



Registered Charity No 1119599

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine held at the Royal College of Pathologists, London / Zoom on 06 May 2022 at 15:30 hours.

## Minutes

1. Introduction: The President welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and noted that there were attendees joining online as well as in person. The President advised that the meeting was being recorded for the purposes of the minutes.
2. Apologies were received from George Fernie, Mark Harris, Sonya McCullough, Roy Palmer, Sheila Paul, Nick Swift and Ian Wall.
3. Minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> AGM held virtually on 07 May 2021 were received and accepted as an accurate record.
4. Award of Diplomas to newly elected Honorary Fellows, Fellows and successful FFLM examination candidates: Diplomas were awarded to the recipients listed in Paper 2 of the AGM paperwork.
5. Registrar's Report: published on FFLM website, no questions.
6. Amendments to the Standing Orders: published on the FFLM website. The President thanked the Immediate Past President for her exemplary work on reviewing and preparing modifications to the Standing Orders.

The AGM approved the following changes to the Standing Orders:

- Removal of the route to Foundation Member and Foundation Fellow DLA (route closed on 31 July 2021);
- Addition of route to Foundation Member and Foundation Fellow for Clinicians working in Secure and Detained Settings (SDS) (route opened on 01 August 2021);
- Addition of Candidates who pass the Diploma of Legal Medicine (DLM) at distinction level to be eligible to for election as Affiliates or Associates of the FFLM and on successful election, may use the post nominal AFFLM (DLM) or Assoc FFLM (DLM);
- Addition of doctor or nurse advisor working for the DVLA (clinicians who are employed by the DVLA or self-employed clinicians who undertake contracted work for DVLA) to the Affiliate category;



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- Amendment of four to five to include Clinicians working in Secure and Detained Settings (2.14);
- Amendment to the roles of the Vice-Presidents so that there is a Vice-President for Forensic Medicine, Vice-President for Legal Medicine and Vice-President for Allied Health Professionals. All Licentiates, Members and Fellows are eligible for the roles;
- Amendment for Licentiates to be eligible for the role of Assistant Registrar;
- Amendment for Licentiates to be eligible to vote and stand for Ordinary Board Members.

It was proposed allowing members an opportunity to discuss the amendments to the Standing Orders before opening up the vote. The President agreed and advised that time would be factored in for discussion at the next AGM.

7. Treasurer's Report (including Trustees Report): published on FFLM website, approved unopposed. The Treasurer answered a question submitted prior to the AGM:
  - Can the Treasurer please provide a breakdown of the monies that the FFLM have acquired as a result of the charges levied for the CED courses. This should include identified sums that have been received from course fees, and a detailed breakdown of the costs associated with the running of these courses. It would be appreciated if the overall separate balance sheet for the CED courses could also be made available. Thank you.

The Treasurer advised that the income from the CED courses was included within the overall figures for the FFLM's educational activities. It was noted that it would be an inappropriate use of FFLM office staff time and members' subscription fees to separate this out.

8. Academic Dean's Report: published on FFLM website. The Academic Dean answered a question submitted prior to the AGM.
  - In this report (Academic Dean's) paragraph 8.3 states that a "train the trainer" course is to be instituted. It is my understanding from information relayed at other meetings that this plan has been shelved for the foreseeable future. What is your response please?

The Academic Dean advised that whilst the train the trainer course was still planned, it was ultimately a decision for the National Police Chiefs' Council as to its format and when it would commence.



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The Academic Dean encouraged members to consider becoming examiners for the FFLM examinations.

The President noted a suggestion from a member that it was preferable to use the term Forensic Physician rather than FME as it was now often used as the term for Forensic Medical Examination and colleagues in other areas (e.g. Northern Ireland) used different terms.

9. Journal of Forensic & Legal Medicine (JFLM): Elsevier Report published on FFLM website.

Prof Wilma Duijst, the Editor, advised that the Journal was performing well and provided an overview on the Journal's overall performance. Prof Duijst answered a question from the floor:

- Do you have any information about the reasons for rejection of articles and if so, how many are resubmitted with changes and then successful?

Prof Duijst advised that the main reason articles were rejected were due to the subject matter not being forensic medicine. Prof Duijst added that most articles in general were submitted twice before being accepted.

It was noted that the listed association for Dr Maria Nittis, Associate Editor, required updating.

10. President's Report: published on the FFLM website. The President addressed the following query submitted prior to the AGM:

- Please could the President explain more about the role of Dr Carl Gray? Dr Gray has been mentioned over the past year but has not attended a Faculty Board meeting and no paper has been provided to the Faculty Board about his role.

The President advised that as Dr Gray worked full time, his pattern of his work meant that he was unable to attend scheduled FFLM meetings. The President advised that Dr Gray's role would be to encourage young doctors and medical students into forensic and legal medicine. The President advised that he would hold regular meetings with Dr Gray and then provide updates to the FFLM Board.

The President highlighted that the survey circulated to the FFLM Membership in December 2021 showed that International Members wished to become more involved with the FFLM and proposed appointing an Overseas Representative. It was highlighted that the FFLM Quality Standards for HCPs who work with Victims of



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Torture had received interest from International bodies and that it might be a way to help build a relationship with overseas clinicians/organisations.

The President advised that unfortunately his efforts to increase the FFLM Membership by reaching out to other organisations and professionals (e.g. coroners and radiologists), had not had much success. The President advised that despite the disappointing response, he planned to reach out again.

The President advised that Prof Carol Seymour, chair of the Specialty Advisory Committee, continued to pursue specialty status for forensic and legal medicine. The President added that a Freedom of Information Request had been submitted to try and determine the reasons why the application had not been successful, however, no response had been received to date. The President noted that the deadline to respond to the Freedom of Information Request had passed. It was noted that four individuals had received specialist recognition for forensic and legal medicine from the GMC via the CESR route and that it was unacceptable for the application to be refused without any explanation.

11. David Jenkins Chair in Forensic & Legal Medicine: Prof Jonathan Harris has been appointed as the Chair for 2022-23.

12. Any Other Business:

A question submitted prior to the AGM was answered:

- Consideration be given to a modification of the format of the annual conference in that concurrent sessions be held to accommodate and encourage research in the various disciplines (especially for younger colleagues) and to address topical issues. It is suggested that, in the first instance and as a trial, that an afternoon (i.e. 3hrs) be set aside for concurrent sessions of proffered papers in each discipline at next year's conference in York.

The President advised that parallel sessions would be considered for the 2023 Annual Conference.

The President expressed his thanks to all of the Senior Officers and in particular to the Treasurer who was demitting office after the AGM.

13. Date of the next AGM: Friday 05 May 2023 at The Principal Hotel in York (later changed to 12 May 2023 due to King Charles Coronation).

Meeting closed.