



Registered Charity No 1119599

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**Academic Dean's Report 2022 – 2023****Introduction**

This is my fourth and final report as Academic Dean, (AD), having taken over from my predecessor in 2019. “May you live in interesting times”. And these have been interesting. I knew very little of the Forensic side of the Faculty in 2019 and now I know a little bit more.

The main stumbling block has of course been the restrictions of Covid, both in all our members practice and in the Faculty functions especially the Exams. It was vitally important as a Faculty that we did not impede our potential members professional progress and we set up examinations wherever possible online. The OSCEs could not all of course be held that way (although some of them and the OSPEs could). Stringent arrangements for the face to face OSCEs made it possible to continue with the exams. I would like to thank our partners in conducting online examinations, TestReach, and especially the hard work put in researching and arranging this by our Examinations Manager, Jay Costa.

The DLM exam was held completely online in 2022 and we had a record entry and a very high level of passes. I had contacted a lot of potential candidates and not having to physically attend may have helped swell the numbers. Apart from some of the OSCEs, all exams will now be held online and we are currently increasing the computerisation of the paperwork involved.

I have tried to involve more members in assisting Faculty work but we are still short both of examiners and exam question setters. All offers of help will be welcomed by the Chief Examiners and the new Academic Dean.

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 updated. I work with the Chief Examiners and can see the amount of work they are putting in. Currently examiner training is being provided and I hope that will increase our pool of examiners.



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## 1. The Academic Committee (AC)

1.1 The AC has met (virtually) 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 (FSCC)
- 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
- Forensic Science Regulator's Medical Forensics Specialist Group
- Contamination Elimination Database Project (SARCs)
- NHSE SARC Strategic Clinical Forum
- Inter-Collegiate and Agency Domestic Violence Abuse
- Scottish Health in Custody Network
- NHSE Health and Justice CRG
- GMC Intercollegiate Ethics Forum
- RCPCH Standing Committee on Child Protection
- RCP's Student and Foundation Doctor Network
- NSPCC Healthcare Liaison Committee
- Drink and Drug Driving (D3) Practitioners Group update (Department for Transport)
- 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
- RCPCH Project Board for Purple Book
- Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (Wales)



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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, and I see the same hard work and dedication from our current joint Chief Examiners.

2.3 The DLA exam is slowly coming together. I have reported that a delay was to change the format of the MLA exam and then mirror this with a DLA exam. Currently this is again under review to bring us in line with other Royal Colleges but I hope that the revised exams will be up and running next year. In July 2020, the FFLM Board approved a route to the LFFLM (SOM) [c] for paediatricians 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 closing date for applications was 31 December 2022, however the deadline to submit the supporting paperwork was extended until 30 April 2023.

2.4 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.

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

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



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different exams. This will continue as the changes to exams are made. There is now a formal appeal system for candidates receiving a red card, to the Academic Dean with other officers.

2.7 A thank you to anyone involved but not mentioned but especially our examiners, Educational Advisors and actors.

2.8 Exam Results:

## October 2022

Exam	Overall No. of Passes	Overall No. of Fails	Overall No. of Candidates
DLM	37*	11	48
LFFLM (GFM)	18	0	18
LFFLM (SOM)	4	0	4
MFFLM Part 1	5	7	12

\* Out of whom 25 achieved Distinction (reached the MFFLM pass mark)

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

## March 2023

### MFFLM (MLM) - Final

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

Overall No. of OSPE Passes	Overall No. of OSPE Fails	Overall No. of Candidates
0	1	1

### MFFLM (GFM) – Partial (OSCE results to be published in July/August 2023)

Overall No. of SAQ Passes	Overall No. of SAQ Fails	Overall No. of Candidates
0	1	1



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## MFFLM (SOM) – Partial (OSCE results to be published in July/August 2023)

Overall No. of SAQ Passes	Overall No. of SAQ Fails	Overall No. of Candidates
3	0	3

## LFFLM (GFM) – candidates - results to be published in July/August 2023

## LFFLM (SOM) – candidates - results to be published in July/August 2023

### 3. Forensic Science Subcommittee (FSSC)

Prof Margaret Stark continues to chair 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 reviews its documents and a list of those produced or revised is below.

July 2022	Recommendations for the collection of forensic specimens from complainants and suspects
July 2022	Recommendations for the collection of forensic specimens from complainants and suspects – the evidence
July 2022	FSSC Newsletter
August 2022	Provision of advice and help to those who have been raped or sexually assaulted abroad
August 2022	Recommendations for the examination of adult female suspects of sexual assault
August 2022	Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on Police Requests for Tests from Detainees in Custody for Sexually Transmitted Infections
August 2022	Guide to establishing urgency of sexual offence examination - Post Pubertal
August 2022	Guide to establishing urgency of sexual offence examination – Pre-Pubertal
January 2023	Recommendations for the Forensic Collection of Specimens from Complainants and Suspects
January 2023	Recommendations for the Forensic Collection of Specimens from Complainants and Suspects - the evidence
January 2023	FSSC Newsletter
January 2023	Recommended equipment for obtaining forensic samples from



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	complainants and suspects
January 2023	Operational procedures and equipment for clinical rooms in police stations
January 2023	Guidance on Paternity Testing
April 2023	Operational procedures and equipment for clinical facilities in Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs)

#### 4. The Specialty Advisory Committee

This is chaired by Prof Carol Seymour and meets as and when necessary. The process for specialty application for forensic and legal medicine is a slow and frustrating one. Dr Helena Thornton has provided an update on the application in her Registrar's Report.

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

The subcommittee is currently under the chairmanship of Dr Shiraz Kumaruddin. Shiraz will be demitting office at the AGM and I would like to thank Shiraz for chairing this committee during his term of office.

#### Development Training Courses (DTCs)

- 5.1 Whilst the Covid pandemic forced us to move our DTCs online, we have continued to hold them virtually to help keep costs down and make them more accessible for our members. The following have taken place since the last AGM:

Virtual GFM Best Practice	24 Sep 2022
Virtual MFFLM and LFFLM Part 2 (GFM) Revision Day	14 Jan 2023
CED HCP Assessment Training Course (In person)	31 Jan 2023
Virtual Mental Health and Intellectual Disability	25 Feb 2023
Virtual Adult Safeguarding (sponsored by NHSE&I)	18 Ap 2023

I would like to express my thanks to the course organisers for facilitating these - I appreciate a lot of time and effort goes into planning and running these events and we are grateful for their continued support.

#### Webinars

- 5.2 Ten webinars have been held over the period May 2022 – April 2023 see Appendix A. These were all free for FFLM members to attend.



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- 5.3 Two of the webinars (*What do you do if there is a suspicion of sexual assault* and *The Institute for Addressing Strangulation*) were free to attend for both members and non-members. Both webinars had over 100 participants in attendance.
- 5.4 Overall the feedback on webinars continues to be positive and we welcome any suggestions for future topics and speakers.

### **Adult Safeguarding**

- 5.5 A third workshop on the Forensic Aspects of Adult Safeguarding (sponsored by NHSE&I) took place in May/June 2022.
- 5.6 The Forensic Aspect of Adult Safeguarding Forum, chaired by Dr Elisabeth Alton and Prof Margaret Stark, continues to meet quarterly.
- 5.7 The Virtual Adult Safeguarding Day (sponsored by NHSE&I) on 18 April 2023 was very well attended with over 200 participants. Feedback has been very positive with comments such as *This has been one of the most useful days of learning for me as a GP and I have to say this has been one of the best Adult Safeguarding training events I have attended in a long time*. Funding is hoped to be sourced from NHSE&I for a future conference in 2024.

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

- 5.8 This course, leading to the TU Certificate in Postgraduate Professional Development has run on one occasion since the last AGM. It is due to run again in July 2023 and October 2023.
- 5.9 TU's PgCert Advanced Forensic Practitioner Higher Apprenticeship (Custody or Sexual Offences) is due to begin in September 2023.

## **6. Research Subcommittee**

The Research Subcommittee chair will be presenting again at our Annual Conference on *Research Integrity in Forensic Medicine*. We hope the subcommittee will have a chance to meet face to face at the Annual Conference as all its meetings so far have been virtual.



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## 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 and I thank her for her continued support.
- 7.2 My thanks also goes to the Senior Officers and Members who review and update our documents.
- 7.3 List of revised / reviewed publications since May 2022 (not mentioned elsewhere):

May 2022	Pro forma – Forensic Examination: Adult Victim of Suspected Assault/Non-Accidental Injury (NAI)
May 2022	Recommendations – Managing blood-borne virus exposures in custody
June 2022	What Happens Now?
August 2022	Recommendations – Consent from patients who may have been seriously assaulted
September 2022	Recommendations for Introductory Training Courses in Sexual Offence Medicine (SOM)
September 2022	Quality Standards in Forensic Medicine
October 2022	Recommendations – Custody Officer Training Outline
October 2022	Acute Behavioural Disturbance: Guidelines on Management in Police Custody
October 2022	Management of Epilepsy in Police Custody
October 2022	Recommendations for Introductory Training Courses in Paediatric Sexual Offence Medicine (PSOM)
February 2023	Home Office Prisoners – Recommendations for Healthcare Professionals
February 2023	Non-fatal strangulation in physical and sexual assault
February 2023	Safe and Secure Administration of Medication in Police Custody
March 2023	Head Injury Advice Leaflet for Custody Officers, Gaolers and Detention Officers
March 2023	Management of Do Not Resuscitate/Do Not Attempt Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (DNR/DNAR/DNACPR) decisions in police custody
April 2023	Taking Blood Specimens from Incapacitated Drivers





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## 8. Less Lethal Weapons Update

- 8.1 The Joint Controlled Energy Device (CED) Working Group met in January 2023 to review the Guideline and accompanying documents for those involved in the assessment of individuals exposed to a CED. Some minor amendments have been made to the Post CED Assessment form which will be published in due course.
- 8.2 We continue to deliver our Clinician Assessment Training Course nationally. Since the last AGM, 24 courses have been delivered. Over 500 clinicians have now attended this course and feedback continues to be positive. The National Police Chiefs' Council are currently in discussions with the Home Office about train the trainer courses.

## 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. Prof Sarah Hull and Prof Margaret Stark have developed a virtual revision course to cover the LFFLM (GFM) with this funding.
- The Appraiser Forum continues to meet every six months to support appraisers who often work outside of organisations with clinical governance processes.
- Responding to the following consultations:
  - Protecting The Public From Repeat Drug-Driving Offenders: Call For Evidence;
  - Call For Evidence - Nitrous Oxide Review.

## 10. Conclusion

I have already mentioned the staff but I also appreciate all the help and support from all of the Senior Officers. The new Academic Dean will be assured that there is an excellent team supporting her. 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. He was a tremendous help. Anton, our new Assistant Registrar has been a great help. Charlene has never queried my expenses (so far) and I thank her. I have already mentioned Jay Costa, our Examinations Manager who has worked very hard to make my job so much easier. I can assure Derryn as she takes office that she is going to enjoy the next few years.

**Brian Westbury**

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

**May 2023**



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## Appendix A

### FFLM Webinars – May 2022 to April 2023

Webinar Date	Webinar	Presenter/s	Chair
Tues 10 May 2022	Making Connections: the link between violence to people and violence to animals	Dr Paula Boyden Kate Richards	Dr Helena Thornton
Mon 05 Sep 2022	Novel psychoactive substances	Hassan Kurimbokus	Prof Margaret Stark
Wed 05 Oct 2022	Forensic Science is in Crisis	Prof Niamh Nic Daeid	Prof Margaret Stark
Tue 25 Oct 2022	Assisting the Coroner – How to reduce the risks to you when involved in an Inquest	Dr Clare Stapleton Prof Sarah Hull	Mr Brian Westbury
Wed 23 Nov 2022	How to prepare for the LFFLM Part 2	Thomas Bird Jessica Isaacs	Prof Margaret Stark
Thu 01 Dec 2022	What Do You Do If There Is A Suspicion Of Sexual Assault?	Dr Elisabeth Alton Dr Sandy Fielding Dr Helena Thornton	Prof Margaret Stark
Thu 08 Dec 2022	The Role of Intermediaries in the Criminal Justice System	Dr John Taggart	Prof Margaret Stark
Wed 18 Jan 2023	Update on Police Response to Reported Needle Spike Incidents	DI Chris Woollett	Dr Bernadette Butler
Mon 27 Feb 2023	The Institute for Addressing Strangulation	Dr Cath White OBE	Dr Helena Thornton
Mon 24 Apr 2023	The Mankind Initiative	Mark Brooks OBE	Dr Helena Thornton