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## Dean’s report

This was a year in which the Faculty of Pain Management achieved global recognition for punching above its weight.

FPM was selected as the 2017 recipient of the American Academy of Pain Medicine’s Robert G Addison, MD, Award, in recognition of outstanding efforts to foster international cooperation and collaboration on behalf of the specialty of pain medicine.

In a second gesture of recognition for the quality of FPM’s work, the European Pain Federation has asked to use the Faculty’s revised curriculum as the basis for its own diploma.

Meanwhile, the text that has become the clinical world’s bible on pain management *Acute Pain Management: Scientific Evidence 4th edition* was launched at the 2016 annual scientific meeting (ASM) in Auckland, garnering significant Australian media coverage.

This was an excellent effort for a relatively young organisation that had reached a total of 439 Fellows by December 2016. This includes 12 honorary Fellows and 263 admitted through training and examination. Sixteen trainees completed their pain medicine training and qualified last year.

In another Faculty success, an Android version of the free FPM Opioid Calculator smart phone app, designed to calculate dose equivalence of opioid analgesics, was launched in February, and a desktop version in September. By December 2016 there were more than 16,000 unique users, and more than 110,000 sessions were recorded across the Apple and Android versions.

An older Faculty initiative, now shared with the Australian Pain Society and the wider pain sector, is the electronic Persistent Pain Outcomes Collaboration (ePPOC).

This program aims to help improve services and outcomes for patients suffering chronic pain through benchmarking of care and treatment. It advanced further in 2016, with 50 adult and eight paediatric services across Australia and NZ either collecting data or in the process of implementing ePPOC.

Workshops were held in Sydney and Melbourne at which eight benchmarks were endorsed to facilitate comparisons between services. NSW Health has committed to fund ePPOC for another three years, and lobbying for a joint Commonwealth/state funding proposal is ongoing.

Meanwhile, the Better Pain Management program for primary care practitioners was expanded by a further six modules, and 27 Essential Pain Management Program (EPM) courses were delivered world-wide, along with seven EPM Lite courses and 11 EPM instructor courses.

The Faculty continued to be a strong advocate for patient safety in 2016. Faculty Fellows and staff lobbied for protections regarding over-the-counter codeine, ketamine, prescribed opioids and cannabis.

A proposal for a practice guideline was published on *Low dose ketamine infusion in the management of chronic non-cancer pain*. A briefing was held with the Department of Health, Canberra to discuss proposed governance arrangements and to seek the extra funding needed to progress the Pain Device Implant Registry.

An ANZCA and FPM working group developed a short list of pain medicine-related practices that may have limited or no benefit to patients, or that may be potentially harmful, for the Choosing Wisely Australia initiative. Strategic collaborations were advanced with FPM Board visitors including representatives from the Accident Compensation Corporation, the Medicare Benefits Review Taskforce, the PainAustralia Board and Faculty regional committees, and representation was maintained on the PainAustralia Board and Clinical Advisory Group. Funding was secured from the Australian Government for three Integrated Rural Training Pipeline (IRTP) positions within FPM.

The inaugural FPM Graduate Outcomes Survey was undertaken in June. An excellent response rate of 62 per cent was achieved, with 94 per cent of those completing the bullying discrimination and sexual harassment (BDSH) section. An FPM working group was formed to develop a trainee survey on BDSH that was circulated in October. A solid 37 per cent response rate was achieved. FPM is also represented on the ANZCA BDSH Working Group formed to report on the College’s current and future approach to the issue.

In terms of other internal matters, a committee restructure was undertaken to enhance the efficiency and communication in the governance structure. A Training and Assessment Executive Committee and a Professional Affairs Executive Committee were formed. An international medical graduate specialist revision project was undertaken, and a combined ANZCA/FPM regulation developed that encompasses pain medicine and anaesthesia (effective from April 2017).

The work of Faculty staff was recognised in 2016 too, with the ANZCA Staff Excellence Team Award going to the FPM Curriculum Redesign Team.

With a growing public understanding of the prevalence and personal and economic consequences of chronic pain – and with the continuing political drive to legalise cannabis for medicinal purposes – the Faculty of Pain Medicine is sure to face another year of high-profile challenges in 2017.

**Dr Chris Hayes**  
Dean, Faculty of Pain Medicine

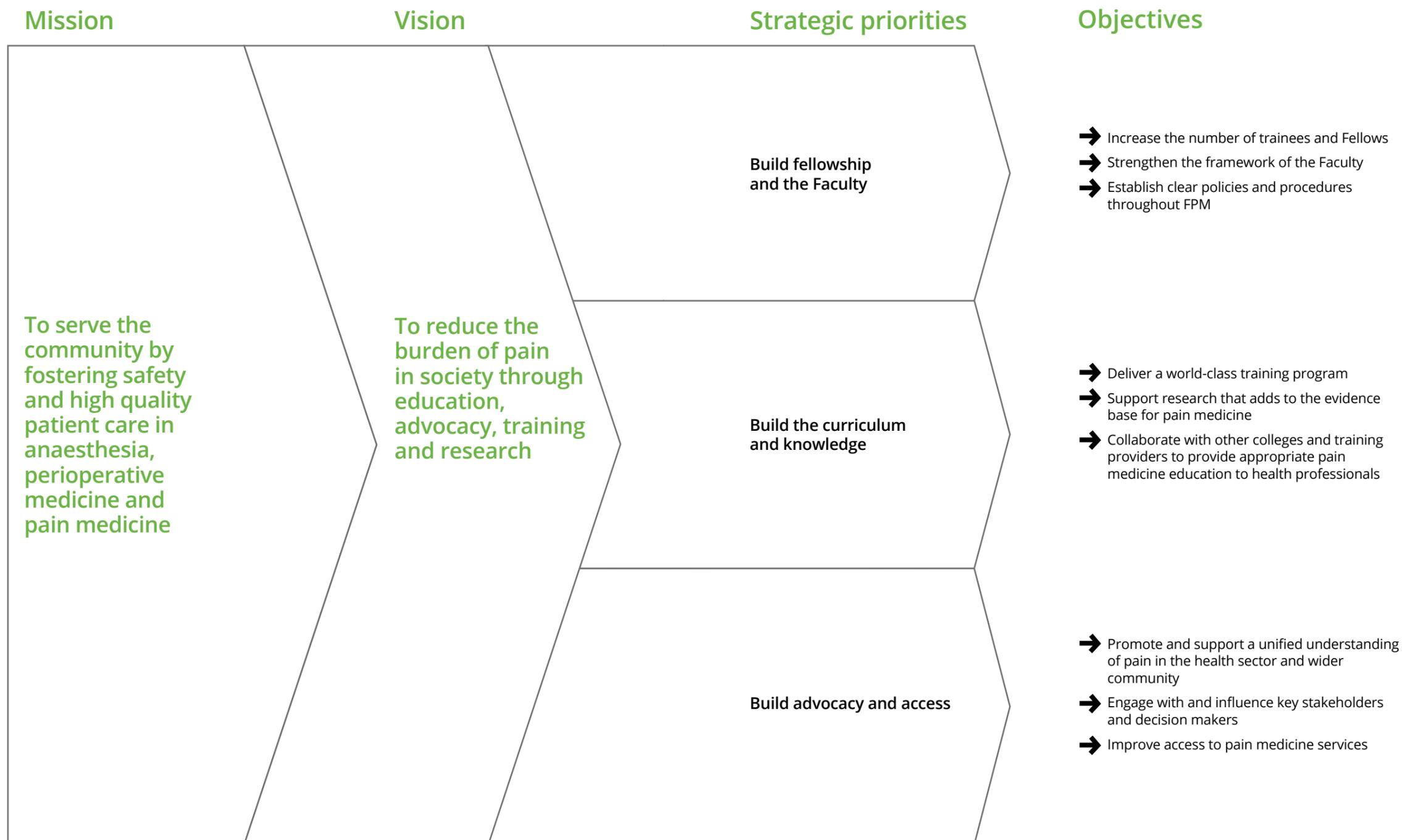


## FPM Board



Back row: Professor Stephan Schug, Professor David A Scott (ANZCA President), Dr Michael Vagg, Dr Patrick Farrell (Council Representative), Dr Newman Harris, Associate Professor Andrew Zacest, Ms Helen Morris (General Manager).

Front row: Dr Melissa Viney, Associate Professor Brendan Moore, Professor Edward Shipton (Immediate Past Dean), Dr Chris Hayes (Dean), Dr Meredith Craigie (Vice-Dean), Associate Professor Raymond Garrick, Dr Kieran Davis.



## PRIORITY 1: BUILD FELLOWSHIP AND THE FACULTY

- Increase the number of trainees and Fellows
- Strengthen the framework of the Faculty
- Establish clear policies and procedures throughout FPM

- Sixteen trainees completed their pain medicine training and were admitted to fellowship.
- By December 2016, the number of Fellows reached 439. This included 12 honorary Fellows and 263 admitted through training and examination.
- In January, 13 candidates successfully completed the Foundations of Pain Medicine Examination to enter training in 2016. In November, 23 candidates were successful at this examination to enter training in 2017.
- In April, 15 candidates successfully completed the long-case examination. Twenty-one were successful in the September sitting.
- In November, 16 candidates successfully completed the FPM fellowship examination. Merit awards were awarded to Dr Anthony Carrie, Dr Megan Eddy, Dr Irina Hollington and Dr Alan Nazha.
- Structured oral viva voce and observed structured clinical examination guidelines were developed to assist trainees in their preparations.
- Fourteen training units were accredited or reaccredited for pain medicine training.
- FPM was selected as the 2017 recipient of the American Academy of Pain Medicine's Robert G Addison, MD, Award in recognition of outstanding efforts to foster international cooperation and collaboration on behalf of the specialty of pain medicine.
- The inaugural FPM Graduate Outcomes Survey was undertaken in June. An excellent response rate of 62 per cent was achieved, with 94 per cent of those completing the bullying, discrimination and sexual harassment (BDSH) section.
- An FPM working group was formed to develop a trainee survey on BDSH that was circulated in October. A solid 37 per cent response rate was achieved. FPM is represented on the ANZCA BDSH Working Group formed to report on the College's current and future approach to the issue.
- A committee restructure was undertaken to enhance the efficiency and communication within the Faculty's governance structure. A Training and Assessment Executive Committee and a Professional Affairs Executive Committee were formed.
- During 2016, 16 FPM regional and three national committee meetings were held in addition to local continuing medical education events.
- An international medical graduate specialist revision project was undertaken and a combined ANZCA/ FPM regulation developed that encompasses pain medicine and anaesthesia (effective from April 2017).
- The ANZCA Staff Excellence Team Award was presented to the FPM Curriculum Redesign Team.

## PRIORITY 2: BUILD THE CURRICULUM AND KNOWLEDGE

- Deliver a world-class training program
- Support research that adds to the evidence base for pain medicine
- Collaborate with other colleges and training providers to provide appropriate pain medicine education to health professionals

- *Acute Pain Management: Scientific Evidence 4th edition* was launched at the 2016 annual scientific meeting (ASM) in Auckland.
- A successful continuing medical education program was delivered, including the Refresher Course Day, attracting 188 delegates, the ASM in Auckland and the Spring Meeting in SA that attracted 105 delegates.
- The virtual ASM was expanded to include the Refresher Course Day for the first time.
- Year two of evaluation of revised FPM training program activities were undertaken, including trainee interviews and a supervisors of training forum.
- Twenty-three trainees attended a successful basic clinical skills course in February introducing trainees to the breadth and depth of this branch of medicine. A successful Advanced Clinical Skills Course was held in Sydney in July and was attended by 20 trainees.
- Uptake of the Undergraduate Pain Medicine Prize continued with five prizes awarded.
- A new by-law and handbook for the accreditation of pain medicine training units was approved to align the accreditation of training units with the 2015 training program.
- An android version of the FPM Opioid Calculator smart phone app was launched in February and a desktop version in September. By December 2016 there were more than 16,000 unique users and more than 110,000 sessions were recorded across the Apple and android versions.
- The electronic Persistent Pain Outcomes Collaboration (ePPOC) was advanced with 50 adult and eight paediatric services across Australia and New Zealand either collecting data or in the process of implementing ePPOC. Workshops were held in Sydney and Melbourne at which eight benchmarks were endorsed to facilitate comparisons between services. NSW Health has committed to fund ePPOC for another three years and lobbying for a joint Commonwealth/state funding proposal is ongoing.

## PRIORITY 3: BUILD ADVOCACY AND ACCESS

- Promote and support a unified understanding of pain in the health sector and wider community
- Engage with and influence key stakeholders and decision makers
- Improve access to pain medicine services

- World recognition for FPM was achieved with the European Pain Federation using its revised curriculum as the basis for its diploma.
- The Better Pain Management program for primary care practitioners was expanded by a further six modules.
- Funding was secured from the Australian Government for three Integrated Rural Training Pipeline (IRTP) positions within FPM.
- Advocacy was undertaken for community safety regarding over-the-counter codeine, ketamine, prescribed opioids and “medicinal” cannabis.
- A proposal for practice guideline was published on *Low dose ketamine infusion in the management of chronic non-cancer pain*.
- A briefing was held with the Department of Health, Canberra to discuss proposed governance arrangements and to seek the additional funding needed to progress the Pain Device Implant Registry.
- Representation was maintained on the PainAustralia Board and Clinical Advisory Group.
- Twenty-seven Essential Pain Management Program (EPM) courses were delivered plus seven EPM Lite courses and 11 EPM instructor courses.
- Strategic collaborations were advanced with FPM Board visitors including representatives from the Accident Compensation Corporation, the Medicare Benefits Review Taskforce, the PainAustralia Board and Faculty regional committees.
- An ANZCA and FPM working group developed a short list of pain medicine-related practices for the Choosing Wisely initiative that may have limited or no benefit to patients, or that may be potentially harmful. Fellows' views on items for inclusion were gauged in a survey in June.
- Twelve pain medicine media releases were published, including five on the FPM Spring Meeting. They attracted strong media coverage and reached a combined cumulative audience of more than seven million readers and listeners. Subjects included the launch of the fourth edition of *Acute Pain Management: Scientific Evidence*; pain and obesity; FPM welcoming new codeine restrictions; and the role of drugs including cannabis and ketamine in managing chronic pain, as well as new psychological therapies for pain.

