

FACULTY OF FORENSIC & LEGAL MEDICINE

of the Royal College of Physicians of London



Academic Dean

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Registered Charity No 1119599

Academic Dean's Report 2017 - 2018

Introduction

I was appointed as the Academic Dean in June 2016, so I have been in post for almost two years. I think the idea of life-long learning is truly supported in this role, as I have learned a huge amount thus far and have no doubt that will continue in my final year. I am already trying to collate all the information which I shall use to prepare the role description for when we seek the next Academic Dean. This is similar to other roles in the Faculty where we have tried to develop a role or 'job' description for each of the appointments.

1. The Academic Committee (AC)

1.1. The AC has met four times in the last year. The autumn meeting has moved to accommodate the change in examinations timetable, as it must be preceded by the Chief Examiner's Committee (CEC) meeting.

The membership details of the AC, along with other FFLM committees 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 Specialist Advisory Committee (SAC)
- The Training & Education Subcommittee (TED)

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

- a) 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) and the NHSE SARC Strategic Clinical Forum;
- b) Dr Linda Teebay: Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) Standing Committee on Child Protection;
- c) Professor Keith Rix: Mental Health in the Criminal Justice System;
- d) Professor Ian Wall: BMA Forensic and Secure Environments Committee (formerly the Forensic Medicine Committee);

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- e) Dr Yvonne Hindle was recently appointed to represent the FFLM on the NSPCC Health Liaison Committee;
- f) Dr Helena Thornton was recently appointed as the FFLM Lead on Domestic Abuse/Violence.

1.4. I wish to particularly thank Professor Keith Rix who has undertaken the role of Interim Mental Health and Intellectual Disability, for over a year; as colleagues will know we have been advertising this role, but at the time of writing this report, we have not yet made an appointment.

1.5. Dr Folashade Alu has advised us that as she no longer sits on the RCPCH Standing Committee on Child Protection, she has stepped down from the AC. I have written to her to thank her for her contribution.

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

2.1. Dr Helena Thornton stepped down as Chief Examiner (CE) and has 'handed the baton' to Dr Caroline Jones. This has left a vacancy for the role of Deputy Chief Examiner in sexual offences medicine, DCE SOM, for which interviews are due to take place on 03 May 2018. Helena was, and I am sure Caroline will continue to be ably assisted and well supported by her colleagues, the deputies and leads, and the examiners, all of whom give generously of their time to prepare questions for and take part in the examinations. Examiners are supported in their role with face-to-face and webinar training; and this year there will be formal feedback to contribute to the examiner's appraisal. I wish to say thank you to all our examiners for the commitment on behalf of the Faculty, and to say farewell to those who have stepped down and welcome to our new examiners.

2.2. The examination work includes a number of meetings:

- a) Blue-printing, which this year are timetabled to take place immediately before the conference;
- b) Question writing, as well as reviewing and testing them at an OSCE practice day standard setting and quality assuring the examinations;
- c) Reviewing the results.

In addition, for the Licentiate examinations (LFFLM), the work also involves the assessment of written work (the COVE and case portfolio).

2.3. The running of the examinations is also supported by Ms Angela Hall and Dr Margaret Stark, who have also delivered training to the examiners in March this year, prior to the OSCE examinations. Mr Kevin Hayes continues as the external examiner. The practical examinations would not be possible without the simulated patients/police officers/lawyers who make the OSCEs or OSPEs 'come alive'. Thank you to everyone involved.

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- 2.4. The CEC has met twice this year, in part reflecting that the Faculty now runs one 'diet' or cycle of exams each year. Helena and Caroline, along with colleagues have developed a proposal for the recruitment and training of examiners.
- 2.5. The examinations and processes described above are supported by the Examinations Manager, Mr Jay Barton-Costa. All the arrangements are efficiently managed by Jay and he is also an essential point of contact for examiners, but just as importantly for the candidates, before, during and after the examinations. He has also developed a secure examiners' area on the website where all the resources can be found in one place. I wish to thank Jay on behalf of all those involved with the examinations, the Faculty's examiners as well as the candidates.
- 2.6. In November 2017, after over two years' work the Board approved the convergence of UKAFN's Advanced Standards in Education & Training (ASET) and the Licentiate qualifications, in both GFM & SOM. The effect of this is that those who hold the ASET are exempt from parts of the LFFLM. They are required to submit a shorter case portfolio of the five mandatory cases. They sit the single best answer (SBA) paper and the OSCE. As this agreement is so recent, we do not expect ASET-holders to apply to sit the LFFLM just yet.
- 2.7. A new area of work is that of the Health and Justice Trailblazers Group, developing apprenticeships, linked to the new Government Levy. (see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeship-levy-how-it-will-work/apprenticeship-levy-how-it-will-work>).

The Faculty was represented at a recent meeting by Helena Thornton and Alex Gorton and there will be much work to do to see how this can be progressed so that the Faculty's examinations remain relevant and attractive to healthcare professionals (HCPs) working in clinical forensic medicine.

- 2.8. As members will know, the Faculty runs a number of examinations, details of which can be found on the FFLM's examination page, here: <https://fflm.ac.uk/exams/>. The examination results are as follows:

2.8.1. Diploma examinations

Dip FHID:

November 2017: 11 candidates sat the written examination; all passed.

DLM

November 2017: 30 candidates entered, of whom one did not attend. Of the remaining 29 candidates, 27 passed and 2 failed. Of the 27 passes, 14 passed with distinction,

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which means, if they were eligible to sit the MFFLM, their pass is the equivalent of obtaining part 1 MFFLM.

2.8.2. Licentiate examinations

LFFLM (GFM)

October 2017: There was one candidate for the Part 1 SBA paper, who passed.

March 2018: There were no candidates to sit the OSCEs.

LFFLM (SOM)

October 2017: There was one candidate for the Part 1 SBA paper, who passed.

March 2018: There were no candidates sitting the OSCEs.

2.8.3. Membership examinations

MFFLM Part 1

November 2017: 26 candidates sat the Part 1 SBA paper, of whom 8 passed and 18 failed.

MFFLM Part 2

GFM

March 2018: 5 candidates sat the SAQ paper and all 5 failed.

2 candidates sat the OSCEs and 1 passed.

No-one was successful in the MFFLM (GFM) this year.

SOM

March 2018: 2 candidates sat the SAQ paper and both passed.

2 candidates sat the OSCEs and both passed.

Both candidates were successful in the MFFLM (SOM) this year.

MLA (MLM)

March 2018: There were no candidates for the SAQ or the OSPEs.

The Faculty is concerned about both the numbers of candidates and the pass rates. As well as the e-learning, the webinars, and Development & Training Courses (see below), there are revision days for the examinations in GFM and SOM. It is also proposed that one will be run for the MLAs in this cycle. Dr Margaret Stark has proposed to have a two-day intensive GFM 'masterclass' to assist candidates: this is an excellent idea and the date will be announced in due course.

The FFLM congratulates all those successful candidates and continues to encourage others to consider obtaining qualifications. In particular, in relation to our application for

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specialist recognition, the membership will become a mandatory requirement for specialty trainees to progress through their training.

3. The Conference Subcommittee

- 3.1. This year's conference, our 12th, has been organised by Dr Priya Iyer and the subcommittee, as always supported by Mrs Tessa Lewis. Dr Will Anderson stepped down as Conference Secretary after the 2017 conference in Belfast, however he has remained on the committee to support this year's arrangements. The programme for 2018 is varied and topical and should be of great interest to all delegates. The Faculty is very grateful to everyone who has contributed to the organisation of, and who is speaking at this conference.
- 3.2. As noted previously, it was proposed that the Conference alternate each year between London and a venue outside London. The plans for the 2019 Conference will be confirmed in due course.

4. Curriculum Subcommittee

This work will now be undertaken by a sub group of the SAC (please see below).

5. The Forensic Science Subcommittee (FSSC)

Dr Margaret Stark, who was our founding Academic Dean, continues to chair this subcommittee, which meets twice each year and the next meeting is in June. However, a huge amount of work takes place between the meetings, e.g. answering questions. The committee has multi-disciplinary representation including: healthcare professionals, police, forensic scientists and the Forensic Science Regulator.

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

July 2017	Recommended equipment for obtaining forensic samples from complainants and suspects
July 2017	Recommendations for obtaining hair samples for toxicology
July 2017	Recommendations for obtaining nail clippings for toxicology
July 2017	Recommendations for the Collection of Specimens from Complainants and Suspects
July 2017	Recommendations for the Collection of Specimens from Complainants and Suspects - the evidence
January 2018	Recommendations for the Collection of Specimens from Complainants and Suspects

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January 2018	Recommendations for the Collection of Specimens from Complainants and Suspects - the evidence
January 2018	Recommendations for the examination of female suspects of sexual assault
January 2018	The first FSSC newsletter

The FFLM wishes to thank Margaret and all her colleagues for their continued support and hard work. The FSSC and I also wish to thank Mrs Tessa Lewis who provides exceptional support throughout the year.

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

This document was published early in June 2017 and has been a great asset to those who are taking photographs as part of their work in custody and in SARCs. The Faculty is very grateful to Dr Will Anderson for the work he and his committee undertook.

Will also worked very hard to develop a practical course and although initially it was hoped this would be held in conjunction with the Ministry of Defence School of Photography, this was not possible. Will developed and has launched a course and a number of doctors, nurses and paramedics working in the forensic setting have undertaken the courses run so far.

The Faculty also updated its proforma: consent form for photographs in February 2018.

7. The Specialist Advisory Committee

This is chaired by Professor Carol Seymour who became our new president in May 2017. I am sure the work of this committee will be covered in the President's report but it is terrific news that the first stage application has been submitted.

8. The Training & Education Subcommittee

8.1. The subcommittee now has a full complement of representatives.

8.2. Introductory Training Course (ITC) and Course in General Forensic Medicine

The ITC was formerly run with the College of Policing and accredited by Teesside University.

Dr Margaret Stark was appointed Lead Facilitator for these courses. Dr Stark and colleagues successfully tendered to provide a course for HCPs working in custody suites in the Metropolitan Police, in the latter part of 2017. A General Forensic Course was run in February 2018, at the Faculty offices, with delegates from a number of countries. Both courses had excellent feedback and again I wish to thank Dr Stark and

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Mrs Lewis for their hard work on this. The next course will be in July 2018. The work continues to have this course accredited again by the Teesside University and members will have seen we have advertised recently for facilitators for the course.

8.3. Development & Training Courses (DTCs) (one day)

8.3.1. Those already held in 2017/2018:

- FFLM Appraiser Training 26/06/2017
- Drink-Drug Driving Study Day 01/07/2017
- 5th Annual SARC Best Practice Day 16/09/2017
- The FFLM Appraiser Training 'top up for existing appraisers' for 21/09/2017 was cancelled but was re-scheduled (see below)
- Part 1 MFFLM and DLM Revision Day 30/09/2017
- 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
- MFFLM & LFFLM Part 2 Examination Revision Day (GFM) 19/01/2018 was cancelled as there was only one delegate who withdrew
- FFLM Appraiser Training 'top up for existing appraisers' 02/03/2018

8.3.2. Those planned:

- Mental Health Issues in Custody 09/06/2018
- Drink-Drug Driving Study Day 07/07/2018
- 6th 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 Training Day 24/11/2018
- MFFLM & LFFLM Part 2 Examination Revision Day (SOM) 01/12/2018
- MFFLM & LFFLM Part 2 Examination Revision Day (GFM) 18/01/2019

8.3.3. Those yet to be confirmed:

- MFFLM Part 2 Examination Revision Day (MLM)

8.4. Following the poll in Autumn 2016 to identify other cities where the DTC days might be held, outside London, DTCs were held in Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds in 2017.

8.5. Webinars in 2017/2018: 6 webinars have been run, (see <https://fflm.ac.uk/e-learning/webinars/>). The 7th is to take place on 29 May 2018 on Medical Ethics in Practice. The remaining three for this cycle will also be devoted to examination topics: namely: Civil Law, Death and dying and the Structure of healthcare delivery and regulation of HCPs. Any suggestions for topics would be much appreciated: please contact forensic.medicine@fflm.ac.uk or academicdean@fflm.ac.uk.

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8.6. FFLM documents: Many documents are still due or overdue for review and we are working through the list. We are very grateful to those who have and are providing assistance with this. We welcome suggestions for new guidance or notifications for the need to update documents.

In parallel, work continues on developing an archiving system. I would like to thank Charlene Campbell and Tessa Lewis for their work on this.

8.6.1. Documents published since May 2017 onwards, which have not otherwise been mentioned elsewhere:

- Proforma: Child Safeguarding Summary Referral
- FFLM Quality Standards for Doctors Undertaking Paediatric Sexual Offences Medicine (PSOM)
- Recommendations: The Management of Diabetes Mellitus in Custody
- Proforma: Mental Health Act Assessment
- Proforma: Fitness for Detention & Interview
- Blood samples in hospital for unconscious/incapacitated patients
- Intimate Searches in Police Custody Flow Chart
- Taking Blood from incapacitated drivers
- Recommendations: Healthcare professionals asked to perform intimate body searches (joint guidance with the BMA)
- Forensic Records - Frequently Asked Questions for all HealthCare Professionals
- The role of the Forensic Pathologist
- The Role of the Clinical Director in the SARC
- Recommendations: Assessment of Persons with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities in Police Custody
- MFFLM experience – General Forensic Medicine
- Recommendations: Taser® Clinical Effects and Management of those subjected to Taser® discharge
- Recommendations: Irritant Sprays: Clinical Effects and Management
- Advice on obtaining qualifications in clinical forensic medicine
- Recommendations: Introductory Training Courses in General Forensic Medicine (GFM)
- FFLM Drug-Driving Competencies
- Proforma: telephone advice
- Proforma: Sudden Death- Forensic Notes
- Recommendations: Management of injuries caused by teeth

8.6.2. Documents reviewed or new documents, to be published soon (not otherwise mentioned elsewhere):

- Forensic physicians and HCPs as witnesses in criminal proceedings
- An FFLM Code of Practice as a result of a change in the Criminal Procedure Rules

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- Consent from Children and Young people in Custody
- Proforma: Adult Female & Male forensic sexual assault examination
- Proforma: Paediatric Forensic Medical Examinations
- Proforma: Examination of Adult Complainant of Domestic Violence
- Peer review in sexual offences including child sexual abuse
- Guidance for best practice for the management of intimate injuries that may become evidence in court

8.6.3. Documents being developed or due to be reviewed in 2018/2019:

- Management of Epilepsy in Custody
- Non-fatal Strangulation
- Joint Guidance from RCPCH & FFLM on FGM assessment

The work of the TED would not proceed efficiently without the support of Mrs Tessa Lewis.

9. Other Work

9.1. E-learning: The work on the revision of this course, which the FFLM produced with the Ulster University (UU) is underway. I would like to thank Dr Sarah Hull for her enthusiasm and proactivity with this. We would still welcome assistance with this large piece of work. I would also like to thank Professor Tara Moore and Mrs Sharon Shirley at UU for their support and assistance.

9.2. An update to the publication '*Substance Misuse Detainees in Police Custody: Guidelines for Clinical Management*', also known as the 'Blue Book', is underway. This is collaborative work between the Royal College of Psychiatrists and the FFLM, and with which Dr Margaret Stark and other FFLM members have been associated and are leading on various aspects of the content of this important publication. It is hoped it will be finalised within the next few months.

9.3. Work is being undertaken in relation to the use of 'Custody Early Warning Scores'.

9.4. A working party is to be set up to review the FFLM guidance in relation to assessment of individuals after Taser® discharge.

9.5. The FFLM continues to work towards a review of the decision not to transfer the commissioning of custody healthcare to the NHS, particularly in the light of Dame Elish Angiolini's report.

9.6. The FFLM continues to work with the Forensic Science Regulator to maintain standards in clinical forensic practice.

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- 9.7. The FFLM has had meetings with NHSE in relation to SARCs and their proposed Sexual Abuse and Assault Strategy, which was to have been published on 05 February 2018. The FFLM learned last week that it was published on 12 April 2018 and a further meeting between us will be arranged once we have read and understood the document.
- 9.8. The FFLM Working Party for HCPs who work with victims of torture (HWVT). This is co-chaired by Dr Peter Green and Dr Juliet Cohen. They are working on twelve domains. In the most recent report it is noted that the BMA had decided not to co-badge the document.
- 9.9. Multi-professional/multi-disciplinary guidance group: this was a new group which was suggested last year. We have now decided that this may be managed in an alternative way, via questions sent in by members and which Dr Alex Gorton, the Assistant Registrar and I will develop.

10. Summary

I have been in post for almost 22 months and hope that the above report demonstrates how active the FFLM is and how your colleagues are working very hard, on your behalf:

- a) To improve the 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.

I want to thank everyone who has helped and supported me in the last two years. These colleagues and friends are so many that I might miss some, for which I apologise.

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

I would also like to thank my husband and children for their continued support and patience.

Dr Bernadette Butler

FRCOG, FFFLM, MFSRH, FFCFM(RCPA), PG Dip FLM, PGA (MedEd).

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Academic Dean

April 29th 2018