

FACULTY OF FORENSIC & LEGAL MEDICINE

of the Royal College of Physicians of London



Registered Charity No 1119599

The 14th Annual General Meeting of the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine held by Microsoft Teams on 15 May 2020 at 15:30 hours.

Minutes

1. Introduction: The President welcomed everyone to the first ever virtual AGM due to the COVID-19 pandemic and hoped that everyone was safe and well.
2. Apologies were received from John Farnan, Carol Seymour, Kathryn Leask, Felicity Goodyear-Smith, Clare Healy, Anne Knox and Angela Harkins. The President noted the sad news of the recent passing of Eddie Josse.
3. Minutes of the last meeting: these were approved as a correct record. The President noted under Item 6 that the possibility of offering membership by equivalent qualification to anthropologists was discussed at the Membership and Fellowship Committee, and with Professor Tim Thompson, and a decision was made not to pursue this as it was concluded that the forensic anthropologists are well represented by alternate organisations. They are very welcome to join as Associates.
4. Award of Diplomas to newly elected Honorary Fellows and Fellows and to successful candidates in the FFLM examinations: Diplomas have been awarded to the recipients listed. It was disappointing that the recipients could not be here in person to receive their awards but they will be offered the opportunity to have them presented at next year's conference.
5. President's Report: published on FFLM website. The President wished to specifically thank all the volunteers, the office staff, and also Alex Gorton who prepared for the conference so well before it had to be postponed. The President thanked John Farnan for his contribution as Vice President Forensic Medicine over the past year and announced the appointment of Shiraz Qamaruddin to this role.
Ilan Wall (IW) asked if the FFLM strategy had been published. The President explained that the Faculty Board had decided not to publish a formal strategy at the Board meeting in March as with the current pandemic many of the items were on hold.
IW stated that he had published a three year strategy when he was President and thought there should be a strategy published now.
The President explained that a lot of time has been spent sorting out the finances as outlined in the reports of the Registrar and Treasurer. There had been a strategy meeting in January and this was further discussed by the Board at the March meeting.

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IW noted we are half way into 2020 and the Trustee report is retrospective. IW and GF were concerned at the lack of transparency and GF stated that he had not spoken with IW before. The President made the point that the Board is the Executive of the FFLM and it was their decision.

The President reminded the AGM that the Trustee report outlines what happens over the previous year (2019) but that current information is provided to the members through the weekly Bulletin and monthly Presidential reports. There was also a resource issue to consider as the Senior Officers, Vice Presidents and volunteers were already stretched.

The Treasurer also advised the AGM that the time and energy of all services is completely challenged during COVID-19 but agreed it is something that we could look at in the next 3-4 months.

The President stated that she would take this view to the Faculty Board in July. Jason Payne-James (JPJ) noted he had not conferred with IW and GF and stated that the FFLM has gained some advantage by working virtually and although it may not be possible to follow the strategy completely until the pandemic eases, it can be modified to inform the members.

6. Registrar's Report: published on FFLM website. No questions.
7. Amendments to Standing Orders: published on FFLM website. No questions. Approved unopposed.
8. Treasurer's Report (including Trustees Report): published on FFLM website. No questions; approved unopposed.
9. Academic Dean's Report: published on FFLM website. No questions.
10. Journal of Forensic & Legal Medicine (JFLM): Elsevier Report published on FFLM website.

Professor Tim Thompson (TT), the Editor of the Journal, reported that the JFLM is performing very well. He thanked the FFLM and colleagues for their support with peer review. Key areas are to continue work on global footprint, biases according to regions where the articles come from, and increasing citations for the publications coming in. Views and downloads are already increasing.

TT thanked the members who had submitted comments about the quality of the editorial board and concluded that the Editorial focus would remain on excellence, but that he is reviewing this presently to ensure the Journal reflects the global landscape. TT is taking suggestions from the Associate Editors, and continues to review the submission statistics.

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In relation to proportionate representation and using FFLM members preferentially for reviewing, TT explained that FFLM members are not identified in the database and selection can only be via expertise and that FFLM engagement is quite low in reviewing and submitting.

John Gall (JG) raised the concern that contributors have appropriate capabilities, rather than filling places according to gender. The Journal should focus on excellence rather than equality and diversity.

JG also noted that the JFLM Board no longer meets. The President advised that there have been meetings of the Editorial Board and on occasions of the International Editorial Board at previous conferences. TT explained that he is pursuing a leaner and more agile strategy, consulting specific members to assist decision making process. JG considered this unsatisfactory, but JPJ supported this approach and considered TT is dealing with the difficulties quite appropriately on a very limited budget. The President noted that the Journal Editor reports directly to the President, who can raise matters for discussion if necessary, at the Faculty Board in July, and apologised if there had been miscommunication.

Ambika Prasad Patra raised a concern in relation to invoices being appropriate for claiming government expenses and the Treasurer will address this.

JPJ asked if the journal had been valued. MS explained that this was formally discussed at the Board and although the Board decided at the current time the Journal did not need to be sold, as a small profit had been made by the FFLM for the year 2019, Alex Smith from Elsevier is working on the valuation so that this asset can be recorded.

Brian Westbury asked if the Journal has a letters page for compliments and concerns. TT indicated that no correspondence had been received to publish but as volume is now increasing a Letters page will return.

TT offered to take email communication through FFLM office.

11. David Jenkins Chair in Forensic & Legal Medicine: Award for 2020 – 2021 MS advised that Professor Lumb has agreed to give his presentation in Birmingham in 2021. Dr Maria Nittis has been appointed for the following year and will present in 2022.
12. Any Other Business:
Denis Cusack, the current ECLM president, spoke and advised the AGM that he will continue in the role due to the current pandemic circumstances. He was pleased to

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support a continuing relationship between the UK and European colleagues in the ECLM.

13. Date of next AGM: 07 May 2021 at Crowne Plaza Hotel, Birmingham

The meeting concluded at 16:22 hours.

45 attendees

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Annex 1 - Awards of Diplomas

Honorary Fellows

Dr Suzy Lishman
Prof Alan Boyd
Prof Michael Pollanen
Prof Tim Thompson

Prof Nikolas Lemos
His Honour Judge Paul Matthews
Dr Andrew Hoyle
Prof Olaf Drummer

Foundation Fellows DLA

Dr Caroline Chapman
Mr Joe Ingham

Mr Timothy James Foster
Dr Susan Boynton

Foundation Members DLA

Mr Ravindra Rattan
Dr Leonard Maguire
Dr Eric Easson

Mr George Wright
Mr Michael Morris

Fellows

Dr Sarah Cornock
Prof Anuruddhi Edirisinghe

Dr Priya Iyer
Prof Sarah Hull

Member

Dr Samrat Sengupta -MbEQ

Licentiate LFFLM

Dr Anna Ramsbottom

Dr Hannah Lenton

MFFLM (SOM)

Dr Aisling O'Riordan
Dr Naomi Leese
Dr Virginia French

Dr Amy Hamm
Dr Sandra Ives

MFFLM (GFM)

Dr Michal Kaim
Dr James Meade
Dr Gail McLachlan

Dr Alfarah Kunwar
Dr Jennifer Low

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DLM

Dr Rebecca Adlington
Dr Nicola Bailey
Dr Edward Basile Cherubino
Mr Robert Chessman
Dr Emma Duncan
Dr Clement Ejohwomu
Dr Samilia Ekeocha
Dr Deryn Evans
Dr Elizabeth Fair
Dr Pamela Fiddes
Dr Michael Freeman
Dr Thomai Giannakopoulou
Dr James Goddin
Dr Katherine Grant
Dr Abiodun Jimoh
Dr Steven Kennish
Dr Kartik Kumar
Dr Julie-Ann Maney

Mr Alexander Martin
Dr Natalie McLeod
Dr Jacob Mushlin
Dr Godwin Omijie
Dr Fiona Pettet
Dr Sally Pickard
Miss Sarah Pickering
Dr Thomas J H Powell
Ms Padma Reddy
Dr Udo Reulbach
Dr Malarvizhi Babu Sandilyan
Dr Mojisola Sani-Omolori
Dr Elizabeth Sevink
Dr Maric Thorpe
Dr Matthew Tranter
Dr Martin von Fragstein
Dr Ben White