

Report following the February Board meeting of the Faculty of Pain Medicine

The FPM Board met on February 22, 2016 and welcomed ANZCA President, Dr Genevieve Goulding and ANZCA CEO, Mr John Ilott to the Board Meeting.

The Board also welcomed past FPM Dean, Dr Penny Briscoe FANZCA, FFPMANZCA and the immediate past President of the Australian Pain Society Dr Malcolm Hogg, both on the PainAustralia Board to the meeting.

Board deadline for papers

Friday April 8
Friday April 8
Wednesday July 6
Monday August 29
October 28

Board meeting dates

Thursday April 28 (Auckland)
Monday May 2 New Board (Auckland)
Monday July 25
Thursday September 15 (Adelaide)
Monday November 14 (Teleconference)

Death of Fellow

The Board noted with regret the death of Professor Tess Cramond, AO, OBE. Professor Cramond is recognised internationally for her contribution to anaesthesia and pain medicine. She held many significant positions, including dean of the Faculty of Anaesthetists of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, the precursor to ANZCA. Her many achievements include the establishment of the Multidisciplinary Pain Clinic at the Royal Brisbane Hospital in 1967 of which she was director for 42 years. Professor Cramond was also president of the Australian Medical Association (AMA) and received many accolades, including the Gilbert Brown Prize, an Order of the British Empire (OBE) and an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO), an Advance Australia Award, a Red Cross Long Service Award and the AMA Women in Medicine Award.

Honours and awards

Associate Professor Roger Goucke, FANZCA, FFPMANZCA a former dean of the Faculty of Pain Medicine, has been awarded an honorary fellowship of the Hong Kong College of Anaesthesiologists, recognising his leadership and contribution to improving the quality of care for patients in Australia and internationally. Associate Professor Goucke is an ANZCA Fellow and co-founder of the Essential Pain Management program.

Fellows honoured in the 2016 Australia Day Honours

Associate Professor David Cherry, AM, FFPMANZCA has been appointed Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to golf through executive roles, and to pain management medicine as an academic and researcher.

Build Fellowship and the Faculty

Corporate affairs

Dean-Elect

The Faculty Board elected Dr Chris Hayes from NSW as the FPM Dean-Elect. Dr Hayes has served on the Board since 2007 and has been involved in a number of important portfolios and Faculty initiatives including Professional Affairs, Trainee Affairs, Education, Research, and the Curriculum Redesign Project. Dr Hayes will officially take over as Dean during the Auckland ASM.

2016 Board election

Nominations closed on February 5 for the one vacancy on the FPM Board. As there was only one nomination received, a ballot will not be required. Dr Newman Harris, FRANZCP (NSW) has been elected unopposed to the Faculty Board. The new Board will take office following the Annual General Meeting in May.

Enhancing the efficiency and communication within the Faculty's structure: The Board briefly discussed whether or not any restructuring was necessary in regard to the Faculty's committee structures. The aim being to ensure that the chairs of all committees involved with education, training and assessment are working collaboratively to ensure that all elements are aligned and fit for purpose. In reviewing a proposed structure, it was felt that the idea of including the concept "innovation" was important.

To ensure that the chairs of all committees involved with education, training and assessment are working collaboratively to ensure that all elements are aligned and fit for purposes, the Board approved the formation of an Education Executive comprising of the Chairs of TUAC, Examinations and Assessments, Learning & Development and Mentoring Committees, Supervisor of Supervisors of Training and the Assessor.

ANZCA Regulations 27, 28 and 29: The Faculty contributed to a review of these regulations to make them relevant to specialist pain medicine physicians in addition to anaesthetists. The updated regulations have now been uploaded onto the website <http://www.anzca.edu.au/resources/regulations>.

Bullying, Discrimination and Sexual Harassment: The Board supported the establishment of the ANZCA Bullying, Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Working Group to report on the college's current and future approach to the issue. Dr Lindy Roberts is representing the Faculty on this working group and joined the Board meeting by teleconference to seek their input on this topic.

Information, Communications and Technologies (ICT) Committee: The Board supported ANZCA in the adoption of an Information, Communications and Technologies Committee reporting to Council. This is a governance committee to formally manage the strategic direction for IT in the College including project management.

Assessor

New Fellows: The following are to be congratulated on their admission to FPM Fellowship by training and examination:

Dr Catherine Abi-Fares FANZCA	Queensland
Dr Dr Michelle Harris, FANZCA	South Australia
Dr Nina Loughman, FANZCA	Tasmania
Dr Jacquelyn P Nash, FANZCA	Victoria
Dr Stiofan O’Conghaile, FCARCSI	Victoria
Dr Christopher Rumball, FAFOM (RACP)	New Zealand
Dr Moira N Rush, FANZCA	Victoria
Dr Wei Chung Tong, FANZCA	New Zealand
Dr Fiona Tsui, FANZCA	Hong Kong

Build the curriculum and knowledge

Education

Supervisor of Training ratification: Dr Sushama Deshpande FANZCA, FPMANZCA (NSW) has been appointed supervisor of training at Nepean Hospital, NSW.

Examination Committee: The written examination was held across FPM regional and national offices on November 13 and the clinical examination was held in Melbourne on November 28, 2015. Twenty-one candidates successfully completed the FPM Fellowship examination including one International Medical Graduate Specialist candidate. The Barbara Walker Prize for Excellence in the Pain Medicine Examination was awarded to Dr Charlotte Hill from New Zealand (studied in NSW), and a merit award was awarded to Dr Jacquelyn Nash (Vic).

Learning and Development Committee: The ongoing support and evaluation of the training program continues to be carried out by the Learning and Development Committee.

A successful basic clinical skills course was held over the weekend of February 20 and 21 at ANZCA House. The course titled *“So you want to be a specialist pain medicine physician and other helpful hints”* introduced trainees to the breadth and depth of this branch of medicine. Twenty-three trainees attended from across Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong. The orientation course was convened by Dr Michael Vagg and Dr Diarmuid McCoy (Geelong, Victoria). A special note of thanks goes to our Fellows, Dr Louise Brennan, Dr Malcolm Hogg and Dr Carolyn Arnold for their contributions to the course.

The first Essential Topic Area (ETA) for 2016 was delivered in Networks on February 22. The Practice Development Stage (PDS) has commenced for trainees in the first cohort of the 2015 training program. Eighteen trainees have had their PDS proposals approved to date.

Implementation of the FPM Curriculum Evaluation Strategy 2015-17 remains ongoing. Feedback about the training program was recently obtained from supervisors of training and heads of department, and will soon be considered by the Learning and Development committee as part of the ongoing quality improvement process.

FPM Better Pain Management Education Program: The Faculty’s online pain education program for health professionals, Better Pain Management, has been expanded by a further six modules. A webpage was established through which external users could register and access the program. The first enrolments occurred in December. The access portal to the program for Faculty and ANZCA Fellows and trainees is through Networks.

An external review the project's needs and its possible market is being undertaken before any further technological access solutions are progressed.

Opioid equi-analgesic dose calculator: The FPM Opioid Calculator smart phone app was developed to facilitate the use of conversion factors in the Opioid Dose Equivalence table. The Apple app was completed in October and an Android version was completed in February. There are currently more than 3500 unique users. Early feedback is that the app is a highly useful tool that helps to compare different opioid regimens in individual patients or in patient cohorts.

The FPM Opioid Calculator app was named 18th in the top 20 medical apps for 2015 on the imedicalapps website. The review can be read here:

<http://www.imedicalapps.com/2015/12/best-medical-apps-iphone-android/18/>

Continuing Professional Development

Fellowship Affairs: The Board supported the development of a joint online ANZCA/FPM graduate outcomes survey. The survey is planned for 1 June. Dr Scott Ma, ANZCA New Fellow Councillor, is leading the project for ANZCA. Dr Mick Vagg is leading development of the FPM questions.

Scientific Meetings:

2016 New Fellows' Conference: Dr Harry Eeman, FAFRM (RACP), FFPMANZCA (Vic) and Dr Martine O'Neill, FANZCA, FFPMANZCA (NSW) have been confirmed as FPM representatives to the 2016 New Fellows Conference in New Zealand. Dr Meredith Craigie will represent the Board at this event.

Research

Electronic Persistent Pain Outcomes Collaboration (ePPOC): Progress continues with this initiative with over 13,000 patients currently represented across 50 services. There is an increasing interest in the ePPOC dataset, with five ePPOC/external collaborative projects at various stages of progression.

Acute Pain Management Scientific Evidence 4th Edition: The fourth edition of Acute Pain Management: Scientific Evidence was published online in December 2015 and can be accessed [here](#) as a flipbook and also downloaded as a PDF file.

This publication covers a wide range of clinical topics, combining a review of the best available evidence for acute pain management with expert current clinical practice. It was the result of many months of hard work headed up by Prof Stephan Schug and his hard-working and enthusiastic editorial team. It will be launched in print form by the ANZCA President and the FPM Dean in May 2016 at the ANZCA Annual Scientific Meeting in Auckland.

Build advocacy and access

Professional

Development of FPM position statement on interventional treatments: Responding to feedback from Faculty trainees as to the appropriate pathway for obtaining training in evidence-based interventions, the Board agreed to form a working group to develop a position statement (or document) on interventional treatments.

Submissions: The Faculty contributed to the following submissions:

- Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC): Fentanyl citrate sublingual (Abstral®).
- Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA): Interim decision in regards to codeine.
- Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA): Proposal to enable appropriate access to medicinal cannabis products by creating new Schedule 8 entries.
- Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC): National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards Version 2: It was noted that the Consultation Draft had made one indirect reference to the issue of pain.
- Victorian Health Minister/Minister for Ambulance Services, Victorian Government: Victorian Law Reform Commission Recommendations about medicinal cannabis for managing chronic non-cancer pain.
- Federal Department of Health, Canberra: Medicinal cannabis for managing chronic non-cancer pain.



Professor Edward (Ted) Shipton
Dean

February 29, 2016