

FPM Board meeting report

February 2013

Report following the Board meeting of the Faculty of Pain Medicine held on 25 February 2013

Dr Malcolm Hogg, President Elect of the Australian Pain Society met with the board in February to discuss areas of cooperation and collaboration.

Dean-Elect: Associate Professor Brendan Moore was re-elected unopposed as Dean-Elect.

Honours and Awards

The Board noted with pleasure that the following were appointed as Members of Australia in the Australia Day Honours List in recognition of distinguished contributions to their disciplines:

- Professor Jenó (Ben) Marosszéký, FAFRM(RACP), FFPMANZCA (NSW)
- Dr Alan Duncan, FANZCA, FCICM (WA)

BUILD FELLOWSHIP AND THE FACULTY

Corporate Affairs

2013 Board Election: Nominations closed on 1 February for the one vacancy on the Faculty Board. There being two nominations, a formal ballot will proceed. The ballot closes at 5pm on 8 April 2013.

FFPMANZCA logo: Board approved a FFPMANZCA logo for professional use by Fellows on business cards, letterhead, slide presentations and email. This will be distributed in a CD format by mail and will also be downloadable from the FPM Website.

Health Workforce 2025, Medical Specialties – Volume 3: The Board recognised that this document may be influential in changing the landscape of medicine and will seek opportunities for pain medicine to be included in future iterations. The exclusion of pain medicine in the 2009 dataset was based on absolute numbers and political interest in pain medicine at that time. The Faculty has subsequently highlighted to Health Workforce Australia our expanding numbers and offered cooperation. The HWA have been receptive to this offer and have sought information on the FPM Fellowship. A survey of Fellows is being considered to assist in providing information.

Terms of reference: An additional clause on financial reporting and planning has been added to all FPM Committee Terms of Reference.

ANZCA Museum: Pain medicine is to be represented within the College Museum and items or paraphernalia of historical interest will be sought.

Acknowledgement of Past Board members and Deans: Academic dress for past FPM Board Members and Deans is to be modified as a means of identifying individuals who have stood in high office in the Faculty. During their term of office, board members will wear badges of office which will be relinquished upon retirement from the Board.

Assessor

New Fellows: The following are congratulated on their admission to FPM Fellowship. All new Fellows will be invited to present during the College Ceremony at the 2013 ASM in Melbourne.

Tipu AAMIR	NZ
Jane Elizabeth BERRYMAN	Qld
David Louis SOMMERFIELD	Vic
Andrew Douglas POWELL	NSW
Jenny Gao-Ge Adams JIN	NSW

International Medical Graduate Specialists (IMGS): The Board approved guidelines for the accreditation of positions for Substantially Comparable and Partially Comparable IMGS applicants. It is proposed that suitable employment opportunities will not be restricted to Faculty accredited training units for those required to undertake a period of clinical practice assessment under supervision.

The Board is reviewing all pathways to Fellowship in order to align the standards required for trainees, Australian and New Zealand specialists and IMGs.

Fellowship

Election to Fellowship: Dr Michael J Kent, FANZCA (WA) and Dr Kym Boon, FRANZCP (Qld) were elected to Fellowship of the Faculty of Pain Medicine.

Professional Documents

PS6 Guidelines for Long Term Intrathecal Infusions (Analgesics /Adjuvants /Antispasmodics): Board approved a revised professional document, which is an amalgamation of PM4 (205) *Guidelines for Patient Assessment and Implantation of Intrathecal Catheters, Ports and Pumps for Intrathecal Therapy* and PM6 (2007) *Guidelines for long intrathecal infusions (analgesics/adjuvants/antispasmodics)*.

Training Unit Accreditation:

Accreditation of specialist Medical Training Sites Project: The Faculty provided a response to the *Accreditation of Specialist Medical Training Sites Project* Interim Report of December 2012. This project is looking at accreditation processes to see if a streamlined approach to accreditation can be developed across the colleges. A final report is anticipated by February 2013.

Resources

2013 Budget: The Faculty's 2013 budget has been approved by Council to provide adequate funding to meet the requirements of expanding Faculty activities including support for the Curriculum Redesign Project.

BUILD CURRICULUM AND KNOWLEDGE

Education

Mentoring Program: Subsequent to the development of the FPM Mentoring Program in May 2012, the Board has now endorsed Mentoring Guidelines for mentees and mentors. A

mentoring database was also approved for publication on the website, and will be accessible by both Fellows and trainees. It will list Fellows who have volunteered to be mentors with a short background on each, and their contact details. Fellows and Trainees seeking a mentor will go to the database to select a mentor and make initial contact. Ongoing mentoring activities will be conducted in a manner that is at the discretion and privacy of the mentor and mentee. The program will be monitored every six months for quality assurance.

Trainee Exit Questionnaire: Faculty regulations have been amended to require trainees to submit an exit questionnaire for each individual unit at which the trainee has undertaken training toward the structured training period. The aim is to gain a longitudinal perspective and provide an independent means of bringing information back to board, an AMC requirement.

Supervisor of Training ratification: Dr Aston Wan was appointed supervisor of training for the Barbara Walker Pain Centre for Pain management. Dr Andrew Powell was appointed Supervisor of Training for the Hunter Integrated Pain Service.

Curriculum Redesign Project: The consultation and communication process for phase one of the Faculty's Curriculum Redesign Project (CRP) commenced in December 2012. During November and December, members of the Curriculum Redesign Project Steering Group were involved in the scripting and filming 5 short videos, aimed at informing the fellowship and trainees about the new curriculum framework and program to be introduced in 2015. The videos and the program overview document are available on the FPM website.

Regional face-to-face forums were held from late January to mid-February 2013 to provide an opportunity for Fellows and trainees to clarify points and provide feedback on the proposed curriculum framework. These forums were successful in providing valuable input.

A Curriculum Redesign Project e-Newsletter has also been developed to keep Fellows and Trainees informed of developments.

Examination Report: The 2013 Examination Report is now available on the FPM Website. This report has been restructured to provide more feedback to prospective examination candidates on what is expected of them. It also includes instructions on what should be covered in a neurological examination for the long case.

Sensory Testing Guidelines: The Board approved guidelines (known as POST), developed by the Examination Committee, to outline standardised terminology, equipment and technique for Pain Orient Sensory Testing during clinical examination for trainees.

Allied Health Pain Management in Primary Care: A submission has been made to Bupa Health Foundation for funding for an online education for Allied Health Pain management in Primary Care, building on the joint initiative with the RACGP. An intent of cooperation from allied health groups and Australian Pain Society was included with the submission. A response is expected in April.

Continuing Professional Development

Scientific Meetings

2013 ASM & FPM Refresher Course Day and ASM – 3 May & 4-8 May – Melbourne
Sofitel on Collins, Melbourne. Theme: "Selling Pain Science – Communication and Cultural Competition". Scientific Convenor, Dr Michael Vagg.

2013 Spring Meeting – 25-27 October 2013

Byron at Byron Resort and Spa, Byron Bay. Theme “Internal Pain is not Eternal Pain” Scientific Convenor, Dr Michael Vagg .

2016 Annual Scientific Meeting, Auckland

Dr Jane Thomas, FANZCA, FFPMANZCA has been appointed as the Faculty’s 2016 Scientific Convenor.

Research

Electronic Persistent Pain Outcomes Collaboration (ePPOC): Negotiations are well advanced between NSW Health, the Agency for Clinical Innovation (ACI) and Australian Health Services Research Institute (AHSRI), University of Wollongong. A 3 year contract will see Professor Kathy Eagar and team at AHSRI providing the ePPOC manager, statistical support and also high level strategic input. Key deliverables will include piloting the benchmarking process in NSW and simultaneously working on a Business Case for expansion of the program across Australia and New Zealand.

Pain Device Implant Register: The Dean met with ANZCA’s Director Policy, John Biviano, to commence development of a high level business plan as a basis for seeking industry funding to support the proposed Pain Device Implant Register.

Steps to be taken include:

- Development of a business plan for industry funding
- Professional management to develop product literature and PowerPoint presentations for hospital and clinician orientation and initiative.
- Establishment of a pilot in 3 hospitals. It will be important to make this an Australian and New Zealand concept and New Zealand input will be sought.
- Lobby for perpetual funding (beyond the pilot phase) for a national register, including project management costs.

Development of this initiative by the Faculty would be a world first for an independent body to hold and control an implant register for pain.

BUILD ADVOCACY AND ACCESS

Relationships

Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine: The AFRM Musculoskeletal Medicine, Pain Medicine and Occupational Rehabilitation Special Interest Group is putting on two workshops at the AFRM ASM, one on pain related topics. Educational opportunities are being developed through the SIG for AFRM fellows who are increasingly being asked to conduct pain management programs.

Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) Pain Medicine Section: An editorial by A Zacest and M Cohen has been published in the Journal of Surgery, coming out soon. Associate Professor Zacest will chair a neuromodulation session at the RACS Auckland meeting. Efforts are being made to engage with the local RACS organisers in Adelaide regarding pain education for surgeons to gauge the interest of general surgeons. Faculty Fellow, Dr Thierry Vancaillie is establishing a surgical trainees’ workshop in NSW and a similar initiative is being planned in South Australia as a useful way to establish interest and provide something tangible for trainees

and surgeons. Opportunities for interaction with Neurosurgical Society of Australasia are very encouraging.

Pain Societies: A teleconference meeting of executive members of the Australian Pain Society, New Zealand Pain Society and Faculty of Pain Medicine was convened in early February. Topics for discussion included coordination of future meetings, including a combined meeting in Sydney in 2017, and initiatives that would benefit from collaboration of the three organizations.

Professional

Australian Medical Council (AMC) re-accreditation: The Faculty has been granted accreditation of its training and continuing professional development programs to 31 December 2018. The Annual Report, due by 12 March, is in development, including responses to the conditions and recommendations outlined in the AMC team's final report.

Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee: The FPM Director of Professional Affairs, Associate Professor Milton Cohen, and ANZCA General Manager Policy, John Biviano, met with Dr Suzanne Hill, Chairman PBAC, on 5 February to discuss opioid regulation. The meeting was positive, including a request for the FPM to articulate a guideline based on FPM Professional Document PM1 *Principles regarding the use of opioid analgesics in patients with chronic non-cancer pain*. A follow up meeting is anticipated in June, once PBAC have had reviewed 12 months of utilization data, available to them by the end of April.

The Faculty also responded to a request for a submission on the use of intranasal fentanyl.

Submissions: The Faculty also contributed to the following submissions soon to be available on the ANZCA website.

- Australian and New Zealand Therapeutic Products Agency regulatory framework
- Department of Health and Ageing - Paediatric pharmaceuticals prescribing resource project
- Cancer Council Australia - Cancer pain management guidelines
- Health Workforce Australia – Draft Health Professionals Prescribing Pathway

Essential Pain Management Sub-Committee: The College has established this sub-committee to improve pain management worldwide by working with health workers at a local level. The new subcommittee, which will report to the ANZCA Overseas Aid Committee, includes international members from the UK, Malaysia and Honduras to help advise on the best global approach to managing pain.

Fellows' publications: The Board noted the following publications:

- Australian and New Zealand Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology
 - Stacey et al Persistent pelvic pain; rising to the challenge
 - Evans, Editorial. Chronic pelvic pain in Australia and New Zealand
- New Zealand Medical Journal
 - Shipton, E.A. Recognition of the vocational practice of the scope of pain medicine in New Zealand

National Pain Strategy: Painaustralia had been asked to respond to the NSW Legislative Council General Purpose Standing Committee No 4 Inquiry into the safety and efficacy of cannabis for medical purposes. A measured response was provided to avoid any inference of support. The Faculty does not currently have a position on this issue and there is potential for this to be considered.

Employment of specialist pain medicine physicians: The Board discussed its role in advocating for positions in pain medicine to be filled by appropriately qualified Specialist Pain Medicine Physicians and will advocate strongly to employing authorities and Health Departments that FFPMANZCA is the only qualification recognised by the Medical Board of Australia for registration as a Specialist Pain Medicine Physician and that FPM training is the only one with a clinical basis. The use of the terminology of “Specialist Pain Medicine Physician” will be encouraged in all new appointments.

Communications: A schedule for Faculty publications in 2013 is now available on the Faculty website.