

Report following the February 2018 meeting of the Faculty of Pain Medicine Board

The FPM Board met on February 12, 2018.

Professor Rachelle Buchbinder, President of the Australian Rheumatology Association met with the Board. This was an opportunity to discuss topics including opioid prescribing and medical use of cannabis as well as areas of potential collaboration with the Faculty.

The Board was also joined by Dr David Bowser, Founder & CEO, Curio Group to discuss educational offering development and to consider the next steps.

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

FPM dean-elect: FPM Vice-Dean **Dr Meredith Craigie** from South Australia was elected by the FPM Board as dean-elect, to take up office in May 2018.

2018 FPM Board vote to be electronic: For the first time, fellows will be able to vote for Board vacancies electronically. This year we received seven nominations for six board vacancies. In accordance with Faculty by-laws, Dr Michael Vagg was re-elected unopposed as representative of a Division, Faculty or Chapter of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians. Associate Professor Andrew Zacest was re-elected unopposed as the Royal Australian College of Surgeons representative to the Board. With five nominees for the remaining four board vacancies, a ballot will now proceed.

The FPM board ballot will be launched electronically on Monday March 19 and remain open until Wednesday April 11. Results will be announced on May 9 at the 2018 FPM Annual General Meeting during the 2018 ASM in Sydney.

Please inform the faculty office of any changes to contact details, particularly email addresses, via painmed@anzca.edu.au or by calling + 61 3 8517 5337.

Future Structure of the FPM Board: As the Faculty enters its twentieth year, the board felt it timely to consider the future structure of the Faculty board, including the requirement for representation from each of the founding specialty colleges. Consultations will commence with the Fellowship and is on the agenda for the Annual General Meeting in May.

Letter of intent with Hong Kong Board of Pain Medicine: Representatives from ANZCA and FPM met informally with a board member from the Hong Kong Board of Pain Medicine in Melbourne to explore a letter of intent addressing training and CPD. This will add detail to the existing memorandum of understanding between ANZCA and the Hong Kong College of Anaesthesiologists.

Community representation on Executive Committees: Fulfilling FPM's goal to engage consumer representation on the Professional Affairs Executive Committee (PAEC) and Training and Assessment Executive Committee (TAEC), Ms Dorothy McLaren and Ms Helen Maxwell-Wright have been confirmed as community representatives on PAEC and TAEC respectively.

2018 Australian Day Honours list:

Professor Fiona Blyth AM was awarded Member (AM) in the General Division for significant service to medical research and education in the field of public health, pain management and ageing, and to health policy reform.

Associate Professor Morton Rawlin AM was awarded Member (AM) in the General Division for significant service to the medical profession particularly through governance in the areas of general practice and medical education.

Death of Fellow: Board noted with regret the death of Dr Ian Duncan McKay (WA).

Sustainable workforce and wellbeing

Workforce advocacy - Health Economics cost savings data: A contract was signed in December to undertake a workforce and economic evaluation in New Zealand. The consultancy, with expertise in the health sector, will analyse workforce data compared to international benchmarks, the cost of pain and potential cost savings of best practice. The final report is due in March.

New Fellows: The following are to be congratulated on their admission to FPM fellowship by completion of the training program:

Dr Anthony Carrie, FANZCA	New Zealand
Dr Megan Eddy	Victoria
Dr Roopa Gawarikar, FRANZCR	ACT
Dr Christopher Simon Jones, FANZCA	New Zealand
Dr Joseph Kluver, FRACGP	Queensland
Dr Yuen Chuan Leow, FRACP	New South Wales
Dr Jamie Young, FAFRM (RACP)	Victoria

Inaugural FPM Fellowship and Bullying, Discrimination and Sexual Harassment surveys: In 2017 a quantitative research study among current FPM Fellows was conducted including a survey section on workplace bullying, discrimination and sexual harassment.

The feedback from this, our inaugural Fellowship survey, including the section on Workplace Bullying, Discrimination and Sexual Harassment, will be valuable in guiding the faculty's priorities and focus in delivery of the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan. Board supported the development of an action plan to be overseen by the Professional Affairs Executive Committee.

The findings of both FPM and ANZCA surveys will be published (abridged) in the ANZCA Bulletin in March 2018 with information also available on the FPM and ANZCA websites and e-newsletters.

Leadership and advocacy

Consultative Forums: Subsequent to the successful Medicinal Cannabis Forum and Procedures in Pain Medicine Forum in October 2017, post forum surveys were conducted and collated results have been provided to the relevant Steering Groups. Feedback will help inform strategic thinking in these key areas.

Codeine rescheduling: The Faculty continued its advocacy efforts in support of codeine rescheduling including meetings with ministers, both independent and collaborative correspondence with state and

federal health ministers, promotion of the “Real Relief” campaign on the FPM Website, College Facebook page and in numerous media interviews and articles.

Media coverage over the past month of the codeine up-scheduling debate (in addition to numerous stories from last year) included 169 news items in just 30 days with an audience reach of 1.2 million people and an advertising equivalent value of \$480,000.

TGA consultation on options for the regulation of strong (S8) prescription opioid medicines: FPM was invited to review an ‘exposure draft’ ahead of full public release of this consultation to address problems with inappropriate prescription and unsanctioned use of opioids. The FPM will be making a submission. Fellows are encouraged to make independent submissions.

TGA guidance documents for the use of medicinal cannabis in the treatment of chronic non-cancer pain in Australia: A series of guidance documents have been developed by the TGA to assist health professionals and patients, especially medical practitioners, who choose to prescribe medicinal cannabis in Australia under current access schemes. This documents can be read here <https://www.tga.gov.au/publication/guidance-use-medicinal-cannabis-treatment-chronic-non-cancer-pain-australia>.

The Faculty is now in the process of reviewing the position statement *PM10 Statement on “medicinal cannabis” with particular reference to its use in the management of patients with chronic non-cancer pain* following the release of the TGA guidance documents. A plain speak document is to be developed for consumers and opportunities for research collaborations will be explored.

Specialist training program (STP): Representatives from ANZCA and the FPM met with the Department of Health’s Workforce Branch to discuss flexible models for the pain workforce ahead of negotiations for the new STP contract.

Notified Fellows’ Publications:

- Professor Edward A Shipton FANZCA, FFPMANZCA
The Opioid Epidemic – a fast developing public health crises in the first world
NZMJ 2 February 2018, Vol 131 No 1469
ISSN 1175-8716 © NZMA www.nzma.org.nz/journal
- Professor Stephan Schug FANZCA, FFPMANZCA
Schug, Stephan A.; Bruce, Julie. [*Risk stratification for the development of chronic postsurgical pain*](#)
PAIN Reports. 2(6):e627, November/December 2017

Research and quality improvement

Choosing Wisely: This initiative is facilitated by NPS MedicineWise and is part of a global social movement aimed at improving the safety and quality of healthcare for patients and aims to eliminate practices that are unnecessary and may be harmful. The five [FPM Choosing Wisely recommendations](#) were launched on February 14, 2018. Our media release can be found [here](#).

Guidelines on Slow Release Opioids: The Faculty has developed a Statement on the Use of Slow-release opioid preparations in the treatment of acute pain which has been endorsed by the ANZCA Safety and Quality Committee. The document, which includes comments on discharge planning and deprescribing will be published in the March Bulletin and promoted in the media.

Electronic Persistent Pain Outcomes Collaboration (ePPOC): Progress continues with this initiative with more than 50,000 episodes of care in the dataset. Reports will go out in late February/early March to 78 services, up from 65 for the previous report. Version 2 of the ePPOC dataset has been released, the main highlights are improved work and productivity-related questions, inclusion of a medicinal cannabinoid question and inclusion of a global rating of change measure. The ePPOC team has been invited to give a plenary at the International Symposium on Paediatric Pain in Switzerland in June 2019. A new opioid use benchmark has been adopted: “at least 50% of patients taking opioid medication at referral report a reduction of 50% or more at the end of the episode”.

Education and training

Foundation of Pain Medicine Examinations: Twelve candidates sat the Foundations of Pain Medicine Exam on January 12 which was held in three centres. Nine candidates were successful in this examination, a pass rate of 75%.

Long cases: The first long case assessment dates for 2018 have been confirmed between April 16 and 21 to be held in five centres around Australia and New Zealand. Applications for the April Long Case Assessment will close on February 28, further information is available on the Faculty [website](#).

Development of FPM educational opportunities: Work continues 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 Board at this meeting.

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

- Dr Alison Kearsley MBCHB FRCA FANZCA FFPMANZCA, Fiona Stanley Hospital, WA
- Professor Peter Teddy, FRACS, FFPMANZCA, Precision Brain Spine and Pain Centre, Vic

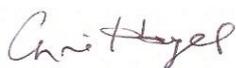
Educational documents: The FPM Board agreed to retire the following educational documents:

- FPM position statement on undergraduate curriculum medicine
- Designing a curriculum for knowledge/skills in pain medicine in postgraduate years 1 and 2 (PGY 1 and 2)

Scientific meetings

2018 Refresher Course Day, *Pain the Dark Side of the Mind*: The meeting will be held on Sunday May 6 at the International Convention Centre, Sydney. The annual dinner venue has been confirmed as the Establishment Ballroom, Establishment, Sydney. International speakers are Professor Oscar de Leon-Casasola, US (FPM ASM Visitor) and Professor Tor Wager, US (FPM New South Wales Visitor).

2018 Spring Meeting: The Spring Meeting is confirmed for October 19-21 at the Pullman Cairns International. Associate Professor Brendan Moore is the Convenor. The Hong Kong Board of Pain Medicine has been invited to nominate a representative to the Organising Committee.



Dr Chris Hayes
Dean, Faculty of Pain Medicine

February 2018