

FACULTY OF FORENSIC & LEGAL MEDICINE

of the Royal College of Physicians of London



Registered Charity No 1119599

Academic Dean

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Academic Dean's Report 2018 - 2019

Introduction

This is my last report as Academic Dean, (AD), a role I have held for just short of 3 years. As noted last year, I have learned a great deal from Faculty colleagues with whom I have worked and many others whom I have met. Moreover, throughout my time as AD I have had a huge amount of support, but especially so over the last year, for which I am very grateful.

If I did not know it before, I now see that the Faculty is its members: nothing I have completed in the last 3 years, would have been possible without their help. Therefore, I want to ask every member to consider what they can offer to help develop and support the Faculty. You may:

- know of some guidance which we need, but do not have; or
- something which we believe is up-to-date and accurate, but something is missing; or
- something is not as clear as it should be.

Please ask and/or volunteer - to paraphrase Lord Kitchener: *"Your Faculty needs you!"*

1. The Academic Committee (AC)

1.1 The AC has met four times in the last year. Meetings are always very busy, with new work and the work of the other committees which report to the AC:

- The Chief Examiner's Committee (CEC)
- The Conference Subcommittee
- The Forensic Science Subcommittee (FSSC)
- The Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC)
- The Training & Education Subcommittee (TED)

1.2 I am grateful to my FFLM colleagues who represent us on other committees, and update the AC via their reports, including:

- Dr Cath White, the Lead for Sexual Offence Medicine (SOM): NPCC Working Group on Rape & Adult Sexual Offences; National SARC Advisory Board, Medical Forensics Specialist Group, Central Elimination Database (CED) Project (SARCs) and the NHSE SARC Strategic Clinical Forum/Network, to name but a few
- Dr Linda Teebay: the RCPCH Standing Committee on Child Protection
- Professor Keith Rix, the Lead for Mental Health and Intellectual Disability: Mental Health in the Criminal Justice System

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- Dr Rebecca West: the new representative on the RCGP Secure Environments Group Committee and also on the Specialty Advisory Committee
- Dr Yvonne Hindle: the representative on the NSPCC Health Liaison Committee
- Dr Helena Thornton, the Lead for Domestic Abuse
- Dr Alex Gorton: the IT Lead and Liaison with the National Police Custody Service Specification
- Professor Ian Wall and Dr Helen Mills: contributing to a task and finish group of the NHSE SARC Strategic Forum, who are developing a document on 'Medicine in SARCs'.

1.3 I am also grateful to the representatives who attend and contribute to the AC, who represent the following organisations:

- Royal College of Paediatric and Child Health (RCPCH): Dr Fiona Straw
- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP): Ms Tania Osborne
- United Kingdom Association of Forensic Nurses and Paramedics (UKAFN): Ms Jennie Smith
- College of Paramedics: Ms Jaqualine Lindridge

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

2.1 The CEC has met several times in the last year, in particular prior to and after the part 1 and Part 2 examinations. The Board recently approved a change in the application period, which will open and close a month earlier than in the past. We anticipate this will assist the planning and arrangements for the examinations.

2.2 Dr Caroline Jones has worked exceptionally hard as Chief Examiner. More examiners have been recruited and undergone a structured induction and training, which includes face-to-face and webinar training, and working (being 'buddied') with an experienced examiner. She is ably supported by her Deputies and Leads and the cohort of examiners who prepare questions and examine candidates on the examination days. I can assure everyone, being an examiner is an enjoyable and rewarding role.

2.3 The structured feedback for examiners is being progressed, to support their development and to contribute to their appraisal

2.4 On behalf of the Faculty, I wish to say thank you to Caroline and her colleagues for the commitment they show to our examinations, at every stage. I also wish to thank those who are stepping down now, or, in the near future and to thank and welcome our new examiners.

2.5 However, we do still need more examiners, particularly from our MLA colleagues; so please consider applying.

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2.6 The preparatory work for the examinations includes:

- Blue-printing, which involves looking at the breadth of the curriculum/syllabus and determining how it will be examined e.g. whether single best answers, short answers or objective structured clinical/practical examinations (OSCEs and OSPEs).
- Question writing, as well as reviewing and testing them at an OSCE practice day, standard setting and quality assuring the examinations
- Marking and reviewing the results
- Marking the documentary requirements for the Licentiate (LFFLM) examinations: the Compendium of Validated Evidence (COVE) and the case portfolio

2.7 Caroline and I are and will continue to work on reviewing and updating the examination regulations.

2.8 The examinations, training, 'practising' the OSCEs/OSPEs and the quality assurance processes are supported by:

- Ms Angela Hall, Emeritus Reader in Clinical Communication at St George's University, London and her colleagues
- Dr Margaret Stark, our new President
- Mr Kevin Hayes, the external examiner.
- The actors who support our clinical and practical examinations, by playing the simulated patients/detainees/police officers/lawyers, and so make the OSCEs or OSPEs as near 'real life' as possible.

2.9 A new area of work is the development of the membership (MFFLM) examination for Dento-Legal Advisors, (DLAs). The inaugural meeting was held in February 2019. A timetable for its development will be planned, so it is in place by or soon after the time the application period for Foundation Fellowship for DLAs ends on 31 July 2021. DLAs are already eligible to sit the Diploma in Legal Medicine (DLM).

2.10 Mr Jay Barton-Costa continues to support everything pertaining to the examinations as the examination manager, for which we are very grateful. As well as developing the timetable, booking the venues, supporting the CEC meetings, he is a consistent and reassuring point of contact for the candidates, and indeed the examiners.

Thank you to everyone involved.

2.11 The Faculty Examinations

Details of these can be found on the FFLM's examination page, here: <https://fflm.ac.uk/exams/>. The examination update and the results are as follows:

2.11.1 Diploma examinations

Diploma in Forensic Human Identification (Dip FHID):

November 2018:

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- 3 candidates sat the written examination (part 1); 3 passed.
- No candidates had submitted their dissertation, for the part 2, prior to 01 April 2019

In the Autumn of 2018, Professor Peter Vanezis, of the Academy of Forensic Medical Sciences (AFMS) approached the Faculty to ask to take the Diploma 'in house' at the AFMS. The AFMS runs the theoretical course in this topic. This was discussed and a proposal prepared, which was approved by the Board, so that from 01 April 2019, the Faculty is no longer responsible for this award. Any candidates, whether for the part 1 or part 2 examination, will apply to the AFMS. The Faculty offers its thanks and good wishes to Peter and the AFMS for the future.

Diploma in Legal Medicine (DLM)

(This is the same paper as the part 1 MFFLM, but it is examined at a lower standard and so the pass mark is lower).

October 2018:

- 22 candidates entered; 18 passed, including 11 distinctions, (the equivalent of obtaining the part 1 MFFLM, if eligible). 4 failed.
For information about the MFFLM see below
- We hope to encourage more candidates to obtain the DLM

2.11.2 Licentiate examinations

LFFLM (GFM)

October 2018:

- 7 candidates sat the Part 1 SBA paper; 7 passed

March 2019:

- 1 candidate sat the OSCE; 1 passed
This candidate has written requirements to submit, before achieving the award of LFFLM GFM

LFFLM (SOM)

October 2018:

- 2 candidates sat the Part 1 SBA paper; 2 passed

March 2019:

- 2 nurse candidates sat the OSCEs; 2 passed
- The candidates have written requirements to submit, before achieving the award of LFFLM SOM (adult)
- However, in late 2018, a nurse candidate achieved her LFFLM SOM (adult) after submitting the last written requirement

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2.11.3 Membership examinations

MFFLM Part 1

November 2018:

- 17 candidates sat the Part 1 SBA paper, (3 withdrew prior to the day of the examination); 12 passed and 5 failed.

MFFLM Part 2

GFM

March 2019:

- 5 candidates sat the SAQ paper; 2 passed and 3 failed
- 4 candidates sat the OSCEs; 3 passed and 1 failed
- One candidate had already passed the OSCEs
- Overall, 2 candidates achieved the MFFLM (GFM) this year.

SOM

March 2019:

- 6 candidates sat the SAQ paper; 6 passed
- 6 candidates sat the OSCEs; 6 passed
- Overall, 6 candidates achieved the MFFLM (SOM) this year.

MLM

March 2019:

- For the third year running, there were no candidates for the SAQ or the OSPEs.

The Faculty continues to be concerned about both the numbers of candidates and the pass rates. As colleagues will know, there is no requirement for a forensic clinician to hold a relevant post-graduate qualification: this would not be the case in other areas, of clinical practice. In relation to our application for specialist recognition, the membership will become a mandatory requirement for specialty trainees to progress through their training. Notwithstanding this, the Faculty continues to do its utmost to support colleagues to obtain such qualifications by:

- Working with UKAFN and developing the convergence with the LFFLM in 2017
- Updating the e-learning with the University of Ulster (see below)
- The webinars
- The Development and Training Courses (DTCs - see below)
- The revision days for the examinations in GFM and SOM.

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The Faculty congratulates all the successful candidates and hopes their commitment and example will encourage others to consider obtaining qualifications.

3. The Conference Subcommittee

3.1 This 13th annual conference, has been organised by Dr Priya Iyer and the subcommittee, supported initially by Mrs Tessa Lewis and more recently by Mrs Janine Wise. The theme for 2019, 'Miscarriages of Justice' is relevant to all of us; the programme is varied and topical and will be of great interest to all delegates. We also have the benefit of the surroundings and the fabulous view across Cardiff Bay. The Faculty is very grateful to Priya, and her committee colleagues, the speakers, and the Faculty managers.

3.2 The location for the Conference alternates between London and a venue outside London. The plans for the 2020 Conference are already underway: we shall be back at the Royal College of Physicians, in London.

4. The Forensic Science Subcommittee (FSSC)

Dr Margaret Stark, our President-elect and founding Academic Dean, continues to chair this sub-committee, with biannual meetings in November and June. A lot of work continues in the background, for example, answering questions and liaison with others. The committee has multi-disciplinary representation: healthcare professionals, police, forensic scientists, forensic kit producers and the Forensic Science Regulator. The Faculty was approached to contribute to and subsequently hosted a workshop looking at developing a national specification for forensic kits, in February 2019.

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

July 2018	Recommendations for the Collection of Specimens from Complainants and Suspects
July 2018	Recommendations for the Collection of Specimens from Complainants and Suspects - the evidence
July 2018	The FSSC Newsletter
November 2019	Information for complainants undergoing a forensic medical examination
January 2019	Recommendations for the Collection of Specimens from Complainants and Suspects
January 2019	Recommendations for the Collection of Specimens from Complainants and Suspects - the evidence
January 2019	The latest edition of the FSSC newsletter
January 2019	Proforma: Forensic Medical Examination Forms
January 2019	Recommendations: Labelling Forensic Samples
January 2019	Recommended Equipment for Obtaining Forensic Samples from Complainants and Suspects

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I wish to thank Margaret and all her colleagues for their contribution to this work. I also thank Mrs Tessa Lewis and Mrs Janine Wise for their exceptional support before during and after each meeting.

5. The Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC)

This is chaired by the President, Professor Carol Seymour and continues its work whilst we await the outcome of the Stage 1 application. The President will cover this in her report.

6. The Training & Education Subcommittee (TED)

6.1 The subcommittee now has a full complement of representatives.

6.2 The Course in General Forensic Medicine

This has been run in July and November 2018 and February 2019, with excellent feedback. Moreover, I can attest to this, as I attended it last year, but had to defer my assessment until this year. I can confirm the assessment is robust. I am very pleased to confirm that after a huge amount of work by Dr Stark, Mrs Lewis and Mrs Wise, Teesside University have ratified its accreditation. Therefore, on successful completion of the course, candidates will be awarded a post-graduate certificate.

6.3 Plans are underway to develop a similarly accredited course in Sexual Offence Medicine (SOM).

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

6.4.1 Those already held in 2018/2019:

- Mental Healthcare Issues in Custody 09/06/2018
- Drink-Drug Driving Study Day 07/07/2018
- 7th Annual SARC Best Practice Day 15/09/2018
- Part 1 MFFLM and DLM revision Day 29/09/2018
- Level 3 Child Safeguarding Day 13/10/2018
- Substance Misuse and Drug Facilitated Crime 24/11/2018
- MFFLM & LFFLM Part 2 Examination Revision Day (SOM) 08/12/2018
- MFFLM & LFFLM Part 2 Examination Revision Day (GFM) 18/01/2019

6.4.2 Those planned:

- MFFLM and DLM Revision Day 07/06/2019, with the University of Ulster
- Mental HealthCare and Learning Disability Day for Healthcare Professionals/clinicians working in GFM and SOM 08/06/2018
- General Forensic Medicine: Best Practice Day 06/07/2019
- 7th Annual SARC Best Practice Day 14/09/2019
- MFFLM and DLM Revision Day 07/09/2019, with the University of Ulster
- Level 3 Child Safeguarding Day 12/10/2019
- Forensic Sampling: Innovations for the 21st Century 23/11/2019
- MFFLM & LFFLM Part 2 Examination Revision Day (SOM) 30/11/2019

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- MFFLM & LFFLM Part 2 Examination Revision Day (GFM) 13/12/2019

We continue to hold some of the DTCs outside London, and this year, we will be in Birmingham and Manchester.

- 6.5 The third group of webinars has yet to be completed, but plans are underway to hold one or two on forensic sampling techniques, and one on specialist applications to the GMC. Thank you to Simon Wade for his support in this. Should a 4th series be developed, suggestions for topics would be much appreciated: please contact forensic.medicine@fflm.ac.uk.

7. FFLM documents:

7.1 Two particular tasks were set 'by me for me', to:

- endeavour to update all the Faculty documents which were either due or overdue for review. We have almost achieved this, but there are still a few to be completed. This reminds me of the Forth Bridge and its painting/re-painting process; however, as you may know, that bridge is said not to need repainting until sometime in the 2030s. The FFLM documents will not be waiting that long: the update of some documents is already underway.
- ensure that we had a suitable archiving system so that former documents were still available when needed, but it was clear during what time period they were in use. I am particularly grateful to Tessa Lewis and Charlene Campbell who undertook a lot of work to start this. The archived documents may be found here: <https://fflm.ac.uk/resources/fflm-archived-publications/>

7.2 The review of existing documents and the development of new ones would not be possible without the contribution of many colleagues, again supported by Tessa Lewis and Janine Wise. The production and design of the published documents is the work of Mary Gorton, who, as well as bringing the word document to life, has been very helpful in advising on layout and images, particularly for documents which are not for a professional audience.

7.3 We have also produced new documents and increased the work with colleagues in other specialties, and, in particular, other Royal Colleges:

- of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH)
- of Emergency Medicine (RCM)
- of Pathologists (RCPA)
- of Psychiatrists (RCPsych)

and the British Association of Sexual Health and HIV.

Furthermore, we now look at each document and consider from whom (other organisations) we should seek advice, and to whom we should disseminate the document once published.

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We have found that some colleagues who should be aware of and use our guidance appear to be unaware of it or are relying on old (now archived) versions.

7.4 FFLM Guidance and Recommendations and Other Documents

7.4.1 Publications since May 2018, not otherwise mentioned elsewhere

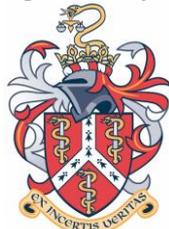
June 2018	The Code of Practice on Expert Evidence
June 2018	Recommendations: Forensic Clinicians as Witnesses in Criminal Proceedings
September 2018	Care of Suspects of Sexual Assault in Police Custody
October 2018	Management of Choking in Police Care and Custody: Recommendations for Police Personnel
October 2018	Proforma: Examination of adult Complainants of Domestic Violence
November 2018	Information for complainants undergoing forensic medical examination
December 2018	Proforma: Sample consent form for Healthcare Professionals
December 2018	Provision of advice and help to those who may have been raped or sexually assaulted abroad
December 2018	Recommendations: Clinical Effects and Management of those subjected to Taser® Discharge
December 2018	Recommendations: Consent from those who may have been seriously sexually assaulted
December 2018	Management of Do Not Resuscitate/Do Not Attempt Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (DNR/DNAR/DNACPR) decisions in police custody
December 2018	Recommendations: Managing Blood-Borne Virus Exposures in Custody
February 2019	The Role of the Healthcare Professional
February 2019	Fact Sheet: What Happens Now?
February 2019	Recommendations: Custody Officer Training
March 2019	Recommendations: Management of Epilepsy in Police Custody
August 2018 & co-badged by RCPCH. March 2019	Recommendations: Consent from children and young people in police custody in England and Wales
April 2019	Position Statement: on video recording assessments in police custody
May 2019	Acute Behavioural Disturbance (ABD): guidelines on management in police custody
May 2019	Quality Standards for Doctors in Forensic Medicine. General Forensic Medicine (GFM) and Sexual Offence Medicine (SOM)

7.4.2 Publications being reviewed, finalised or developed

Quality Standards for Nurses: Sexual Offence Medicine (SOM)
Quality Standards for nurses and paramedics. General Forensic Medicine (GFM)
Guide to establishing urgency of sexual offence examination: - Flowchart for Pre-pubertal complainants - Flowchart for Post-pubertal complainants
Medical care of persons detained under the Terrorism Act 2000
My experience of the Licentiate of the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine (LFFLM) Sexual Offences Medicine (SOM)
Proforma: Road Traffic Act
Guidance on and Proforma for assessment following non-fatal strangulation
Peer review in sexual offences including child sexual abuse
Guidance for best practice for the management of intimate images that may become evidence in court.

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Proforma: for paediatric forensic examination
Proforma: for adult female and male forensic sexual assault examination
Forensic Records: Frequently Asked Questions for all Healthcare Professionals
Mental Health Standards in SARCs – a proposal from Professor Charlie Brooker: - Children and Young People - Adults
Position Statement: Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) tests in police custody
Position Statement: 'Custody Early Warning Scores'

8. Other Work

8.1 E-learning:

A huge amount of work has been undertaken to complete this review and update. Many colleagues have assisted with this, but in particular, Dr Sarah Hull, whose commitment, patience and enthusiasm have led to its launch this week, with the University of Ulster (UU). I would also like to thank Professor Tara Moore and Mrs Sharon Shirley at UU for their support and assistance.

8.2 The Intercollegiate Document on Safeguarding Children and Young people: we contributed to this and there is an individual section included on competencies for forensic physicians.

8.3 We contributed to the Healthcare Standards for Children and Young People in Secure Settings, published earlier this year.

8.4 Government Apprenticeships:

The Faculty has contributed to the Health and Justice 'trailblazing group' and made extensive comments to the consultation on the Apprenticeship Occupational Standard for Forensic Practitioners (custody and sexual offences). We have not had a recent update on this or its progress.

8.5 '*Substance Misuse Detainees in Police Custody: Guidelines for Clinical Management*', (also known as the 'Blue Book'). The publication was delayed at an editing stage, but we understand from the RCPsych this should be completed very soon. Again, Dr Margaret Stark and other FFLM members have been pivotal in this work.

8.6 The Faculty is developing a number of 'position statements', (see also above in documents in development), the first of which was published last week: On video recording assessments in custody. It addressed the inappropriate use of video-recording by police of clinical procedures in custody. We are grateful to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) for their advice and support in this.

8.7 The Faculty is developing an accredited course for healthcare professionals to ensure that the clinicians who assess individuals subjected to a Conducted Energy Weapon (e.g. Taser®), have been appropriately trained and assessed as competent to do so.

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8.8 The Faculty continues to work with or contribute to:

- Numerous consultations including the GMC Draft Updated Consent Guidance, the Forensic Science Regulator, (FSR), the Government's proposals regarding training of health and social care staff in learning disability and autism, and the Scottish Government's consultation on improving forensic medical services for complainers of rape and sexual assault.

We are aware that we are not always made aware of consultations which are relevant to us and are looking into ways to ensure that we are contacted.

- Service specifications on which commissioners rely, whether for the provision of care in Police custody or in SARCs. In particular, encouraging the commissioners to use our Quality Standards, which acknowledges our role in standard setting, along with that of the Forensic Science Regulator, as determined by the Home Office.
- Working with the FSR to develop mechanisms of feedback supported by the police, to enable the Forensic Science providers to share such information with forensic clinicians
- The NHS England SARC Strategic Clinical Network/Forum and more recently working with the RCPCH regarding workforce planning.

8.9 As mentioned in last year's report, the FFLM supported the Working Party for HCPs who work with victims of torture (HWVT). As you will know, this project has resulted in the Quality Standards being presented at this Conference, by Dr Juliet Cohen and Dr Peter Green. The Faculty greatly appreciates their work on this.

9. Conclusion

I have been very fortunate to work with such knowledgeable and supportive colleagues, many of whom have become friends, over the last 34 months. The Faculty honoured me by giving me this opportunity to contribute, for which I am very grateful.

I hope that the information in this report, and that of the other senior officers demonstrates how busy and active the Faculty has been, is and continues to be, on behalf of its members. I hope we continue to be a sustainable organisation, which will continue to grow, particularly when we gain Specialty status. This is clearly very important for us, but it is also important - I suggest essential - to our patients, a group with significant vulnerabilities, who have the right to expect and receive an equivalent standard of care to that afforded to anyone else requiring healthcare in the UK. Our new colleagues taking up office at this conference will continue this important work to inform those who commission services, to ensure standards are maintained and raised, and to ensure forensic clinicians are appropriately trained and supported in their work, including obtaining qualifications.

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I wish to thank everyone who has helped and supported me during my time as AD; there are so many, that if should I miss anyone, I apologise:

Carol Seymour, Margaret Stark, Cath White, Jason Payne-James, Ian Wall, Michael Wilks, Dick Shepherd, Daniel Haines, Peter Green, Helena Thornton, Caroline Jones, Will Anderson, Rudo Masanzu, Linda Teebay, Sandy Fielding, Sheila Paul, Jenny Holmes, Brian Edlin, Jane Merivale, Nick Swift, Felicity Nicholson, Michelle Carroll, Jean Herbison, Christine Greenshaw, Keith Rix, Alex Gorton, Priya Iyer, John Holden, Liliane Field, Alastair Irvine, A. Robert Forrest, Andrew Wilkinson, Philip Zack, Sarah Hull, Anna Wiles, Keeley Roe, Kranti Hiremath, Robin Jamieson, Olive Buckley, John Farnan, Charlie Brooker, Felicity (Flick) Stuart, Simon Wade and Mary Gorton.

In the Faculty office, the managers: Charlene Campbell, Jay Barton-Costa, Tessa Lewis and Janine Wise

I am pleased to be handing over to the new Academic Dean, Brian Westbury and I am sure everyone will help and support him, as they have me.

I would also like to thank my husband, Tim, and our children, Tom and Anna for their continued support and patience; I hope that they will get used to me being at home and available, more than I have been. As you may know, we are a family who like Great Dane dogs, so I am hoping I don't have a problem with Byron, and that he will still recognise me.

Thank you.

Dr Bernadette Butler
FRCOG, FFFLM, MFSRH, FFCFM(RCPA), PG Dip FLM, PGA (MedEd).
GMC No: 2441223
Academic Dean

May 5th 2019