

FPM Board meeting report

August 2012

Report following the Board meeting of the Faculty of Pain Medicine held on 13 August 2012.

Faculty Board

ANZCA Council's representative to the Board, Associate Professor David Scott, was welcomed to the Board. ANZCA's President, Dr Lindy Roberts, also attended the meeting and was welcomed. The Faculty Board will next meet in Melbourne on 29 October.

Honours and Awards

The Dean conveyed on behalf of the Faculty, acknowledgment and congratulations for the following appointments;

- Dr Genevieve Goulding has been appointed Vice-President ANZCA.
- Dr Leona Wilson has been appointed Director of Professional affairs (IMGS) ANZCA.
- Associate Professor Victor Callanan, AM, FANZCA, FPPMANZCA, FCICM has been awarded the ANZCA medal.

FPM International Medical Graduate Specialists (IMGS) Process

ANZCA's Director of Professional Affairs (IMGS), and Manager ANZCA IMGS and Accreditation joined the Board to present a proposal for a process for the assessment of Faculty IMGS applicants. Pending Medical Council of New Zealand accreditation of pain medicine as a specialty, the process will currently be only for applicants intending to practice in Australia. The Board resolved that the FPM IMGS Working Group, including representation from the ANZCA IMGS Committee, continue development of this assessment process in alignment with ANZCAs.

Relationships

Australian Pain Society

The Board nominated Dr Chris Hayes as the FPM Board representative to the Australian Pain Society's Relationship and Communications Committee, replacing Dr Penny Briscoe, who retired from the Board in May.

RACGP

The RACGP/FPM GP Online Learning initiative is now in the final stages of development and remains on track for a launch at the FPM Spring Meeting in Coolum on 29 September. As part of this initiative, a library of complementary PowerPoint presentations has been developed for Fellows of our Faculty to use as teaching aids. This library of presentations endorsed by the Faculty and including high quality animations and effects will be available for download from the resources section of the Faculty website. A demonstration stand will take Fellows through accessing the GP Active Learning Module and how to download the PowerPoint presentations developed for their use. The full on line Active Learning Module will be launched at the GP12 meeting on 26 October.

Australian Rheumatology Association (ARA)

The President of the Australian Rheumatology Association, Associate Professor Sue Piper, met with the Board in August to discuss opportunities for collaboration between the two organisations. In discussing the National Pain Strategy, it was agreed that the Strategy would be greatly strengthened by the support of the ARA, who have yet to endorse it. The Faculty's Spring Meeting in Coolum will include a session on the profile of '*New medications in Rheumatology*'. Opportunities for collaboration on a future Spring Meeting will be explored.

Corporate Affairs

FPM Strategic Plan

The Board approved the FPM Strategic Plan for 2013-2017. The structure of the Faculty's strategic plan is defined by its mission (shared with ANZCA), its vision, and its strategic priorities and objectives. Strategic priorities are to:

- Build Fellowship and the Faculty
- Build the curriculum and knowledge
- Build advocacy and access.

The activities that put the Plan into action will be contained in the Faculty's Business Plan, developed on an annual basis. A business plan for the 2013 calendar year is in development and will inform the budget process for that year.

Board Handbook

The Board approved a Handbook for use as an orientation resource for new Board members. The Handbook provides an introduction to the governance arrangements and various duties, responsibilities and workings of the Board and its many relationships, both within the FPM and in other jurisdictions.

FPM Terms of Reference

The Board approved Terms of Reference for the roles of:

- Dean
- Board Members
- Treasurer
- Training Unit Accreditation Reviewer

Committee Appointments

Committee appointments were approved for the 2012-2013 period. It was agreed to include representation from New Zealand on the Research Committee.

Professional

New South Wales Pain Management Plan

On July 18 2012 the Honourable Jillian Skinner, Minister for Health and Medical Research NSW announced a significant funding enhancement for pain management services in NSW. The Plan, which incorporated extensive input from both the Ministerial Taskforce and the Agency for Clinical Innovation (ACI) Pain Network, commits an additional \$26 million over the next four years to support the development of new pain management services in regional areas, enhance existing teaching hospital services, and support research into chronic pain.

Electronic Persistent Pain Outcomes Centre (ePPOC)

As part of the above package, \$300,000 of annual recurrent funding has been allocated to support benchmarking of outcomes across NSW via ePPOC. There will be an emphasis both on moving towards implementation in NSW and also on further planning of the national benchmarking process working collaboratively with FPM, APS and NZPS.

NSW government approval for Pain Medicine early recruitment 2012

The Board noted that the NSW government had approved the advertising of funded Pain Medicine Provisional Fellow positions in May 2012, two months earlier than the annual recruitment period, for the 2013 clinical year.

Recognition of Pain Medicine as a specialty – New Zealand

Faculty representatives participated in a teleconference with members of the Medical Council of New Zealand's Accreditation Committee and had responded to queries, including the Faculty's CPD requirements. New Zealand Fellows are to be reminded of the MCNZ CPD requirements.

Submissions

The Faculty has recently contributed to the following submissions which can be viewed at <http://www.anzca.edu.au/communications/submissions/government-submissions-2012>.

- Health Workforce Australia – Health Professionals Prescribing Pathway (HPPP) Australia – May 2012
- AMC review of the approved Accreditation Standards for medical schools – August 2012

The Faculty also responded to:

- Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme – a review of current listings of opioids – August 2012
- Health Workforce Australia – Pain Medicine Chapter, July 2012
- Therapeutic Goods Administration – proposed withdrawal of products containing dextropropoxyphene (DPP) – August 2012
- AHPRA: International Criminal History Checks -
- AMC accreditation assessment RANZCP and RACMA – July 2012
- Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee – PBS access to gabapentin – August 2012

Communications

It was agreed that the Synapse e-newsletter would be opened to paid advertising in line with ANZCA practice. Rates and publication dates will be included on the website.

Trainee Affairs

IMGS trainees

In May, the Board resolved to revise the earlier decision to restrict Fellowship of FPMANZCA to those holding a Fellowship of an Australian and New Zealand specialist college. It was agreed that in future, the training and assessment criteria to be met by those applying for FPMANZCA may be supported by a specialist qualification from an international jurisdiction. Regulation 3.1.1.6 has been amended to remove reference to a requirement for an Australian or New Zealand specialist qualification acceptable to the Board. The Board will now undertake a process of evaluating relevant international specialist qualifications to determine those that are acceptable for this purpose. Consideration of any application is assessed based on the formal structure of examination and training required for their primary specialist qualification.

Following this decision of the Board to consider specialist qualifications of IMG trainees as acceptable pre-requisite specialist qualifications for FPMANZCA, the qualification Associate Fellowship of FPMANZCA became redundant, as the only differentiating criterion was whether the applicant held a Fellowship of an Australian and New Zealand specialty. Thus, the decision was also made to rescind FPM Regulation 3.5 Admission to Associate Fellowship by Training and Examination.

A separate issue is the decision of quantifying any retrospective credit of prior training and experience that is relevant to pain medicine. This decision is dependent on the individual's actual prior experience rather than the formal structure of their primary specialist qualification. Applications for Fellowship from International Medical Graduate Specialists applying for FPM training will be assessed on a case-by-case basis to determine the quantum of recognition of prior learning to be credited towards the Faculty's training time requirements.

Current trainees with international qualifications will not be disadvantaged by these decisions.

A list of specialist fellowships, international as well as those of Australian and New Zealand, which are acceptable to the Board as satisfactory pre-requisite qualifications for Fellowship, is being developed and will be generally available.

Training Agreement

A revised Training Agreement was accepted and will be circulated to all current trainees and all new trainees with registration documentation.

Fellowship

Three new Fellows were admitted in June, taking the total number of admissions to 331.

EducationFPM Curriculum Revision

The Board was advised on the key changes being proposed by the Curriculum Revision Sub-Committee and the critical issues in relations to these changes. Board resolved that:

- The two year program will be restructured.
- There will be entry level knowledge required for the structured year of training these may take the form of pre-requisite courses.
- A range of new teaching/learning approaches will be used.
- Three examinations will be completed by the trainees throughout the year, along with some other hurdle summative assessments.
- That a budget be created to cater for the initial high level processes for design of the program.

Supervisor, Supervisor of Training appointment

Board approved the appointment of Dr Faizur Noore, FRANZCP, FFPMANZCA as the FPM Supervisor of Supervisors of Training.

Training unit accreditation

The Melbourne Pain Group and Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre have been accredited as Tier 2 units, for up to 6 months full time equivalent of structured training.

Continuing Professional Development

Upcoming FPM events include:

- 2012 Spring Meeting – 28-30 September – Palmer Coolum Resort, Sunshine Coast
- 2013 ASM & FPM Refresher Course Day and ASM – 3 May & 4-8 May – Melbourne

Finance

At the end of July, the Faculty remained in a positive position against budget.