



Registered Charity No 1119599

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May 2024

Academic Dean's Report 2023 – 24

Introduction

This is my first report as Academic Dean and it's been a busy, interesting year, not to mention a steep learning curve. It has been an honour to take on the role and I have enjoyed getting to know and work alongside some remarkable individuals who strive so tirelessly to promote standards in forensic and legal medicine.

We have a team of dedicated examiners who, under the leadership of the Chief Examiner, Sandy Fielding, and the expertise of Angela Hall, our educational advisor, have facilitated the exams. We are always in need of more examiners, and hope to recruit some nurse examiners, so please let us know if you are interested in becoming an examiner.

The DLM and Part 1 LFFLM and MFFLM were held on-line in October 2023, and the SAQs and on-line OSCEs were held in March, with the final face-to-face OSCEs planned for June. One of the biggest changes this year was planning the move from submission of COVEs and Portfolios to sitting the SAQ and OSCE for Licentiate candidates, commencing the next exam year.

We have commissioned TestReach to run the on-line exams, which has been an investment that we hope will improve the efficiency of the exams. Many thanks to Abi Barlett who led the exams project and worked hard to create a database of exam questions. Sadly, there has been little progress on the proposed dento-legal exams and the future of the medio-legal exams is being discussed through a working group chaired by Prof Sarah Hull, who has been a great support.

Our Secure and Detained settings (SDS) colleagues are in the process of creating exams for SDS and we look forward to launching these in due course.

We are looking to appoint a new Expert Witness Lead and thank Professor Keith Rix for his efforts in this role. Keith sends out an expert witness newsletter which is always informative and thought provoking, if you wish to receive this newsletter, please let one of the office staff know and we can add you to the mailing list. We are hopeful that Keith's replacement will champion the call to regulate expert witnesses.

The opportunity to collaborate with others has been welcomed and we have engaged with the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) to review and disseminate learning from a death in custody and have co-badged guidance with Royal College of Emergency Medicine (RCEM), Royal College of Psychiatrists (RCPsych) and Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH), to name a few.



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We are sad to say farewell to the Assistant Academic Dean, Dr Marie-Elle Voojjs, who has been a great asset to the team, especially in ensuring documents and guidance are reviewed. Many thanks Marie-Elle for all you have done as Assistant Academic Dean and during your tenure as Joint Chief Examiner.

We were sad to lose the expertise of Professor Margaret Stark as she stood down from her role as Educational Advisor, however, she continues to be generous with her advice and leadership of the Forensic Science Subcommittee. We are seeking to appoint a new Educational Advisor in due course.

We are also sad to say goodbye to Prof Catherine White, who has been the Faculty Lead for Sexual Offence Medicine for many years. Her work in sexual offences and more latterly for the Institute for Addressing Strangulation (IFAS) has been incredibly powerful. Thank you, Cath, for your many years of commitment to the role.

Last year we also said farewell to Jay Costa, Examinations Manager, and were delighted to appoint Kim Feltham to the role. Kim has had a similarly steep learning curve and has proven herself to be a real asset to an already amazing office team. Thank you for always smiling Kim, and for your energy in embracing your new role.

1. The Academic Committee (AC)

1.1 The AC has met (virtually) twice in the last year with the next meeting due to take place after the AGM. 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



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- 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)

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. Every new question is 'Angoffed' and many hours are spent reviewing questions and exam weightings.

2.2 We are grateful for everything Angela Hall contributes, including the coordination of the excellent actors. Her expertise in running the OSCEs and picking and training the actors is vital to the success of the OSCEs.

2.3 Dr Jonathan Round was appointed as the Faculty's External Examiner in November 2020, and we thank him for his continuing input. His insights are invaluable, and he teaches us so much.

2.4 Sandy Fielding and Kim Feltham have put in a considerable amount of work in re-writing the regulations for the Licentiate exams to align with the change in exam structure.



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

2.6 The following examination documents (not listed elsewhere) have been published/updated since the last AGM:

- Role of the Educational Supervisor
- Role of the Clinical Validator
- Resources for those involved in FFLM Examinations
- Examination Reading List
- Resource list for SOM Examinations
- Frequently Asked Questions for LFFLM (GFM) and (SOM) Candidates

2.7 Exam Results:

October 2023

Exam	Overall No. of Passes	Overall No. of Fails	Overall No. of Candidates	Pass Rate
DLM	45*	11	56	76%
LFFLM (GFM)	15	0	15	100%
LFFLM (SOM)	12	0	12	100%
MFFLM Part 1	11	4	15	73%

* Out of whom 35 achieved Distinction (reached the MFFLM pass mark)

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

March 2024

MFFLM (GFM) – Partial (OSCE results to be published in July/August 2024)

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

MFFLM (SOM) – Partial (OSCE results to be published in July/August 2024)

Overall No. of SAQ Passes	Overall No. of SAQ Fails	Overall No. of Candidates
7	1	8



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LFFLM (GFM) – candidates - results to be published in July/August 2024

LFFLM (SOM) – candidates - results to be published in July/August 2024

3. Forensic Science Subcommittee (FSSC)

Professor 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 2023	Recommendations for the collection of forensic specimens from complainants and suspects
July 2023	Recommendations for the collection of forensic specimens from complainants and suspects – the evidence
July 2023	FSSC Newsletter
July 2023	Recommended equipment for obtaining forensic samples from complainants and suspects
July 2023	Recommendations for taking nail clippings for toxicology
July 2023	Recommendations for taking hair samplings for toxicology
July 2023	Blood samples in hospital for unconscious/ incapacitated patients
July 2023	Forensic medical examination forms - Complainant and Suspect
January 2024	Recommendations for the Forensic Collection of Specimens from Complainants and Suspects
January 2024	Recommendations for the Forensic Collection of Specimens from Complainants and Suspects - the evidence
January 2024	FSSC Newsletter
January 2024	Recommended equipment for obtaining forensic samples from complainants and suspects
January 2024	Operational procedures and equipment for clinical and forensic examination rooms in police stations
January 2024	Operational procedures and equipment for forensic medical examination rooms in Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs)
January 2024	Forensic medical examination forms - Complainant and Suspect
February 2024	Guide to establishing urgency of sexual offence examination - Post Pubertal
February 2024	Guide to establishing urgency of sexual offence examination – Pre-Pubertal



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4. The Specialty Advisory Committee

This is chaired by Professor 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 Bernadette Butler has provided an update on the application in her President's Report.

5. The Training and Education Subcommittee (TED)

The subcommittee is currently under the chairmanship of Dr Libby Sevink. Libby has embraced her role as Vice-President for Forensic Medicine, and we are grateful for her contributions and enthusiasm.

Development Training Courses (DTCs)

5.1 The following DTCs have taken place since the last AGM:

Virtual SARC Best Practice Day	16 Sep 2023
Road Traffic Training Day (Hybrid)	03 Oct 2023
Virtual Child Safeguarding Day	14 Oct 2023
CED HCP Assessment Training Course (In person)	09 Jan 2024
Virtual MFFLM and LFFLM Part 2 Revision Day	17 Feb 2024
Virtual Adult Safeguarding Day*	16 Apr 2024

**Free for FFLM Members and those working in the NHS to attend*

The Road Traffic meeting was run as a hybrid event with delegates attending both in person in London and remotely. As most of the delegates attended remotely, the Training and Education Subcommittee agreed at its last meeting to make training days for 2024 virtual.

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 2023 – April 2024 see Appendix A. These were all free for FFLM members to attend.

5.3 Two of the webinars (*Applying for FFLM Membership and Fellowship* and *An Insight into MSc Forensic Science*) were free to attend for both members and non-members.



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- 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 The Forensic Aspect of Adult Safeguarding Forum, chaired by Dr Elisabeth Alton and Professor Margaret Stark, continues to meet quarterly.
- 5.6 The Virtual Adult Safeguarding Day on 16 April 2024 was very well attended with over 200 participants. Feedback has been very positive with comments such as *Absolutely loved it and thought the quality of speakers was second to none, a really great day - very interesting with lots of learning I will share across my organisation. and great sessions to enhance working knowledge of safeguarding and delivered by several key experts.* Funding is hoped to be sourced from NHSE&I for a future conference in 2025.

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

- 5.7 This course, leading to the TU Certificate in Postgraduate Professional Development has run on two occasions since the last AGM. It is due to run again in July 2024 and October 2024.
- 5.8 The start date for TU's PgCert Advanced Forensic Practitioner Higher Apprenticeship (Custody or Sexual Offences) has been postponed until further notice. We are awaiting further updates from TU.

6. Research Subcommittee

We are delighted that our Research Subcommittee chair will be presenting again at our Annual Conference on *The Role of Counterfactual Causation in the Investigation of Death in Custody*. 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.

7. FFLM documents

- 7.1 The task of reviewing and renewing our large resource of documents is an ongoing project. We are grateful for all the efforts by Dr Marie-Elle Voojjs in keeping the documents up to date.
- 7.2 Many thanks to the Senior Officers and Members who review and update our documents.



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7.3 List of revised / reviewed publications since May 2023 (not mentioned elsewhere):

July 2023	Medical Care of Persons Detained under the Terrorism Act 2000
July 2023	Pro forma: Child Safeguarding Summary Referral
July 2023	Non-fatal strangulation in physical and sexual assault
July 2023	Pro forma: Assessments (alcohol and drugs) under the RTA
August 2023	SARC Best Practice Courses Content Guide
August 2023	Pro forma: Fitness for Detention and Interview
September 2023	Guidance for best practice for the management of intimate images which may become evidence in court
September 2023	The Role of the Forensic Pathologist
September 2023	Consent from Children and Young People in Police Custody in England and Wales for Medical Examinations
November 2023	A Day in the Life of a Custody Nurse
November 2023	A Day in the Life of a Sexual Offence Examiner
November 2023	A Day in the Life of a Forensic Nurse Examiner
November 2023	A Day in the Life of a GP working in prison
November 2023	A Day in the Life of a Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist/Professor of Medical Jurisprudence
November 2023	A Day in the Life of a Custody Paramedic
January 2024	The Role of the Healthcare Professional
January 2024	Recommendations – Introductory Training Courses in General Forensic Medicine
January 2024	Management of Choking in Police Care and Custody
February 2024	PICS Working Group Guidelines on Photography
February 2024	Pro forma – Consent form for Photographs
March 2024	Pro forma – Telephone advice
April 2024	Pro forma – Sudden Death – Forensic Notes

8. Less Lethal Weapons Update

8.1 We continue to deliver our Clinician Assessment Training Course nationally. Since the last AGM, 30 courses have been delivered. Over 800 clinicians have now attended this course and feedback continues to be positive. Demand for courses is tailing off now as most providers have trained almost all their staff and are simply keeping up with staff turnover.



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8.2 Discussions regarding a train the trainer course are still in progress. There are concerns regarding this as there are benefits in running a single national course e.g. standardisation, cost audit purposes etc. We will keep the membership updated as discussions progress.

9. Other Work

There have been several other areas of activity including the following:

- The Appraiser Forum continues to meet twice a year to support appraisers who often work outside of organisations with clinical governance processes.
- Established links with Wessex Appraisal Service who have kindly offered training packages for new and already established appraisers. They can also offer independent appraisals.
- Submitted feedback on the updated National Police Custodial Healthcare Service Specification Framework.
- Participated in a Delphi study which was aimed at reaching a consensus on the criteria for the identification and management of Acute Behavioural Disturbance (ABD).
- Shared learning recommendations with the IOPC following a review of a death in custody.
- Submitted feedback on the revised edition of the 'Physical signs of child sexual abuse - evidence-based review' (also known as the 'Purple Book').
- Responded to the following consultations:
 - The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities consultation on the draft of the first-ever UK clinical guidelines for alcohol treatment.
 - The 'Call for Evidence' in relation to the recommendation from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) for mandatory reporting and the further consultation setting out the proposals for creating a mandatory reporting duty;
 - Forensic Science Code of Practice: Version 2.

10. Conclusion

In summary, it's been a busy, fulfilling year, and I am incredibly grateful for the support and expertise of those I work alongside. To those leaving posts, many thanks for all your time and effort, it has been much appreciated. To those who remain in post, thank you for your continued efforts. A special mention to the Senior Officers for navigating this first year with me and to the Office staff who really are the glue that hold the Faculty together, especially Charlene and Tessa, without whom I think we would all be lost.

Deryn Evans
FFFLM MRCGP DFFP DRCOG MBBS BSc(hons)
May 2024



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Appendix A

FFLM Webinars – May 2023 to April 2024

Webinar Date	Webinar	Presenter/s	Chair
05 June 2023	Forensic Medicine in the Middle East	Dr Dina Ibrahim	Dr Sheila Paul
12 June 2023	Forensic Radiology	Dr Curtis Offiah	Dr Bernadette Butler
29 June 2023	Applying for FFLM Membership and Fellowship	Dr Bernadette Butler and Dr Helena Thornton	
03 July 2023	Supporting Male Survivors of Sexual Abuse	Duncan Craig OBE	Dr Helena Thornton
10 October 2023	Forensics of Wildlife Crime	Tracy Alexander	Dr Iain Brew
23 October 2023	Fitness for Interview in Children and Young People	Dr Heidi Hales	Dr Bernadette Butler
21 November 2023	An Insight into MSc Forensic Science	Dr Aneesa Baig	Dr Bernadette Butler
12 December 2023	Forensics in Custody and the Secure Environment: A Unique Specialty in the African Context	Dr Lawrence Acheampong	Dr Deryn Evans
30 January 2024	Forensic Hair Analysis as a Toxicological Tool for the Detection of Psychoactive Substances in Inmates	Dr Lawrence Acheampong	Dr Deryn Evans
20 February 2024	Forensic Trace Evidence: A significant skill in Forensic Medicine	Dr Lawrence Acheampong	Dr Iain Brew