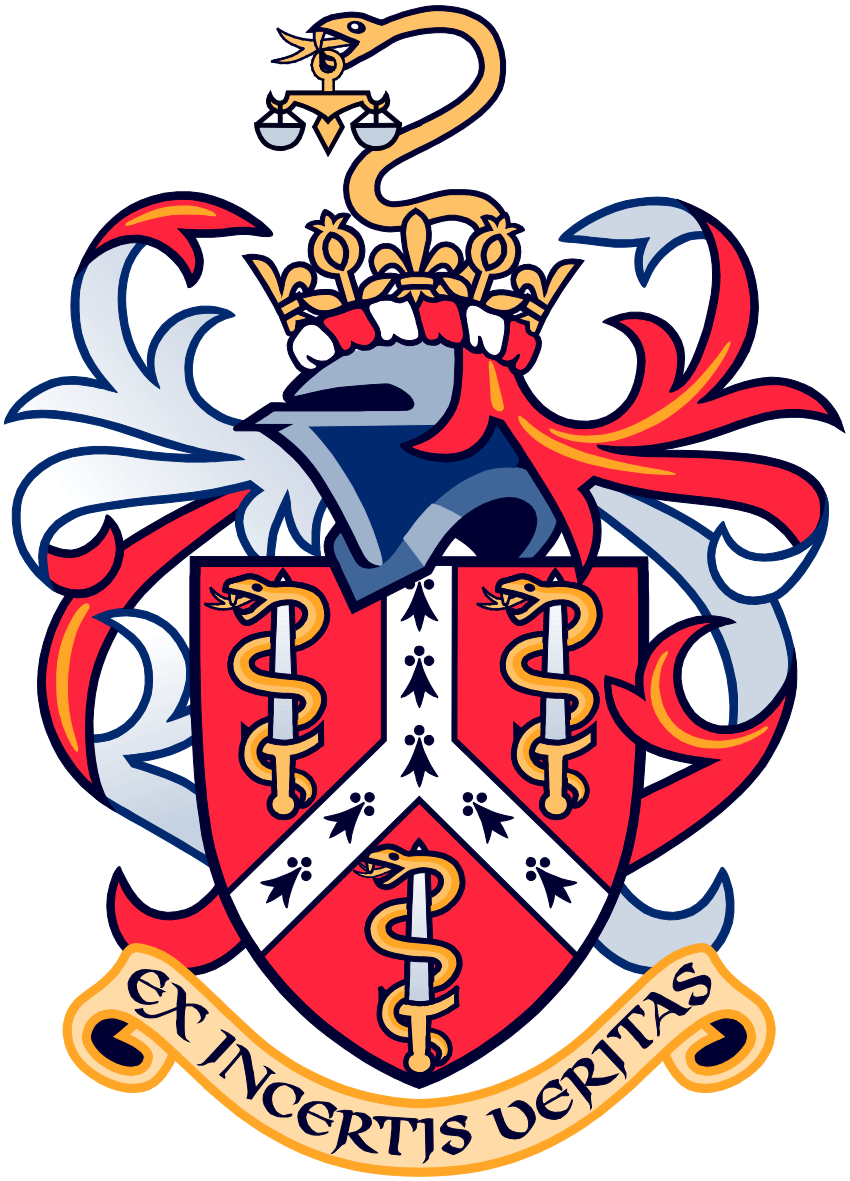
FACULTY OF FORENSIC & LEGAL MEDICINE

Virtual SARC Best Practice Day



Saturday 19 September 2026

Microsoft Teams

Programme

First session chaired by Dr Bernadette Butler

09:30 – 09:45 **Registration and Welcome**

09:45 – 10:30 ***Sentencing for sexual offences including for young people***
His Honour Peter Rook, KC, Retired Old Bailey Judge

10:30 – 11:00 **Forensic Science – Toxicology Update**
Dr Fiona Perry HonFFLM, Senior Forensic Scientist (Toxicology), Euorfins Forensic Science

11:00 – 11:30 **Forensic Science – Biology Update**
Mrs Rachel Morgan, Forensic Reporting Scientist/ Sexual Offence Lead Scientist, Cellmark Forensic Services

11:30 – 11:55 *Break*

Second session chaired by Dr Sheila Paul

11:55 – 12:40 **Post assault sexual healthcare – using case examples and discussions**
Dr Jo John, Clinical Director Lancashire Sexual Assault Referral Centre, Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Consultant in GUM/HIV, Fatima Health Centre, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals

12:40 – 13:25 **Hot topics in pediatric sexual offence medicine, (PSOM)**
Dr Jo Gifford, Consultant Paediatrician, Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust, Designated Doctor for Child Safeguarding Coventry and Warwickshire, Royal College of Pediatrics and Child Health Child Sexual Abuse Expert Lead

13:45 – 14:10 **Top tips for SARC accreditation**
Prof Ian Wall, Consultant Forensic Physician and Specailist in Forensic & Legal Medicine

14:10 – 14:20 **Closing Remarks**

Learning Objectives

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- Sampling requirements for Forensic Toxicology samples
- To identify barriers to UKAS accreditation
- To identify strategies to facilitate UKAS accreditation
- To ensure those working in PSOM have an overview of the current political and strategic drivers
- To promote reflection on how these will influence their practice
- Safe prescribing of Emergency Hormonal Contraception in SARC setting
- Improve confidence of when Hepatitis B post exposure vaccination is and isn't required in a SARC setting
- Identify when expert advice is required and limitations of what can be offered in a SARC setting
- Familiarisation of BASHH HIV post exposure Prophylaxis 2021 Guidelines and their utilization in SARC
- To ensure that the sentencing regime governing sexual offences is understood
- To enable attendees to understand how harm and culpability are assessed and the differences between the sentencing for adults and children and young people
- Understand how samples from SARC examinations are used and may be analysed

Target Audience

- Forensic Clinicians: doctors, nurses and pediatricians working in SARCs or SARCS (that covers all the UK)
- Managers, Commissioners, Regulators and Assessors and other professionals linked to sexual offence work, including those working in the criminal justice system

Chair / Course Organiser

Bernadette Butler

Forensic Physician, The Havens, London and Immediate Past President FFLM

Bernadette Butler, (‘Dr B’) graduated from St Thomas’ Hospital Medical School, London, sometime in the last century/millennium. Her post-graduate career began in obstetrics & gynaecology, but family commitments led her to work part-time. In 2000, she began working at the Havens, the London SARCs managed by King’s College Hospital. She was also the Havens' Clinical Education and Training Lead (CETL) until July 2025. She has and had a number of roles within the FFLM, including: Academic Dean, 2016-2019, Examiner for the LFFLM (SOM) and MFFLM (SOM) and is the out-going Lead for the Part 1, single best answer (SBA) paper, LFFLM SOM. She is a member of the forensic science sub-committee, (FSSC) and was FFLM President until May 2025. She holds a role as Immediate Past President, until the President-Elect for 2027 formally takes office later this year. She has had the privilege of working with forensic specialists whilst Chairman of the Forensic Science Regulator’s (FSR’s) Medical Forensics Specialist Group, (MFSG) until September 2025. In the past, she has been an Assistant Deputy Coroner for Surrey and President of the Clinical Forensic & Legal Medicine Section at the Royal Society of Medicine (RSM), until September 2023. She sits as a Lay Magistrate (Justice of the Peace, JP) in Surrey and is quite knowledgeable about Great Danes dogs, and her latest 'rescue' Great Dane came from the Leicester RSPCA.

Speaker

His Honour Peter Rook KC

Visiting Professor City University

QC (now KC) practising in criminal law 1991 - 2005

Old Bailey Judge 2005 - 2017

Vice Chair of the Parole Board of England and Wales 2020 - 2026

Co-author Rook & Ward. Law and Practice 7th Edition launched January 2026

Visiting Professor City University 2026-

Special interest in ensuring that the vulnerable are appropriately treated in the justice system .

Sentencing Sexual Offenders

I will cover the sentencing regime governing sexual offences.
This will include
(i) indeterminate sentences
(ii) determinate sentences
(iii) the role of the Parole Board.
I will explain the structure the Sentencing Guidelines for sexual offences and how judges apply them. I will look at the sentencing of those with mental disorder and children and young people.

Speaker

Fiona Perry

Senior Forensic Toxicologist

I am currently employed by Eurofins Forensic Services, formerly LGC Forensics (since 2012), as a forensic toxicologist and was previously employed by The Forensic Science Service, London Laboratory, for 15 years. During this time, I have prepared a large number of forensic toxicology reports in various crime types such as murders, GBH, rapes and sexual assaults. One particular area of interest is Drug Facilitated Crime (DFC), both in drug detection improvement and recognition of the varying drugs encountered. I was a published author on the toxicological findings in Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault (DFSA) cases analysed over a 3-year period at The Forensic Science Service and have presented both this study and a more recent similar study from cases at LGC at conferences. I have contributed in an advisory capacity to various formats and am a participant of the UK Forensic Science Subcommittee.

Forensic Science and Toxicology Update

This presentation will present a summary of sampling requirements for blood, urine and hair samples, taken for toxicology analysis purposes and submitted to Eurofins Forensic Services, Toxicology Section. It will include the requirements for each and the advantages and disadvantages of each sample type.

Speaker

Dr Rachel Morgan

Forensic Reporting Scientist

Rachel has over 23 years experience as a forensic scientist having began her career with the UK government Forensic Science Service (FSS) in 2003. Her areas of expertise include the analysis and interpretation of body fluids, damage and DNA. She has presented evidence on a wide-range of cases, both in written reports and as verbal evidence in court, and she also reviews the work of her peers. She is currently employed by Cellmark Forensic Services (CFS) where she works as a Reporting Forensic Scientist, and she is the Scientific Lead for Sexual Offences at the Chorley CFS Laboratory. Rachel provides support to her colleagues, particularly in complex investigations and is involved in continuous improvement of the techniques used during forensic examinations. Important aspects of the Scientific Lead role include helping maintain the quality of services provided by CFS in relation to Sexual Offence cases, providing training (both internally and externally) and providing support and advice to customers on forensic matters, including Police and SARC staff. She is a member of the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine (FFLM) Forensic Science Subcommittee, working with other stakeholders to maintain and improve the services delivered by Forensic Science Providers (FSPs) and Sexual Assault Referral Centre's (SARCs).

Forensic Science – Biology Update

What happens to samples taken during a SARC examination? This presentation will give an overview of the processes used by forensic laboratories when examining and analysing samples taken in relation to sexual offence investigations for biological evidence. It will cover the tests carried out for body fluids, how samples may be extracted to recover material and a brief introduction to DNA analysis.

Chair / Course Organiser

Dr Sheila Paul

Forensic Physician

An experienced GP and Forensic Physician with a career spanning more than four decades, dedicated to caring for vulnerable populations and those experiencing deprivation.

After qualifying as a GP in the UK, she spent six years in Germany where she worked with the US Army, returning to become a ½ time GP partner in South Buckinghamshire, from 1988 to 2017, thus leaving time for her to explore her many medical interests. Her portfolio career has included cardiology research, surgical clinics, primary care for people experiencing homelessness in London, work within Community Drug and Alcohol Services, 13 years in A&E, Section 12 Mental Health Act work, GP streaming in A & E, and serving as a GP for patients on the Violent Patient register.

Since 1993, she has worked as a Forensic Physician with Thames Valley Police, both custody, sudden unexpected death and sexual assault medicine. She stepped back from custody work in 2015; she continues to work in the Sexual Assault Team. She also works with the Buckinghamshire Looked After Children team and as an Expert Witness in Forensic Medicine.

Dr Paul has contributed to many documents regarding national guidance, including publications from the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine (FFLM) and the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH). She is one of the authors of all three editions of the “Purple Book” -the Physical Signs of Child Sexual Abuse- and has published peer reviewed research. She is a regular reviewer for the Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine.

She teaches across several agencies—including police, health professionals, social services multiagency and university students—and is a Founder Fellow of the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine, where she continues to play an active role.

Speaker

Dr Jo John

Clinical Director Lancashire SAFE Centre / Consultant in GUM/HIV Medicine

Dr John is a dual-roled clinician splitting the week between busy GUM, HIV and Contraception clinics and her leadership role at Lancashire's regional Sexual Assault Referral Centre. She has a keen interest in medical education and championing Genitourinary Medicine as a career path for upcoming medics and regularly teaches on the undergraduate Sexual Health Module at Lancaster University. She is the mum of 3 young children (having very recently returned from Maternity leave) and the wife of a budding anaesthetist. When not juggling all of the above she can be found in the gym lifting heavy things at silly o'clock in the morning.

Post Assault Sexual Health Care

This session will use case-based examples of how to approach potentially complex issues around the prescribing of Emergency Contraception, Hepatitis B and HIV Post Exposure Prophylaxis as well as assessing and addressing the sexual health needs of victims/survivors of sexual assault in a SARC setting.

Speaker

Dr Jo Gifford

Consultant Paediatrician, Designated Doctor Safeguarding

Dr Jo Gifford is a Consultant Paediatrician, licentiate member of the FFLM, and Designated Doctor for Child Safeguarding. She is the current Royal College of Pediatrics and Child Health Expert Lead for Child Sexual Abuse work, a co-Lead for The Purple Book and co-author of The Good Practice Chapter. She has previously been Clinical Lead of the West Midlands Pediatric SARC service.

Hot Topics in Pediatric Sexual Offence Medicine

This talk explores the top 10 current issues in PSOM from both a strategic and practitioner perspective:

1. The purpose of the medical examination
2. The quality and Competence of PSOM workforce
3. The interpretation of physical findings
4. Forensic Science Regulator Changes
5. Non-recent CSA & delayed telling
6. Adolescent victims
7. Child on child abuse
8. Group-based CSA/grooming gangs
9. AI generated CSA material/online exploitation
10. Mandatory reporting

Speaker

Professor Ian Wall

Consultant Forensic Physician and Specailist in Forensic & Legal Medicine

Professor Ian Wall is a Consultant Forensic Physician and Specialist in Forensic and Legal Medicine, one of only six registered with the GMC.

He is a former President and Academic Dean of the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine. Ian deals with the whole range of clinical forensic medicine and until recently was the Clinical Lead of Serenity SARC, providing a regional service to children and adults in the East Midlands. His particular interests are quality standards in forensic medicine.

For the past four years he has been closely involved with the accreditation of Sexual Assault Referral Centres working on Serenity's successful application for United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) accreditation being the first SARC providing both adult and child services to be accredited. Additionally, he now also works as a Technical Expert for UKAS.

Top tips for SARC accreditation

Four years' experience of working towards SARC accreditation and more recent work as a Technical Assessor for UKAS has led me to identify many of the difficulties in meeting the standards in ISO15189 and the Forensic Science Regulator's Code of Practice. Ian will discuss his experience of UKAS pre-assessments and initial assessments and give some tips to help achieve successful accreditation.

Course Organiser

Prof Rudo Masanzu

Forensic Physician

A qualified urologist with a special interest in emergency medical evacuations, Prof. Rudo Masanzu has worked as a Forensic Physician in both general forensic medicine and sexual offences medicine for over 18 years.

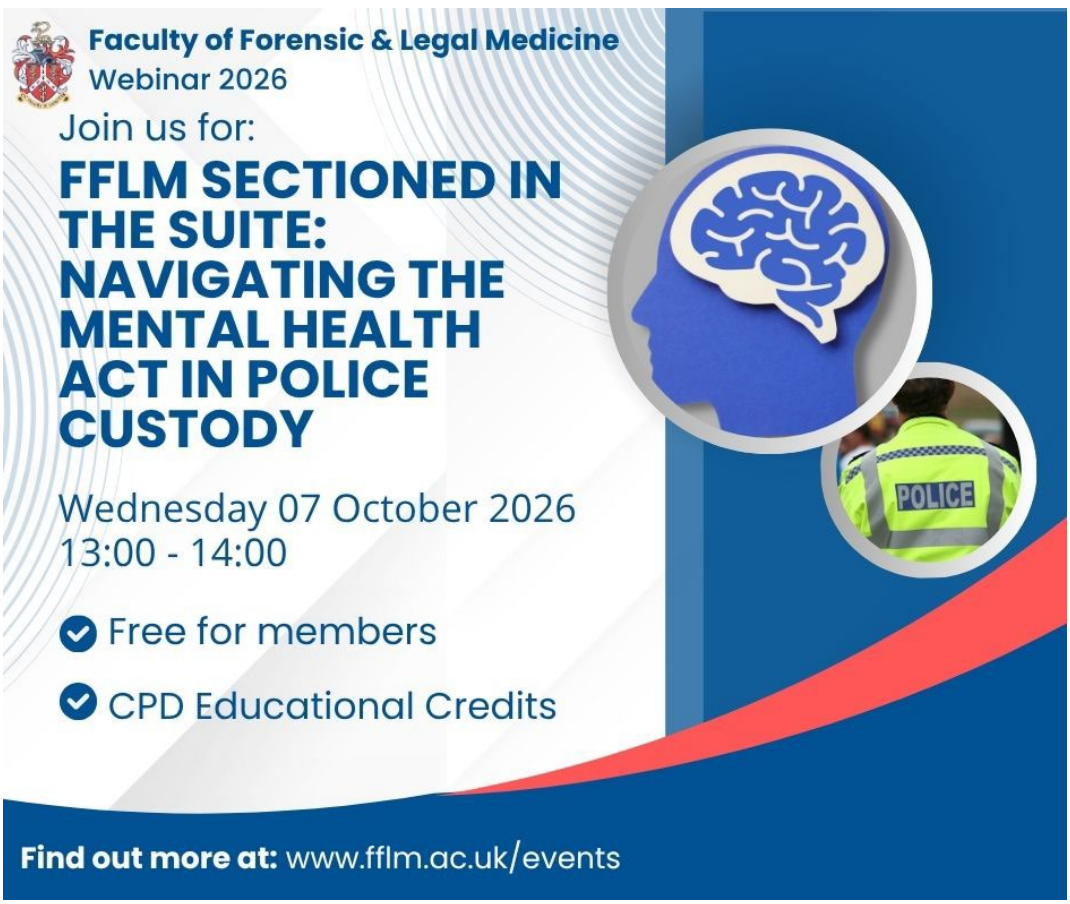
She undertakes collaborative forensic work, training, and academic programme development both nationally and internationally.

For over a decade she has been an examiner for the FFLM Membership and Licentiate examinations, and served as the GFM OSCE Lead for three years.

She is the Consultant and Clinical Director at Serenity SARC, and holds an honorary academic appointment as Visiting Professor at Ulster University.

Upcoming Courses and Events







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