

Personal Statements for Election of 4 Ordinary Members to FFLM Board - January 2020

Names in random order

Dr Amy Hamm

My name is Amy Hamm and I am the Regional Clinical Lead Sexual Offence Examiner for the Southwest of England. I have experience of working within obstetrics and gynaecology but was a paediatrician by background before I took a full time post in SARC services. I am passionate about delivering quality care and spend much of my time teaching, training and supporting staff across multiple areas to improve their skill set. I was very pleased (having provided encouragement and support) to see all of them that had attempted the exam pass their part one earlier this year. I would very much like to join the Faculty Board. This is a very exciting time for the FFLM as we may have the opportunity to become a Royal College and develop a training program. I want to be a part of how we move forward and the continuation of developing quality standards in forensics. I bring enthusiasm and energy to projects. I would like to bring the voice of my staff on the frontline to the Faculty and have an input into the changing face of providing quality forensic medical care at this exciting time.

Dr Sandy Fielding

I have worked in Clinical Forensic Medicine (Custody and Sexual Offences) since 2003, when I started as an FME in the West Midlands. It was at the end of the old system, a couple of years before Nurses were introduced into Custody. It was a great experience, I loved every minute of it and 16 years later, I still do. I can honestly say it is the best job I have ever had. It was exciting to be part of the new order, bringing initially Nurses into Custody then Paramedics and working with them. I was the first set of doctors to do the UCLAN PostGrad Certificate - that was so interesting, I got to know the people who worked hard to raise standards and bring Clinical Forensic Medicine in line with other specialities. I would like to be able to support the FFLM, to help to develop it and the specialty in the future. It is such an important but undervalued part of Clinical Medicine, I feel privileged to be part of it and would enjoy helping to secure its future.

Dr Daniel Haines

I would like to offer my services as a member of the Board of the Faculty. I have worked hard as Honorary Treasurer over the last four years and have learned much about how the Faculty functions. I believe I understand the threats to our future existence, especially those of allowing our expenditure to exceed our income, which has been a serious threat. I think I know where to advise to apply pressure to control costs.

I have worked closely with all the Senior Officers and the Vice Presidents and with the Faculty staff. I hold them in high regard, and I believe that, with the right decisions, we can have a very bright future. Having retired as Treasurer and reduced my professional workload as an expert witness I think I have adequate time to serve effectively on the Board.

I believe the Faculty to be of great value to all its members by providing education, guidance and qualifications to them. I have benefited enormously from my own membership, and I would like to assist the Faculty in serving the next generation of members of every sort.

Dr Marie-Elle Vooijs

I have been a Forensic Physician at the Treetops SARC in Hampshire since it opened in 2006. A few years later I also became a Forensic Physician in custody. I joined the FFLM in 2008, initially as an affiliate, becoming a Member by examination (SOM) in 2017 which is also the same year I became a full time Forensic Physician. Between 2017 and spring 2019 I was the Regional Lead Doctor for Custody and SARC in Wiltshire & Gloucestershire, I was also appointed as the Clinical Director for the Swindon & Wiltshire SARC in 2017. Earlier this year I was appointed as the Clinical Lead for the Treetops SARC. I consider ongoing professional development on and parallel to our day to day activities as clinicians essential. My professional career has been characterised by continuous active clinical participation as well as by increasing managerial and organisational responsibility. I put great value on strategic planning and long term vision, to ensure that our work develops in line with the changing requirements and restraints of our society. I have developed and implemented training programs for forensic practitioners in Sexual Offences Medicine as part of my Lead doctor role. As a member of the Board I shall give my energy to actively encourage forensic practitioners joining the FFLM and promote further education of forensic practitioners in all areas of Forensic Medicine as part of the vision to transform careers in our field from a portfolio career to a recognised specialty within Medicine. I am looking forward to this new opportunity.

Dr Vincent Davidson

I believe my experience over thirty five years as a forensic medical officer in rural Northern Ireland gives me a good insight into the challenges faced by our profession going forward. The high professional standing of our speciality over the past thirty years or so has been due in no small measure to the skills and integrity of the hard working physicians who have delivered and continue to deliver the service on a daily basis. I believe that we must continue to support and honour our hard working colleagues by taking up the challenge of defending the Faculty from external pressures and by ensuring that the high standards of our speciality are maintained in the future. My previous experience as a health commissioner and Chair of a commissioning group would be of value at Faculty Board level.

Rural forensic medicine is presently facing novel and extreme challenge due to the reorganisation of the service. I believe that it is essential to have someone from a rural background at Faculty Board level to ensure that issues unique to rural practice are tabled at the highest level within the profession.

It would be a privilege for me to be selected as a Faculty Board member and I will, if successful, endeavour to support the Faculty in its role of maintaining the highest standards of excellence in our speciality into the future.