

# FACULTY OF FORENSIC & LEGAL MEDICINE

of the Royal College of Physicians of London



Registered Charity No 1119599

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May 2022

## Academic Dean's Report 2021 – 2022

### Introduction

This is my third report as Academic Dean (AD), having taken over from my predecessor in 2019. "May you live in interesting times". An English expression claimed to be a translation of a Chinese curse. These have been interesting times and for a lot of people they have been horrible. At the Faculty, we have had to adapt both our running of the Faculty and especially the examinations.

However, every cloud has a silver lining, and some of the changes we have made will continue as an improved service to our members. The facility to run our examinations online had been considered but now we have put those plans into action and they work! The DLM exam in October 2021 was held completely online. Whether this helped to swell the candidate numbers, or whether it was spreading the details to various organisations, I'm not sure but again we had a very high number of applicants. For candidates it means no travelling or hotel costs and it is much less stressful for them. We also have no travelling costs for our team of examiners and staff and no room hire costs. The company carrying out the exam for us invigilate it. The computer links are two way. The invigilator can see what the candidate is doing.

In March 2022, we again held OSCEs and OSPEs online. This involved the team, and especially Jay Costa, in much technical work setting up separate rooms for each candidate and each examiner and much training in online procedures (especially for some of our examiners).

Co-ordinating candidates, examiners and actors worked extremely well. All the station questions were practised in advance and altered for online use. There were some stations that require a face to face setting and these will be held in June 2022. This means that I cannot give you the final results at present but it looks good. I think we will continue with a mix of online and face to face examinations.

The last two years, I asked if anyone could contribute to the Faculty with help with the educational documents. Members should have seen in the Bulletin, mention of the opportunity to observe meetings. With our previous Chief Examiner, Dr Caroline Jones, I placed a request for any member to write in with ideas for examination questions. There has been little response. With our current Chief Examiner, I will again ask for assistance from our members. I hope that more members will involve themselves with the Faculty. Indeed, some members might like to consider becoming part of our team of examiners. Please contact us and you will find it very rewarding. Our Chief Examiner has come to Conference and is happy to talk to potential examiners. Licentiates as well as Members and Fellows can apply to be examiners.

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I thank all our current volunteers for their enthusiasm. I also thank our Assistant Academic Dean (AAD) Marie-Elle Vooijs whose knowledge of the Forensic side assists me especially with the educational documents, recommendations, guidelines, etc. that are continuously being reviewed and updated.

## 1. The Academic Committee (AC)

1.1 The AC has met three times in the last year. All three of the meetings had long agendas. The meetings included reports and discussions on the subcommittees that report to AC:

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

1.2 The committee also receives reports from representatives of the FFLM on other outside committees. I thank all those involved for attending, and reporting to us relevant information. These include:

- BMA Forensic and Secure Environments Committee
- RCGP Secure Environments Group
- NPCC Working Group on Rape & Adult Sexual Offences
- National SARC Advisory Board
- FSR Medical Forensics Specialist Group
- Contamination Elimination Database Project (SARCs)
- Inter-Collegiate and Agency Domestic Violence Abuse
- NPCC Healthcare Advisory Group (Custody)
- Scottish Health in Custody Network
- RCPATH Medical Examiner Committee
- NHSE Health and Justice CRG
- GMC Intercollegiate Ethics Forum
- RCPCH Standing Committee on Child Protection
- RCP's Student and Foundation Doctor Network
- NPCC Clinical Governance Panel
- NSPCC Healthcare Liaison Committee
- Drink and Drug Driving (D3) Practitioners Group update (Department for Transport)

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- Medical Education and Training Forum
- Review committee for National Guidance on the Retention, Storage and Destruction of Materials and Records relating to Forensic Examinations
- Forensic Examiner Capabilities Framework - Steering Group

1.3 I would also like to thank those representatives of other bodies who attend the AC and add much to our deliberations. They are representing the following organisations:

- College of Paramedics
- Royal College of Nursing
- Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health
- UK Association of Forensic Nurses & Paramedics

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

2.1 The CEC has met several times both as a full committee and various groups of examiners. A great deal of work goes on behind the scenes to make the examinations work. In advance the exams are planned carefully with each question or station considered on not only its last use in the exam but also as to whether its relevance has changed. Where multiple types of registrants will be taking the exam, this is also considered carefully. I have already mentioned the changes to online exams.

2.2 I must especially thank George Wright for his hard work and many long hours during his first year as Chief Examiner.

2.3 There is a small group of DLA examiners preparing for 2023 when the Part 2 Dentolegal exams will commence. We have now prepared the syllabus and are going on to the exam itself. We have considered a paper based exam or online OSPEs and SAQ examination.

After much debate and heart searching, it is proposed that not only will there be a new DLA Part 2 exam but also the MLA Part 2 Exam will mirror it.

The latest plan (this has changed only in the last few weeks) is to have an exam that must reflect not only the high standard of Royal College membership but must actually test the competencies of MLAs and DLAs. The proposal is for:

- a) A portfolio and COVE which gives verified details of the medicolegal background and experience of the candidates but also includes reports of cases in which they

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have been substantially involved with. This will include their review of the cases with lessons learnt.

- b) OSCEs / OSPEs - as these take the form of telephone interviews/written tasks they are very suitable to be held online.

Our Medicolegal Vice-President has had discussions with several Medical Defence Organisations (MDOs) and there is raised interest in an exam of this nature.

2.4 In July 2020, the FFLM Board approved a route to the LFFLM (SOM) [c] for senior doctors experienced in conducting forensic child sexual abuse (CSA) examinations via prescribed/equivalent experience. Since then, the FFLM Board has updated the requirement to hold the MRCPCH/FRCPC to allow applicants to hold membership/fellowship of an appropriate Royal College or Faculty. This route is now in operation.

2.5 I also want to especially thank Angela Hall who organises the OSCEs. Her expertise in running the OSCEs and picking and training the actors is vital.

2.6 Dr Johnathan Round was appointed as the Faculty's External Examiner in November 2020 and we thank him for his continuing input.

2.7 Work has been continuing on updating the syllabi and the regulations. Some regulations were out of date and also there were unnecessary variations between different exams.

2.8 A thank you to anyone involved but not mentioned.

2.9 Exam Results:

## October 2021

Exam	Overall No. of Passes	Overall No. of Fails	Overall No. of Candidates
DLM	53*	4	57
LFFLM (GFM)	14	1	15
LFFLM (SOM)	2	0	2
MFFLM Part 1	7	3	10

\* Out of whom 43 achieved Distinction (reached the MFFLM pass mark)

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The highest scoring DLM/MFFLM Part 1 candidate received a £250 prize sponsored by SceneSafe.

## March 2022

### MFFLM (MLM) - Final

Overall No. of SAQ Passes	Overall No. of SAQ Fails	Overall No. of Candidates
0	2	2

Overall No. of OSPE Passes	Overall No. of OSPE Fails	Overall No. of Candidates
1	1	2

### MFFLM (GFM) – Partial (OSCE results to be published in July 2022)

Overall No. of SAQ Passes	Overall No. of SAQ Fails	Overall No. of Candidates
2	0	2

### MFFLM (SOM) – Partial (OSCE results to be published in July 2022)

Overall No. of SAQ Passes	Overall No. of SAQ Fails	Overall No. of Candidates
6	2	8

### LFFLM (GFM) – 8 candidates - results to be published in July 2022

### LFFLM (SOM) – 2 candidates - results to be published in July 2022

## 3. Forensic Science Subcommittee (FSSC)

Prof Margaret Stark, our Immediate Past President, chairs this committee with two meetings annually in June and November. The committee has many external members as well as Faculty members and deals with many queries and ongoing discussions about various topics. Much of the work goes on behind the scenes and a large amount of this is dealt with swiftly and efficiently by Margaret.

The FSSC continually updates and looks at documents and a list of those produced or revised is below.

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July 2021	Recommendations for the collection of forensic specimens from complainants and suspects
July 2021	Recommendations for the collection of forensic specimens from complainants and suspects – the evidence
July 2021	Recommended Equipment for Obtaining Forensic Samples from Complainants and Suspects
July 2021	FSSC Newsletter
July 2021	Pro Forma – Forensic Medical Examination Form (Complainant)
July 2021	Pro Forma – Forensic Medical Examination Form (Suspect)
January 2022	Recommendations for the collection of forensic specimens from complainants and suspects
January 2022	Recommendations for the collection of forensic specimens from complainants and suspects – the evidence
January 2022	FSSC Newsletter
January 2022	Information for complainants undergoing a forensic medical examination
January 2022	Recommendations – Labelling Forensic Samples

#### 4. The Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC)

This is chaired by Prof Carol Seymour and meets as and when necessary. The process is a slow one but we do continue to make that progress. Carol is a member of the AC and reports on the work of the SAC.

#### 5. The Training and Education Subcommittee (TED)

The subcommittee is currently under the chairmanship of Dr Shiraz Qumaruddin. I would like to thank Shiraz for chairing this committee.

#### Development Training Courses (DTCs)

- 5.1 The COVID pandemic continued to affect our courses and there have been no face to face DTCs. However, we were able to move some of our DTCs online and the following have taken place virtually:

Courtroom Skills	15 June 2021
SARC Best Practice	13 November 2021
MFFLM and LFFLM Part 2 (SOM) Revision Day	11 December 2021
MFFLM and LFFLM Part 2 (GFM) Revision Day	04 February 2022
Level 3 Child Safeguarding	19 February 2022



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Adult Safeguarding (sponsored by NHSE/I)	23 April 2022
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I would like to thank the course organisers for facilitating these events and for adapting them to work online.

- 5.2 We are in the process of arranging DTCs for the rest of the year and I am pleased to advise the following have already been scheduled:

General Forensic Medicine (GFM) Best Practice day	16 July 2022
Mental Health and Intellectual Disability Training day	15 October 2022

## Webinars

- 5.3 Twenty webinars have been held over the period May 2021 – April 2022 see Appendix A. Eighteen of these webinars were free for FFLM members to attend. Overall the feedback on webinars continues to be positive. We welcome any suggestions for future topics/presenters. The webinars explaining the exams are very popular and we hope to shortly have one on *Preparing your COVE*.

## Adult Safeguarding

- 5.4 A second workshop on the Forensic Aspects of Adult Safeguarding (sponsored by NHSE/I) took place in October/November 2021. A third workshop has been requested and will take place later this year.
- 5.5 Further funding has been secured from NHSE/I to develop and deliver train the trainer and general forensic awareness sessions, along with the development of the FFLM Adult Safeguarding forum and FFLM website resources.

## FFLM/Teesside University (TU) Course in General Forensic Medicine

- 5.6 This course, leading to the TU Certificate in Postgraduate Professional Development has run on five occasions since the last AGM. Due to the COVID pandemic, we altered the way we delivered the course to a mix of face to face teaching and live and recorded webinars. As COVID restrictions have eased we are going to reintroduce more face to face teaching whilst keeping some elements of the course virtual.
- 5.7 In November 2021, Dr Leanne Tee was appointed as the Facilitator for the Sexual Offence Medicine (SOM) course to be run at TU. Both Prof Margaret Stark (the Lead Facilitator for GFM) and Dr Tee have been liaising with TU to develop apprenticeship programmes for SOM and GFM. These programmes are due to begin in September 2022.

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## 6. Research Subcommittee

The Research Subcommittee has met twice since the last AGM under the chairmanship of Dr Michael Freeman. These were preliminary meetings with members discussing various ways forward. Dr Freeman presented a webinar on *An Introduction to Forensic Epidemiology* in October 2021 and will also be presenting a session at the Annual Conference.

## 7. FFLM documents

- 7.1 The task of reviewing and renewing our large resource of documents is an ongoing project. Marie-Elle helps extensively in this area. The target of all being reviewed on a three year cycle has been maintained and will continue to be curated by the AAD.
- 7.2 My thanks again to all of those who assist with this complicated task. Our staff have been excellent in support - Tessa, Charlene, and Jay.
- 7.3 List of revised / reviewed publications since May 2021 (not mentioned elsewhere):

May 2021	Pre-Release Risk Assessment – Recommendations for HCPs working in the custody environment
May 2021	Peer Review in Sexual Offences including Child Sexual Abuse cases and the implications for the disclosure of Unused Material in criminal investigations and prosecutions
May 2021	Pro forma – Telephone Advice
May 2021	Prof forma – Sudden Death – Forensic Notes
May 2021	Recommendations – Management of Injuries caused by teeth
May 2021	Pro forma – Adult forensic sexual assault examination
July 2021	Care of Suspects of Sexual Assault in Police Custody
September 2021	Pro forma – Sample Consent form for Healthcare Professionals (Custody)
October 2021	Drug Driving Competencies
January 2022	Pro forma – Examination of adult complainant of domestic violence
January 2022	LFFLM (SOM) [c] Route for Experienced Doctors – Frequently Asked Questions
January 2022	The Code of Practice on Expert Evidence
January 2022	Advice on obtaining qualifications in clinical forensic medicine
April 2022	Pro forma – Mental Health Act assessment



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April 2022	Pro forma – Fitness for detention and interview
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7.4 A number of documents were developed in response to the COVID pandemic and continue to be available on our website.

## 8. Less Lethal Weapons Update

8.1 In Autumn 2020, we convened a joint working party with the College of Paramedics, National Police Chiefs' Council, Royal College of Emergency Medicine, Royal College of Nursing and United Kingdom Association of Nurses & Paramedics to develop guidelines for those who may be involved in the assessment of individuals exposed to a Controlled Energy Device (CED). The guidelines and accompanying documents (below) were published on 12 August 2021:

- Healthcare assessment in police custody after CED discharge – Full Guideline
- At a Glance Guidance for Clinicians working in Police Custody
- At a Glance Guidance for Emergency Department Clinicians
- Post CED Assessment Form for Forensic Clinicians
- CED Patient Factsheet

All of these documents can be found on our CED Hub and on each of the co-badged websites.

8.2 We have also rolled out our Clinician Assessment Training Course nationally. To date, 35 courses have been delivered. Over 300 clinicians have now attended this course and overall feedback has been positive.

8.3 We are working with the NPCC and the National Taser Stakeholder Advisory Group to develop a train the trainer course. We will be convening additional stakeholder meetings soon to explore providers' needs and views on how this will be delivered and quality assured.

## 9. Other Work

There have been several other areas of activity including the following:

- In March 2021, funding was received from NHSE/I to expand the FFLM/Ulster University (UU) e-learning tool to cover GFM and also to update existing modules. The majority of existing modules have been reviewed and updated on Blackboard, the online platform for the e-learning tool. Work has not begun yet

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on creating new modules to cover GFM and the AC will be discussing a proposal on how to progress this;

- Developing Quality Standards on Mental Healthcare in Sexual Offence Medicine for adults and children with representation from the Royal College of Paediatrics & Child Health, UKAFN and the Royal College of Psychiatrists;
- Responding to the following consultations:
  - Reform of the Mental Health Act 1983;
  - Regulating Healthcare Professionals, Protecting the Public;
  - Home Affairs Committee Inquiry into Spiking;
  - Repeat Drug-Driving Offenders

## 10. Conclusion

I have already mentioned the staff but I also appreciate all the help and support from all of the Senior Officers. I look forward to my third year. I thank Tessa especially for her help with this report and all the other work she has carried out faultlessly during the year. I must mention Alex Gorton who demitted as Assistant Registrar during the year. He was a tremendous help. Anton, our new Assistant Registrar has been a great help already.

I am happy to receive questions or comments not only on this report but throughout the year [academicdean@fflm.ac.uk](mailto:academicdean@fflm.ac.uk).

**Brian Westbury**

**FFFLM, LLM, BA, BDS, LDSRCS, MGDSRCS, FFGDP MCGDent.**

**May 2022**

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## Appendix A

### FFLM Webinars – May 2021 to April 2022

Webinar Date	Webinar	Presenter/s	Chair
Tues 04 May 2021	The Pandemic - A Medicolegal Perspective	Dr Phil Zack	Dr Mike Devlin
Wed 05 May 2021	The Diploma of Legal Medicine	Mr Brian Westbury	Mr George Wright
Thu 13 May 2021	Overview of the Sexual Assault Forensic Clinical Services in the Republic of Ireland	Dr Roger Derham, Dr Maeve Eogan, Catherine Marsh and Dr Joanne Nelson	Ms Sarah O'Connor
Thu 20 May 2021	Medical Conditions, DVLA and (F)ME!!	Dr Sophie Carter-Ingram	Dr Alex Gorton
Mon 24 May 2021	Expert evidence: questions and answers	Prof Keith Rix	Prof Margaret Stark
Wed 02 June 2021	GHBRs and Chemsex	Mr David Stuart	Prof Margaret Stark
Mon 07 June 2021	Maintaining a Space for FMEs: Professional Challenges in Forensic Medicine	Dr Gethin Rees	Prof Margaret Stark
Mon 21 June 2021	GHB and related analogues	Dr David Wood	Prof Margaret Stark
Wed 30 June 2021	Adult Safeguarding	Dr Elisabeth Alton	Dr Helena Thornton
Thu 15 July 2021	Driven to Drink	Dr Paul Williams	Prof Margaret Stark
Wed 21 July 2021	Tackling Stalking: A Multi-Agency Approach	A/DS Kimberley Gray and Dr Alan Underwood	Prof Margaret Stark
Mon 26 July 2021	Fitness to be interviewed by the police	Prof Margaret Stark	Prof Keith Rix
Mon 13 September 2021	DLM and MFFLM Part 1 Revision	Prof Sarah Hull	Mr George Wright
Mon 20 September 2021	LFFLM (SOM) Part 1 Revision	Dr Lucy Love	Mr George Wright
Thu 23 September 2021	Detention Deaths	Prof Andrew Harris	Mr Brian Westbury
Wed 13 October 2021	An introduction to Forensic Epidemiology: An evidence-based approach to causal analysis in Forensic Medicine	Dr Michael Freeman	Prof Margaret Stark
Tue 02 November 2021	Appraiser Refresh for Forensic Physicians	Prof Margaret Stark	N/A
Wed 10 November 2021	HIV PEP and PrEP	Dr Amy Pearce	Dr Helena Thornton
Mon 07 February 2022	FFLM update on medical appraisals and supporting evidence	Dr Ewa Wolska	Mr Brian Westbury
Wed 27 April 2022	The Assisted Dying Bill	Mr Lee Biddle	Mr Brian Westbury