



President's Report for the AGM

This will be my last Annual General Meeting and Conference as your President, as I must demit from office and hand over the baton to our distinguished President Elect, Dr Bernadette Butler.

It has been a great privilege and honour to be President of the Faculty over past two years, and of course, although I shall demit from office after this meeting, I will continue as Immediate Past President and support Bernadette and the Senior Officers and Vice Presidents over the next couple of years.

At the beginning of my Presidency, I had hoped for the FFLM to be well on the way to gaining specialty status, but unfortunately, progress has not only been glacial, but the whole process, putting it most charitably, is impenetrable, or at least it is for me. All that we can do, is to follow due process and endeavour to overcome the Kafkaesque situation in which we find ourselves. For centuries, the *Holy Grail* has been a metaphor for an ultimate goal, but on the other hand, it is paradoxically a metaphor for something unachievable. Let us hope in the case of the Faculty, it is the former, rather than the latter.

I am pleased to see that students are continuing to show interest in developing careers in Forensic and Legal Medicine; it is this group, as well as newly qualified practitioners that we must continue to support, as they represent our future.

I was pleased that Lord Sumption has agreed to be our Patron and the kudos of this will be of obvious benefit to the FFLM.

I have also proposed that Legally Qualified Coroners and Procurators Fiscal should be able to join the FFLM as Members by Equivalent Qualification. This of course requires amendment to the Standing Orders and I would unhesitatingly commend this proposition to you.

The finances of the FFLM remain sound as do our membership numbers.

I do hope that all of you have a great time at the conference, renew old acquaintance and make new ones. Also do enjoy looking around the historic City of York which has so many attractions. Next year, the conference, by convention will be in London and I hope to see all of you there.

Professor Paul Marks, FRCS, PFFLM