

## Report following the September 2017 meeting of the Faculty of Pain Medicine Board

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**The Faculty of Pain Medicine Board** met on Thursday September 21, 2017.

The Board was joined by Dr David Bowser, Founder & CEO, Curio Group to discuss educational offering development and Dr Kim Hattingh to discuss safety and quality initiatives.

The FPM Board will next meet via teleconference on Monday October 30, 2017.

**FPM Board meeting dates for 2018:** Monday February 12, Saturday May 5, Monday July 9, Thursday October 18, and Monday November 26.

## Build Fellowship and the Faculty

### Corporate affairs

**FPM Strategic Plan 2018-2022:** The FPM Strategic Plan 2018-2022 was launched by the Dean, Dr Chris Hayes, during the welcome session of the Spring Meeting in Torquay on September 22. The plan is a 'living document' that can be adapted as required over the next 5 years. It allows the Faculty to allocate appropriate resources in 2018 to explore initiatives that were raised as priorities during the consultation process.

**2017 Business Plan:** The Faculty continued to make good progress against key initiatives in the business plan in the third quarter.

### Professional Affairs Executive Committee

**2017 Spring Meeting – September 22-24, RACV Torquay Resort, Victoria:** A successful FPM Spring Meeting with the theme "Transcending pain: ride the next wave" was held from September 22-24 at the RACV Torquay in Victoria convened by Dr Jacquelyn Nash. The meeting attracted 142 delegates and healthcare industry support. The meeting featured international speaker Dr Luis Garcia-Larrea (Lyon, France) who presented on cortical integration of pain perception and prediction and detection of neuropathic pain. Australian speakers included Professor David Watters and Professor Ian Harris who explored cultural change and the placebo effect. New initiatives this year included workshops such as CICO and Cardiac Arrest and masterclasses: career progression, exam success, transition to retirement and mindfulness.

**2018 Spring Meeting:** 19-21 October, Cairns.

**2020 ANZCA ASM and FPM Refresher Course Day, Perth WA:** Dr Alison Kearsley FANZCA, FFPMANZCA has been appointed as the FPM Scientific Convenor for the 2020 ANZCA Annual Scientific Meeting in Perth, Western Australia.

**Hong Kong Board of Pain Medicine:** In response to an approach from the Hong Kong Board of Pain Medicine, FPM Board have agreed to further explore a possible memorandum of understanding addressing training and CPD.

**Electronic Persistent Pain Outcomes Collaboration (ePPOC):** Progress continues with this initiative with over 80 services now participating or in the process of engaging. Upcoming benchmarking meetings for participating sites will be held in Sydney and Melbourne. The 2017 mid-year data recently released contains data from 60 services and there is an increase in the amount of follow up data in the mid-year report. An ePPOC representative will speak at the upcoming FPM Procedural Forum in October.

**FPM Better Pain Management Education Program:** Active liaison continues with external organisations to develop institutional uptake and to promote the program to their memberships. The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) has recently accredited the modules for their CPD program and have included Better Pain Management on their list of accredited activities. The program will be promoted at the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners' GP17 meeting in October. Further information is available on the Better Pain Management website [www.betterpainmanagement.com.au](http://www.betterpainmanagement.com.au).

All ANZCA and FPM Fellows and trainees have complimentary access to Better Pain Management modules through Networks via their Networks login.

**Opioid equi-analgesic dose calculator:** For the period July 1 to September 14 there were a total of 9,442 active users across both the iOS and Android versions of the app, providing a total of 55,019 sessions. The iOS version of the app remains the most popular with 2,397 new iOS apps added in this period compared with 1,093 new Android users. The average number of devices active daily was 239 (iOS) and 110 (Android).

Geographically most users are located in Australia (1,907) followed by the USA (823) followed by the UK (80). Nevertheless users globally cover 120 different countries including Europe, the Middle East, Asia, the Pacific and the Americas.

**Medical Cannabis Strategy:** There has been strong interest in the FPM consultative forum on Medical Cannabis, to be held on October 7, 2017 with more than 80 FPM Fellows and trainees registered to attend. Dr Carolyn Arnold will lead this forum on the Faculty's behalf. The program is available to read [here](#).

A number of Fellows represented FPM at a DoHA forum held in Sydney on September 13 2017. A TGA draft document was presented offering guidance about medicinal cannabis products in the setting of chronic pain.

**Procedures in Pain Medicine Forum:** The FPM consultative forum on Procedures in Pain Medicine will be convened on October 20, 2017. This forum, comprising representation from Faculty Fellows and trainees, professional organisations and regulatory bodies, marks the beginning of a new phase of engagement by FPM in the area of procedural pain medicine. The program is available to read [here](#).

At this forum, attendees will hear presentations concerning debates about cost effectiveness of defined procedures, outcome measurement, remuneration for procedures and the role of the Faculty in providing training and potentially credentialing units.

## Build the curriculum and knowledge

### Training and Assessment Executive Committee

**New Fellows:** The Faculty congratulates Dr Conrad Engelbrecht, FANZCA, FFPMANZCA (NZ) on admission to FPM fellowship by completion of the training program.

**2017 examination:** Registrations have now closed for the written exam to be held across FPM regional and national offices on Friday October 27 and the clinical exam to be held at the Australian Medical Council's National Test Centre in Melbourne on Saturday November 25. Twenty-seven candidates have registered for the Fellowship examination and twenty-six registrations received for the Foundation of Pain Medicine examination.

**Long-case assessment:** Congratulations to those trainees who passed the long-case assessment held in September. Twenty-three out of thirty-two candidates were successful. Thank you to the local convenors for coordinating these successfully.

**Learning and Development committee:** Formal evaluation of the first three years of the revised training program continues. A survey of heads of departments will be conducted in early October to complete the evaluation processes. The e-Learning resources are being reviewed with plans to make some relatively minor changes and updates and the review of educational documents is being progressed.

A survey of current paediatric pain management units will be conducted in October by the Paediatric Pain Medicine working group to inform future work.

**Supervisors of Training:** The Faculty has appointed the following Supervisors of Training:

- Dr Phillip Kriel, PainScience (Joondalup Health Campus), WA
- Dr Chuan-Whei Lee, Royal Melbourne Hospital, Vic
- Dr Max Majedi, FANZCA, FFPMANZCA, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, WA
- Dr Meena Mittal, FANZCA, FFPMANZCA, Precision Brain, Spine and Pain Centre, Vic
- Dr Jacquelyn Nash, Geelong Hospital, Vic
- Dr Anthony Njo, United Christian Hospital (Kowloon East Cluster Pain Management Centre, Hong Kong)
- Dr Anandhi Rangaswamy, Canberra Hospital, ACT
- Dr Clive Sun, FAFRM(RACP), FFPMANZCA, St Vincent's Hospital, NSW
- Dr Wei Chun Tong, The Auckland Regional Pain Service, NZ
- Dr Tai Tak Wan, FAFRM(RACP), FFPMANZCA, Nepean Hospital, NSW
- Dr Nadine Yamen, FANZCA, FFPMANZCA, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, NSW

**Development of FPM educational opportunities:** The Curio Group has been engaged to support the Faculty in refining its strategy around potential development of educational offerings in procedural pain medicine and a six month course in multidisciplinary pain medicine.

**Specialist Training Program (STP):** The Department of Health has advised that the STP Program will continue from 2018-2020, within a revised operational framework. This process will help to ensure the program is responsive to workforce needs and continues to focus on supporting training in expanded settings.

## Build advocacy and access

### Relationships:

**RACS:** A/Prof Andrew Zacest has taken over as Chair of the RACS Pain Medicine section. The Board expressed thanks to Associate Professor Leigh Atkinson who had served in that capacity since formation of the section.

An article on post-operative pain will be included in the next RACS publication.

### Professional

**Guidelines on slow release opioids:** Board considered a draft Statement on the Use of Slow-Release Opioid Preparations in the Treatment of Acute Pain. There was overwhelming support for endorsing the document as a joint document of ANZCA, FPM and the Acute Pain SIG. This will now go to the ANZCA S&Q Committee for consideration.

**Choosing Wisely Australia:** This initiative of NPS MedicineWise aims to improve the quality of healthcare by eliminating unnecessary and sometimes harmful tests, treatments, and procedures. Following consultation with the FPM Fellowship via a survey, the Faculty's working group developed five key recommendations with supporting statements. These were endorsed by the Board and will now go to the NPS for consideration.

**FPM meets with Federal health minister:** FPM Dean Dr Chris Hayes, Vice-Dean Dr Meredith Craigie and General Manager, Policy, Safety and Quality Jo-Anne Chapman met with the Federal Minister for Health, Hon Greg Hunt, in Melbourne to discuss the Faculty's strategic priorities.

The Faculty highlighted the importance of research and including chronic pain in the National Framework for Chronic Conditions, lobbied for support for different models for training and chronic pain services across regional and remote locations as well as discussing the Faculty's important role in community education.

The minister expressed an interest in working with the FPM to improve chronic pain management and committed to visiting a pain clinic in the near future.

**Australian Defence Force:** Board discussed the issue of ADF personnel with poorly managed pain and the potential to work collaboratively with Painaustralia and the Australian Pain Society and consider this as a focus for a future FPM CME event.

**Workforce advocacy** - The Faculty is commissioning a health economic analysis and report to support advocacy efforts for investment in the pain medicine workforce and pain management services in New Zealand. A research brief has been circulated to key agencies for expressions of interest.

**National Pain Strategy (or Pain Policy Planning):** An APS/FPM/Painaustralia Think Tank was convened on 18<sup>th</sup> August in Sydney. Topics of discussion included the relationship and roles of the three organisations and opportunities for collaboration, a refresh of the National Pain Strategy, and codeine rescheduling. The National Strategic Framework for Chronic Conditions was also discussed and there was strong support to advocate for chronic pain to be more formally recognised as a chronic condition.

**Submissions:** The Faculty made the following submission:

- Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA): Rescheduling of Codeine.  
The FPM Dean and ANZCA President wrote to the TGA in support of the re-scheduling of codeine from S3 to S4 and approval was given to publish the letter. A FPM media release, <http://www.anzca.edu.au/documents/fpm-letter-to-adj-prof-t-greenaway-tga-20170804.pdf> urging patients to start considering alternative pain relief to codeine ahead of the ban on over-the-counter sales of the drug early next year, was circulated on August 18 and attracted media coverage.

**Notified Fellows' publication:**

- Dr Chris Hayes, FANZCA, FFPMANZCA  
Hayes C. *Chronic non-cancer pain: The challenge of implementing opioid guidelines.*  
Pain Management Today 2017; 4(2): 27-30.
- Professor Edward A Shipton  
Elspeth E. Shipton, Ashleigh J. Shipton, Jonathan A. Willman, Edward A. Shipton: *Deaths from Opioid Overdosing: Implications of Coroners' Inquest Reports 2008-2012 and Annual Rise in Opioid Prescription Rates – A Population Based Cohort Study.*  
Pain and Therapy: ISSN: 2193-8237 (Print) 2193-651X (Online).



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

**October 6, 2017**