



Registered Charity No 1119599

## Registrar's Report to 2023 AGM

Your Faculty has continued to work hard for your interests throughout the year. A look at our Achievements and Performances (outlined in the Trustees' Report) will show the large number of webinars and meetings with other bodies. Our website has increased in visitor numbers we continue to attract.

We have continued and will continue our efforts to obtain specialty recognition. We know that this is a priority for our members, and from such recognition so much else would flow. I am afraid that as I prepare to demit office after 3 years as your Registrar, I have to report a dispiriting lack of progress. This is absolutely not for lack of trying, but I appreciate that the next part of my report will seem not only disappointing but almost unbelievable. At last year's Annual General Meeting (AGM), I told you that after much consideration we submitted a Freedom of Information request, asking for the minutes of the meeting at which our application had been rejected. If you remember, I told you last year that we have met not just with failure, but refusal to explain the grounds for failure. We thought long and hard before submitting that request (some Board members feeling that such a request might antagonise those who opposed us). However, we did submit it, and I have to report to you that after a very long delay, we did receive a response, but that response was so heavily redacted that it was utterly uninformative. The organisation who made the decision is called UKMERG, and we have not even been able to establish who sits on this committee. I know you will find this a very unsatisfactory "(non) progress report" – the Senior Officers share your frustration. Please be assured we will continue to strive for specialty status.

We continue to work hard to implement our strategy:

- Working to obtain specialty status;
- Increasing the profile of our Faculty.

In my last report I told you that we were seeking meetings with the Metropolitan Police to raise concerns about the model of healthcare. Sadly, our meetings followed a pattern of meeting with newly appointed staff who appeared to listen but had been replaced again by the next meeting. We have not succeeded in having any more meetings and have unfortunately been met with silence.

We have continued to keep costs down continuing to have our meetings (and the exams) virtually, so that we are again able to hold the costs of membership (and reduce the cost of membership to our nurse colleagues). We have also continued to produce our webinar series, which has been very well-attended and well-received.

# FACULTY OF FORENSIC & LEGAL MEDICINE

of the Royal College of Physicians of London

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We have started to welcome new members from the DVLA service following their acceptance at last year's AGM.

I am pleased to announce that following changes to the Standing Orders last year we can now welcome Stacey Shelley as our Vice-President of Allied Health Professionals. The Faculty has always aimed to be inclusive, and is committed to multi-disciplinary working, and we look forward to Stacey contributing to the life of the Faculty.

You will hear more about the Institute for Addressing Strangulation later, but I am very pleased that the Faculty has been involved in this initiative. The webinar on this topic was one of our best-ever attended webinars, and there was a large interest in the Knowledge and Clinical events in March 2023.

The Faculty is grateful for all of you for your continued membership. We are very keen for the widest possible involvement from all our members, and there are very many ways you can get involved. We have a new team of Senior Officers joining Amy Hamm as Treasurer, as both Brian Westbury (our Academic Dean) and I demit office, along with Paul Marks as President. I hope you will offer your full support as I do to our incoming President - Bernadette Butler, Academic Dean - Deryn Evans, Registrar - Iain Brew and Vice-President for Forensic Medicine, Libby Sevink.

My thanks to my fellow Senior Officers, and to all of you who have contacted the Faculty with your concerns and queries. Our biggest strength is our membership, and we value all of you. If you have colleagues who are not yet members, please encourage them to join us. And huge thanks as always to Jay Costa, Charlene Campbell and Tessa Lewis, without whom the Faculty would really struggle – they all work tirelessly on your behalf, and I certainly could not function without their support.

The next FFLM Conference and 18<sup>th</sup> AGM will be held at the Royal College of Pathologists in London on Friday 10 and Saturday 11 May 2024.