-day management; liaising with other Colleges, membership of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (AoMRC), progressing our application for specialist recognition, providing revalidation and establishing new working groups. In addition we have had a number of HR issues during the year and our contract with the HR Department at the Royal College of Nursing has provided the Faculty with much needed support and assistance, they continue to work on the job descriptions for all our staff and Senior Officers which are now nearing completion.

There has been an unusual conjunction of planned vacancies in the Faculty's Senior Officer posts. Each of the following posts has been advertised in both the Bulletin and on the Web site and I am pleased to present to the AGM for approval the following new Senior Officers:

President	Dr Margaret Stark
Academic Dean	Mr Brian Westbury
Treasurer	Dr Susan Waterworth
VP (MLA & DLA)	Dr Michael Devlin
VP (GFM & SOM)	Prof John Farnan
VP (Med Coroners)	Dr Fiona Wilcox

As soon as I stepped into Michael's shoes the effects of The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) had to be implemented and we have had to review the information that we hold on all of our members, the justification for doing so and the length of time that it is reasonable to hold that information. I am extremely grateful to Alex Gorton, the Assistant Registrar, for taking the lead on this work and bringing it (and many other work streams) to successful conclusions.

The AGM on 10 May will be invited to approve the changes to the Standing Orders agreed by the last Faculty Board meeting. Many are simply minor "tidying" changes but others, such as those relating to the category of Membership by Equivalent Qualification, are potentially

more wide ranging. In addition I noticed, while preparing the ballot for VP(GFM/SOM), that it had become clear that IT technology had progressed (and postal prices had increased) to such an extent that it was considered that the Faculty's ballot process needed to be redesigned for the 2020s and the now anachronistic requirement for a postal ballot be removed. I am grateful that the candidates for the recent VP(GFM/SOM) ballot gave their permission for me to implement the IT version of the Ballot in advance of approval by the AGM so saving the Faculty a substantial amount of money. And I am pleased to be able to report that the new IT ballot process ran smoothly.

Faculty membership continues to cause some concern to the Board, the main demographic change is the continuing loss of Affiliates, Members & Fellows in the GFM section such that membership as a whole would have been down about 10% over the past year. Loss of, or lack of, available general forensic medicine posts being given as the most common reason to relinquish membership of the Faculty. This is a worrying, and seemingly continuing, trend which is under constant review. However on a brighter note the decrease in the GFM group of members has been slightly countered by the enthusiasm with which the Dento-Legal Advisers have applied for Foundation Fellowship or Membership of the Faculty and approximately 20 Foundation Fellows and Members have now been appointed and more applications are in the pipeline. We must hope that when our application for specialist status is successful this will reverse that trend in GFM posts and in the meantime, we continue to press for the transfer of commissioning of police custody healthcare to the NHS.

The Bulletin continues to be sent out weekly, and our web site and our presence on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn continue to have a beneficial effect and we hope to change our publicity policy soon to further increase our presence.

Looking toward to the next year, we will have to move office due to the ending of the lease at 1 Alie Street, and a number of possible sites, some in various Royal Colleges around London, are being investigated at the moment.

Finally, I would like to pay particular tribute to all involved in the planning of this Annual Conference and AGM, in particular to Dr Priya Iyer and to Janine, but also to all of the members of the Conference Committee who have all contributed so much to making this a successful conference.

The next Faculty Conference and the 15<sup>th</sup> Faculty AGM will be held at the Royal College of Physicians of London on 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

Richard Shepherd  
Registrar  
May 2019