



Registrar's Report, May 2024

It was an honour to be invited to be the Faculty's Registrar so soon after joining, when the Secure and Detained Settings arm was welcomed in 2021. My first year in the role has provided a steep learning curve about the Faculty, its structure, examinations process, but also on the subject of being a Trustee of a Charity. Being one of several new Senior Officers had its pros and cons – we have made errors through the loss of 'corporate memory', but have also brought fresh eyes and ideas to our roles.

The last twelve months has seen a number of changes in Faculty personnel with Kim Feltham joining as a new Examinations Manager, and Jordan Bailey joining as Finance Administrator. The new team share core roles to provide resilience and to avoid single points of vulnerability. We have implemented lines of management to promote individual autonomy and personal development for all members of the Office team, and we have updated Job Descriptions, and terms and conditions to reflect this. We recognise the importance of Faculty staff feeling valued, and without them, we would not have a functioning Faculty at all.

Significant investment in future-proofing examination and other processes has identified a number of data collection issues, which the Office Team have corrected with external input, and we anticipate that the integration of TestReach and Salesforce will pay dividends in future efficiency. We are particularly indebted to Abi Bartlett who provided expertise and leadership in delivering the examinations project last year.

As Registrar, I continue to meet with the Chief Executive Officer of the Institute for Addressing Strangulation to ensure that the Faculty supports the continuation of the excellent work in whatever capacity we can. I am grateful to Bernie for sharing her expertise in Corporate leadership and for her support with the practicalities of operational management. Your Senior Officers and Office Staff have continued to improve organisational governance including consideration of the need for a Data Protection Officer, relevant insurance cover and up-to-date documentation and policies. We have just completed an in-depth audit process, which has provided some helpful recommendations, including the need for a formal risk register. However, it was reassuring to find that the Auditors did not identify any non-compliance with Charity Commission requirements

More recently, the Board of the Faculty has determined to rejoin the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges with the expectation that they will support us in the ongoing push for successful application for specialty status for Forensic Physicians, Medicolegal Clinicians and others. The message was clearly expressed in this year's membership survey that specialty status is one of the main reasons for members supporting the Faculty, so it is important that we deliver this if possible. We are grateful to Professor Carol Seymour and others for their strenuous efforts in this regard.



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The primary role of the Registrar is to maintain the roll of Faculty members, and it pleasing that the number of members continues to rise with currently 894. It is important that we remain current and relevant, and I am pleased to report that there is a good deal of interest from a wide range of medical expert witnesses in joining us as a focal point for educational activities, clinical and professional supervision, whilst recognising that the Faculty would not be providing accreditation.

We will be updating the FFLM strategy shortly, and would welcome any input from members on the Faculty's future direction. We are committed to using membership subscriptions and other income streams to maintain and develop standards across the range of forensic and legal aspects of medicine.

Dr Iain Brew, Registrar

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