

REPORT FROM FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING

Faculty board

The Faculty board met on February 26. Dr Brendan Moore, FANZCA (Qld), was elected to the position of Dean-elect. Dr Lindy Roberts was congratulated on election to President-elect of ANZCA.

Terms of reference (ToR) were approved for the board and its committees and will be published on the FPM website. ToRs for roles will follow for approval at the May board meeting.

The Faculty board will next meet in Perth on May 10 and the new board will meet on May 13.

FPM strategic planning 2013-2017

The FPM has initiated a process for the development of an updated strategic plan in alignment with ANZCA's strategic planning process. The FPM Board held a strategic planning workshop at ANZCA House on February 27 and a second workshop will be held in conjunction with the May 10 board meeting.

Commencing the process at this time will enable the board to capture the experience of the long-serving board members due to retire in May 2012, as well as the views of newly elected members. This also provides an opportunity to align FPM's strategic planning with ANZCA's planning process, and to join with ANZCA in considering the development and adoption of a shared vision and possibly a set of organisational values for the College and Faculty.

A project plan and a consultation and communications plan have been developed and the consultation process has commenced with the CEO meeting FPM regional chairs in conjunction with visits to ANZCA regions during February and March. External stakeholders are being invited to comment and their feedback will be considered at the May workshop.

Board election

Dr Ray Garrick FRACP (NSW), Dr Michael Vagg FAFRM (RACP) (Vic) and Dr Andrew Zacest FRACS (SA), have been elected unopposed to the Faculty board in accordance with FPM regulations 1.1.3 and 1.1.4. There being five nominees for the three remaining vacancies, a formal ballot will now proceed. In accordance with FPM regulations, at least one of the three vacancies must be filled by a Faculty Fellow with FANZCA. The remaining two vacancies may be filled by any Faculty Fellow.

GP online learning project

A number of Fellows are now involved in developing content for the GP online learning initiative. This phase is expected to be completed by June when early stages of the product will be available for review. The program will be able to be utilised on iPads and iPhones.

Relationships

RANZCOG

Dr Rupert Sherwood, President of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG), met with the board in February to explore areas for collaboration and opportunities to include pain medicine in the RANZCOG curriculum, training and practice. A Faculty professional document on persistent pelvic pain is currently in development.

ANZCA

Dr Kieran Davis will represent the Faculty on the ANZCA code of conduct and pledge working group and will consult with FPM Fellows with specialty backgrounds other than ANZCA to ensure broad relevance.

As part of the ANZCA strategic plan consultation, the ANZCA CEO met with the FPM Board to seek their input. The board provided feedback and appreciated the opportunity to comment.

The ANZCA and FPM continuing professional development standard has now been published on the website.

The Faculty has been invited to assist ANZCA in disseminating information on how the new curriculum will affect the training of anaesthetists in pain medicine. Pain medicine will now be a core fundamental in the curriculum and there will be flexibility to allow the provisional fellowship year to be entirely in pain medicine as well as defined learning outcomes, resources and research in pain medicine as part of anaesthesia training.

The board supported ANZCA's proposed changes to regulation 30 regarding the reconsideration and review process.

The FPM endorsed ANZCA's policy on bullying, discrimination and harassment for Fellows and trainees acting on behalf of the College or undertaking College functions.

Fellowship

Two new Fellows were admitted in December and six in February, taking the total number of admissions to 318.

Education

Curriculum blueprinting project

The curriculum blueprinting process is proceeding according to schedule. A face-to-face meeting of the core working group was held in Melbourne on February 28 and another will be convened during the annual scientific meeting (ASM). A framework has been developed and from this resources will be developed to complement the clinical exposure.

2012 Examination

The venue for the 2012 examination has been confirmed as the Auckland Hospital, Friday 23 to Sunday November 25. The 2011 examination report is now available on the website.

Training unit accreditation

Townsville Hospital has been accredited for training in pain medicine and Royal North Shore Hospital has been re-accredited.

Continuing education

2012 FPM Spring Meeting

Dr Jerome Schofferman, from the SpineCare Medical Group in San Francisco, USA, has agreed to be the keynote speaker at the Faculty's 2012 Spring Meeting in Coolum in September.

Professional

Chronic pain outcomes initiative

A consensus dataset has now been agreed for the chronic pain outcomes initiative. A precise business case is in development with the intention to present to state governments. A working group will meet in Wollongong in March to progress this further.

Painaustralia

Painaustralia has agreed to support National Pain Week in July 2012. Faculty Fellows have been asked to contribute to a GP education forum in Parliament House Canberra.

Painaustralia has been successful in influencing the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) with regard to the disability support pension table.

Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC)

The National Medicines Policy Committee (NMPC) has provided a series of recommendations to government on the issue of opioid use for non-cancer pain. Currently the NMPC is awaiting direction from the government on how to proceed, and a response to the submission is on hold.

pending further direction from government. No timeline is available as to when a government response might be coming.

Dextropropoxyphene

When the TGA announced in November 2011 the cancellation of dextropropoxyphene-containing analgesics from March 1, 2012, they also indicated they would be referring doctors' queries to pain or addiction specialists. The FPM director of professional affairs has undertaken on behalf of the FPM and the Chapter of Addiction Medicine (RACP) to produce a transition guideline, currently in development.

Submissions

A submission to the Australian Medical Council for ongoing accreditation is in the final stages of development for submission by the end of March 2012.

The Faculty has recently contributed to the following submissions:

- Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) public consultation paper on the definition of practice.
- National Prescribing Service (NPS) prescribing competencies framework project: core competencies to prescribe medicines safely and effectively.
- Independent Hospital Pricing Authority – activity-based funding for Australian public hospitals.

GP superclinics and Medicare locals

The board discussed the role of pain medicine in GP superclinics and Medicare locals in the delivery of pain services and how to engage and work with them. It was reported that the Newcastle experience has been positive with a number of collaborative projects running.

Doctors health program funding

The Faculty board supported a proposal to make a submission to the Medical Board of Australia in support of the funding of external doctors' health programs. Fellows will be notified, through *Synapse*, of the opportunity to make individual submissions.

Finance

The Faculty ended the year with a positive position against budget.

2012 board meetings

May 10 (Thursday) board meeting and strategic planning workshop (Perth)

May 13 (Sunday) annual general meeting and new board (Perth)

August 13 (Monday) board meeting (Melbourne)

October 29 (Monday) board meeting (Melbourne)