

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

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The FPM Board last met via teleconference on November 15, 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

#### Resources:

**FPM 2018 business plan:** The Board approved the preliminary business plan ahead of submission to the ANZCA Council.

**FPM 2018 fee structure and budget:** The Board noted the preliminary FPM Fee structure and budget ahead of submission to the ANZCA Council.

**Appointment of FPM Office Bearers:** Board agreed to formalise in the by-laws the election process for Dean and Vice-Dean to make the process clear and transparent.

### Professional Affairs Executive Committee

**2018 Spring Meeting, Pullman Cairns International – October 19-21:** Associate Professor Brendan Moore, FANZCA, FFPMANZCA (Qld) has been appointed as the FPM Scientific Convenor for the 2018 Spring Meeting in Cairns, Queensland.

**Emerging Leaders Conference 2018, Blue Mountains NSW – May 4-6:** The Faculty Board has nominated Dr Paul Vroegop (New Zealand) and Dr Laurent Wallace (New South Wales) to represent the FPM at the 2018 Emerging Leaders Conference.

**FPM Better Pain Management Education Program:** Active liaison continues with external organisations to develop institutional uptake and to promote the program to their memberships. Osteopathy Australia has now accredited the modules for their CPD program and have enthusiastically promoted the modules in their e-newsletter. 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.

**Medical Cannabis Forum:** More than 80 Faculty Fellows and trainees attended this forum to consider research opportunities and the FPM strategic position around this topical area. Speakers were excellent and participation of consumer representative groups was invaluable. The slides from a number of the presentations have been made available in [Networks](#) to enable viewing by interested fellows unable to

attend. A preliminary survey was circulated to all attendees, followed up with a Phase 2 survey to the full fellowship and to trainees for broader feedback. A summary of results of this Phase 1 survey can be viewed in [Networks](#).

**Procedures in Pain Medicine Forum:** Close to 60 Fellows of the Faculty met with representatives of the insurance industry, regulators and Faculty leadership to explore future directions for FPM involvement with procedural pain medicine. Slides have been made available in [Networks](#) for those unable to attend and a survey has been circulated to the Fellowship. Feedback will help inform strategic thinking with regard to the goal of enhancing the suite of educational offerings.

## Build the curriculum and knowledge

### **Training and Assessment Executive Committee**

**New Fellows:** The Faculty congratulates Dr Williemen Ong, MA (Malay), FANZCA, FFPMANZCA (Vic) and Dr Jamie Young, FAFRM (RACP), FFPMANZCA (Vic) on admission to FPM fellowship by completion of the training program.

**2017 Fellowship Examination:** The written section of the FPM Fellowship Examination was held in nine venues on October 27 with the clinical section held at the Australian Medical Council National Test Centre, Melbourne on November 25, 2017. Twenty-three of the twenty-seven candidates were successful. The Barbara Walker prize was awarded to Dr Alix Dumitrescu (NSW). Certificates of Merit were awarded to Dr Hima Venugopal (SA) and Dr Ilonka Meyer (Vic).

**2017 Foundations of Pain Medicine Examination:** Twenty-four candidates sat the Foundations of Pain Medicine examination on October 27. Twenty-two candidates were successful in this examination.

**Training program changes in 2018:** Following feedback from trainees and SoTs, several changes are being implemented for the 2018 hospital employment year:

- The 'Workplace Based Assessment' (WBA) terminology is being amended to 'Workplace Based Progressive Feedback' (WBPF).
- From 2018, the written component of the Fellowship Examination will be held in early October and candidates who are successful at this sitting will be invited to present at the viva voce section held in late November.
- To facilitate the above change, the eligibility requirement to sit the Fellowship Examination has been adjusted to no longer require completion of a long case assessment prior to sitting. Trainees will still need to have completed two ITAs.
- By-law 4, FPM Training Program and the Training Handbook have been amended to reflect these changes.

**Development of FPM educational opportunities:** Exploratory work continued with regard to the potential development of educational offerings in procedural pain medicine and a 6 month course in multidisciplinary pain medicine. The Curio Group presented the high level options to the Board at a videoconference meeting in November.

**Specialist Training Program (STP):** The Vice-Dean Dr Meredith Craigie and General Manager, Policy, Safety and Quality Jo-Anne Chapman met with Mr David Hallinan, the First Secretary of the Department of Health. This was timely as negotiations for the new STP contract, including funding for pain medicine training, are due to be finalized in December and this was an opportunity to discuss flexible models for the pain workforce before contract sign off.

## Build advocacy and access

### Professional

**Guidelines on slow release opioids:** The Board endorsed the Statement on the Use of Slow-Release Opioid Preparations in the Treatment of Acute Pain. The document was subsequently endorsed by the ANZCA Safety and Quality Committee. A communications plan has been developed to promote this important initiative.

**Opioid Strategy Working Group:** Dr Kim Hattingh will play a key role in establishing this group under the Faculty's Professional Standards Committee. There will be collaboration with the RACGP who have written to the Dean requesting support in defining more clearly the hospitals' role particularly with regard to hospital discharge planning and opioids.

Board is considering convening another forum in 2018, this time to consider opioid strategy which might interweave with hospital sector discharge planning and general practice.

**Choosing Wisely Australia:** The five FPM recommendations with regard to pain related practice that have limited or no benefit to patients, or that may be potentially harmful, have now been forwarded to NPS Medicinewise – Choosing Wisely for review and comment.

**Codeine rescheduling:** In support of the up-scheduling of codeine, representations continued with both independent and joint submissions to federal, state and territory health ministers, MPs and senators. The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons has also expressed interest in opportunities for collaboration on this issue and this is being explored.

The Dean, Dr Chris Hayes, FPM NSW Regional Committee Chair, Dr Marc Russo, and ANZCA GM Policy, Safety and Quality, Ms Jo-anne Chapman, met recently with the NSW Health Minister, the Hon Brad Hazzard, to discuss codeine policy and the Pharmacy Guild's suggestion of creating exemptions to its up-scheduling. Real-time prescription monitoring was also discussed. In Victoria, \$30 million has been allocated for its introduction.

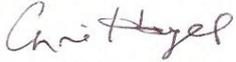
**Workforce advocacy - Health Economics cost savings data:** A consultancy with expertise in the health sector has been contracted to undertake a workforce and economic evaluation in New Zealand.

**National Pain Strategy (or Pain Policy Planning):** The Australian Pain Society, Faculty of Pain Medicine and Painaustralia Think Tank teleconference was convened in October. Topics of discussion included reshaping the Painaustralia Clinical Advisory Group, the roles of the three organisations in refreshing the National Pain Strategy and representations around codeine rescheduling.

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

- Medicinal Cannabis
  - FPM provided extensive feedback to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) on its draft overarching and chronic pain medicinal cannabis guidance documents, which are based on the comprehensive literature review performed under the auspices of the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC). The latter document is of major and far reaching importance in providing guidance for clinicians, consumers and other interested parties. In addition to commenting on the TGA documents, the Faculty will also update our PM10 position statement addressing cannabinoid use in the setting of chronic non-cancer pain.

- Codeine rescheduling:
  - The FPM Dean wrote to State and Territory Health Ministers – October 18, 2017.
  - Joint correspondence (Painaustralia, Consumers Health Forum, Royal Australasian College of Physicians, Faculty of Pain Medicine, Rural Doctors Association of Australia, The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia) to all MPs and Senators – October 25, 2017.
  - The FPM Dean and the ANZCA President wrote to federal, state and territory health ministers – October 27, 2017.



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

December 8, 2017