

FACULTY OF FORENSIC & LEGAL MEDICINE

of the Royal College of Physicians of London



Registered Charity No 1119599

Registrar's Report to 2021 AGM

What an extraordinary year this has been. When we had our virtual AGM last year, we did not anticipate we would be having another virtual AGM this year!

I am extremely grateful for all the work done by our President, Professor Margaret Stark, who has worked with dedication and enthusiasm throughout her term of office. I am also grateful for the help and support of all the Senior Officers and Vice Presidents.

I would also like to thank our office team, Charlene Campbell, Jay Costa and Tessa Lewis, who have worked tirelessly through the year.

The AGM on 7th May 2021 will be asked to approve changes to the Standing Orders, which are highlighted in red in the document available on the website. There is an amendment to take account of the reality of virtual Faculty Board meetings, and a change in Student affiliate criteria to include part-time students. There is also a minor amendment to delete the Editor of the Journal from membership of the Academic Committee. The main change concerns the new category of membership to cover clinicians working in secure and detained settings. We also have an amendment allowing people who pass the DLM to use the post-nominal AFFLM (DLM), for which they will pay £300. I urge you to consider the amendments carefully. This is a real opportunity for us to increase our members.

In October 2019 we became a "virtual office," long before the pandemic hit, so we were very well placed to cope with the new reality. We have of course made cost savings by not having an office, and since the last AGM we have got rid of all the office equipment we had moved to a self-storage facility. Many thanks to the office staff and our stalwart Academic Dean for managing this. We now have a very small amount of storage at the Royal College of Physicians, the pictures of the Past-Presidents and our crest, and a small box of training materials at the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine.

We have continued to liaise with many other Colleges and Faculties, with the NHS, and with the Police and Government. Our (disappointingly slow) progress towards speciality recognition is covered in the Academic Dean's report. We continue to argue passionately for quality standards in Forensic & Legal Medicine. The Senior Officers and Vice-Presidents are considering utilising a public relations firm to raise the profile of the FFLM.

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We have managed to hold annual subscription rates at the same level as before. We have also introduced the ability for members to pay in instalments. I'm very happy to say that our membership numbers have continued to increase, despite many members no longer working in Forensic & Legal Medicine, as doctors have been replaced by other professionals in many situations. The FFLM has tried very hard, on our members' behalf, to combat this trend, and I know our President will have something to say about this.

We have welcomed new members from the Dento-Legal profession, and I look forward to welcoming clinicians working in the secure and detained settings if the amendment to the Standing Orders is passed at the AGM.

We have changed our HR contract, and this is now with the Royal College of Physicians.

All our Senior Officer posts are filled, and our Assistant Registrar has managed the design and set up of our new website, which is now live. I do urge you all to familiarise yourselves with it.

Our Bulletin continues to be sent out weekly, and together with our active involvement on social media (thanks again to Alex Gorton and Jay Costa), we are raising the profile of the Faculty.

The Membership and Fellowship Committee now meets every two months to ensure that the applications are processed as quickly as possible. We are very grateful to Professor Fiona Wilcox who chaired the committee for most of the year and to our new VP (MQC) Professor Andrew Harris who took over in March 2021. In March the member numbers reached just over 700 which is the highest level for several years.

Finally, I would like to thank our Conference Secretary, Dr Alex Gorton, and the team responsible for organising our virtual event this year.

The next Faculty Conference and 16th AGM will be held at the Royal College of Pathologists in London, back in Alie Street (once more) on the 6th and 7th May 2022.