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FPM curriculum Revision – **Have your say!**

Program 2015

Consultation forum

Faculty Fellows are to be invited to participate in a face-to-face forum being held from 10.30 am-12.30 pm on Friday September 28, at the FPM Spring Meeting in Cooloom. Invitations were emailed to all Fellows on August 28. [Click here](#) for further details. Please [contact pmcnair@anzca.edu.au](mailto:contact_pmcnair@anzca.edu.au) if you plan to attend.

Key issues to be discussed at this stage include:

- The core clinical exposures to be included in the curriculum.
- The detail of the pre-learning period of the program.

Other issues will be added to the agenda as they arise.

If you are unable to participate in this forum, you will have the opportunity to participate in teleconferences/webinars planned for October, which will focus on particular issues.

Faculty board update

The Faculty board met on August 13. ANZCA Council's representative to the board, Associate Professor David Scott, was welcomed. ANZCA's President, Dr Lindy Roberts, also attended the meeting and was welcomed.

FPM curriculum Revision

Key changes

The board was advised on the key changes being proposed by the Curriculum Revision Sub-Committee and any critical issues relating to these changes. The 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 prerequisite 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 summative assessments.
- A budget be created to cater for the initial high-level processes for design of the program.

FPM International Medical Graduate Specialists (IMGS) process

ANZCA's Director of Professional Affairs (IMGS), Dr Richard Willis, and the Manager of ANZCA IMGS and Accreditation, Ms Renee McNamara, presented a proposal to the board about the process for assessing Faculty IMGS applicants. Until Medical Council of New Zealand accreditation of pain medicine as a specialty, the process will 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 ANZCA's.

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.

FPM strategic plan

The board has 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 Faculty Board will next meet in Melbourne on October 29.

View the full board report on the Faculty [website](#)

Relationships

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (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 Cooloom on September 29. 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 online active learning module will be launched at the GP12 meeting on October 26.

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. It was agreed that the National Pain Strategy would be greatly strengthened by the support of the ARA, who have yet to endorse it. The Faculty's Spring Meeting in Cooloom will include a session on new medications in Rheumatology. Opportunities for collaboration at a future FPM Spring Meeting will be explored.

Pain Australia

The latest Pain Australia e-newsletter is now available. Please [click here](#).



Trigeminal Neuralgia Assoc. Australia Inc

Please [click here](#) to view the latest Trigeminal Neuralgia Assoc. Australia Inc Newsletter.

Trainees

International medical graduate specialist (IMGS) trainees

In May, the FPM Board resolved to revise the earlier decision to restrict fellowship of FPMANZCA to those holding fellowship of Australian and New Zealand specialist colleges. 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, the qualification associate fellowship of FPMANZCA became redundant. 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 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 IMGSs applying for FPM training will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

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 prerequisite qualifications for fellowship, is being developed.

Training agreement

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

Training unit accreditations

Following successful reviews, the Melbourne Pain Group and the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre have been accredited as the Faculty's first tier 2 units for pain medicine training, bringing the number of accredited pain units to 30.

Supervisor, supervisor of training appointment

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

2012 Examination

Examination dates

November 23-25, 2012 (Friday – Sunday)
The Auckland Regional Pain Service, Auckland New Zealand
Closing date for registration: **October 5, 2012**

Pre-Examination Short Course

Registrations have now closed for the FPM Pre-Examination Short Course which will be held at the ANZCA/FPM Queensland regional office from September 14-16. Twenty nine trainees registered for the course this year.



Fellowship Affairs

NSW pain management plan

The New South Wales Government recently unveiled a new strategy to overhaul pain management services. The plan commits an additional

\$26 million over four years (\$6.5 million recurrent annual funding) to support the development of pain management services in regional areas, to enhance existing teaching services and support research into chronic pain.

As part of this package, \$300,000 of annual recurrent funding has been allocated to support the benchmarking of outcomes in chronic pain across NSW via the electronic Persistent Pain Outcomes Collaboration (ePPOC), championed by Dr Chris Hayes, Dr Carolyn Arnold and the FPM Board. It is recognised that this will also facilitate national benchmarking.

The allocated funds will allow the appointment of an ePPOC project manager and a statistician to work with Professor Kathy Eagar and team at the Australian Health Services Research Institute (AHSRI), University of Wollongong. Once recruited it is anticipated that the ePPOC project manager will work with ACI and the NSW Ministry of Health to define key deliverables and consider the current minimal dataset developed by clinicians from FPM, the Australian Pain Society (APS) and the New Zealand Pain Society (NZPS). 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.

For further information, please [click here](#).

Recognition of pain medicine as a specialty in 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 continuing professional development requirements.

Tasmanian opioid review

Tasmania's Department of Health and Human Services has reviewed opioid prescribing in the state, investigating issues surrounding Tasmanian prescribing of drugs of dependence. For further information, please [click here](#).

Research

Better outcomes from medical research

The Association of Australian Medical Research Institutes (AAMRI) has made five key recommendations on ways to improve the return on the government's investment in medical research and to build the bridge between research success and commercial success. The AAMRI report has been submitted to the federal government's Strategic Review of Health and Medical Research. For further information, please [click here](#).

FPM Research Database

A Research database is now live on the FPM website. The database has been a project of the FPM Research Committee with support from ANZCA IT staff. The intention is that the site can be used to help "facilitate a culture of research within FPM". By entering information about current projects researchers can encourage collaboration and also provide inspiration for others. It is hoped the site might allow emerging researchers to contact more established workers in their field of interest.

If you are currently engaged in research you are welcome to enter information about your work on the site. Hopefully this can be the beginning of many new contacts and conversations.

Please [click here](#) to view the database.

Australian pain management research review

Please [click here](#) to review the latest edition of the Australian pain management research review.



Regional committee news

South Australia

After 18 months with an interim committee, the SA/NT Regional Committee now has an FPM committee. Members are:

Chair	Dr Graham Wright
Deputy chair/honorary treasurer/secretary	Dr Bruce Rounsefell
Elected member	Dr Gary Clothier
Elected member	Dr Penny Briscoe
Elected member	Dr Susan Evans
Multidisciplinary representative	Dr Andrew Somogyi
Australian Pain Society representative	Dr Tim Semple
ANZCA representative/new Fellows representative	Dr Philip Cornish
Trainee representative	Dr Jonathan Chan
Ex officio	Dr Andrew Zacest
Ex officio	Dr Meredith Craigie
Ex officio	Dr Dilip Kapur

A combined meeting with speakers from the chapter of addiction medicine was conducted in February. The topic "Opioid reduction", was well received by the audience.

The July continuing medical education (CME) meeting was well attended and neurosurgeons and faculty Fellows Dr Andrew Zacest and Dr YH Yau gave engrossing and thought-provoking talks on "The place of spinal surgery for the patient with chronic pain" and "The place of spinal surgery for the WorkCover patient".

Continuing Professional Development

Meetings and events

Faculty events

2012 FPM Spring Meeting

"From a ripple to a wave – The rising tides in pain medicine"

The 2012 FPM Spring Meeting will be held at the beautiful Palmer Coolum Resort in the Noosa Shire of the Queensland Sunshine Coast from September 28–30. Registrations are now open. To register please see the [website](#).

2013 Melbourne Annual Scientific Meeting

"Supersition Dogma and Science"

The 2013 ANZCA annual scientific meeting (ASM) will be held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre from May 4-8. The theme is an opportunity for each of us to critically question the basis for our clinical decisions – superstition, dogma or science? The focus will be on pragmatic aspects of anaesthesia and pain medicine practice.

2013 Refresher Course Day and Faculty Dinner

"Selling pain science – communication and cultural competition"

The 2013 FPM Refresher Course Day and Faculty dinner will be held on May 3, 2013, in conjunction with the 2013 ANZCA ASM in Melbourne. Speakers include international guests Professor Edzard Ernst (UK) and Professor Fabrizio Benedetti (Italy), complemented by speakers from medical and non-medical backgrounds with expertise in all facets of communication.

The annual dinner will be held at Eureka 89, Southbank which offers extraordinary views of Melbourne.

Participating colleges' annual scientific meetings:

ANZCA South Australia/Northern Territory 2012 Annual Scientific Meeting

"Anaesthesia and the failing Organ"

November 3, 2012 - The Sanctuary, Adelaide Zoo

RACS Annual Scientific Congress 2013

May 7–10, 2013 - Sky City/Crown Plaza, Auckland, New Zealand.

RACP Future Directions in Health Congress 2013

May 26-29, 2013 - Perth Convention & Exhibition Centre, Western Australia

AFRM 2013 ASM

May 26-29, 2013 - Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, Perth, Western Australia

The RACP Future Directions in Health Congress 2013 will be incorporating the 21st Annual Scientific Meeting of the AFRM. Further information will be released shortly.

RANZCP 2013 Congress

"Achievements and Aspirations"

May 26 – 30, 2013 - Sydney Convention Centre, Sydney

External events

ACHS Education - Measurement in Health Care: How to Maximise the Benefits of Clinical Indicators

September 11, 2012

ACHS Education - Implementing and Sustaining a Quality Management System

September 27, 2012

ACHS Education - Introduction to the ACHS National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards program

October 2, 2012



S8 Opioid Forum

October 26, 2012 9.am–12.30pm - Auditorium, Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists, 630 St Kilda Road, Melbourne.

This forum seeks the views of key medical stakeholder groups and aims to identify whether we share a consensus regarding what actions should be taken in response to the opioid epidemic.

Cost: \$25

Registrations close October 12. Please [click here](#) for registration forms.

NZ Anaesthesia ASM/ICCVA 2012

Registration is now open for the NZ Anaesthesia 2012 Annual Scientific Meeting (NZ A ASM), being run in conjunction with 2012 International Congress of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Anesthesia (ICCVA) in Auckland, November 14-17. An outstanding faculty of international and Australasian speakers will address the theme, "What becomes of the broken hearted? Outcomes and how to change them". Topics will cater to anaesthetists working in other sub-specialty areas as well as in cardiothoracic and vascular anaesthesia and participants will be able to move freely between the ICCVA and NZ ASM streams to make the most of the learning opportunities on offer.

Date: November 14-17, 2012

Venue: SKYCITY Convention Centre, Auckland

Contact: Rachel Cook

Tel: +64 4 525 2464

Email: rachel@conference.co.nz

2012 National Indigenous Health Conference

December 5-7, 2012 - Watermark Hotel, Gold Coast

"Many pathways, one outcome" is designed to bring together government and non-government agencies working in the field of Indigenous health. Please click here for further information.

Australian Pain Society 33rd Annual Scientific Meeting

"Persistent Pain - A National Challenge"

March 17-20, 2013 – Canberra ACT

International conferences

2nd International Multidisciplinary Forum on Palliative Care

November 22–25, 2012 - Florence, Italy

5th Association of South-East Asian Pain Societies Conference

"Pain: The unseen disease"

April 28–May 5, 2013 - Singapore

Submission Deadlines:	Topical Sessions	1 August 2012
	Free Papers & Posters	31 October 2012
	Early Bird Registration	1 February 2013

For Sponsorship and Exhibition opportunities, please contact the Conference Secretariat ([see website](#))

Courses, workshops and podcasts

Mechanisms of Neuropathic Pain

Professor Stephan Schug (FANZCA, FFPMANZCA)

This podcast illustrates the pathophysiology of neuropathic pain. From there it leads to common manifestations of neuropathic pain and their epidemiology. Finally it provides an approach to the diagnosis of neuropathic pain.

Treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Professor Stephan Schug (FANZCA, FFPMANZCA)

This podcast outlines the treatment options for neuropathic pain. It highlights the futility of using simple analgesics and the importance of the use of co-analgesics, namely antidepressants and anticonvulsants. Last, not least it provides an overview over current treatment algorithms for neuropathic pain.

Educational podcasts - call for presenters and topics

The FPM would like to hear from you to know which subject areas would really benefit you as we continue to expand the series of podcasts.

If you know specialists who are experts in the field and you have missed the opportunity to hear their presentations, or you have heard keynote presenters and think your fellow trainee colleagues would benefit from hearing their presentations as podcasts, please do contact us so that we can tailor resources to your needs.



To volunteer to present a podcast, please [contact us](#).

[Click here](#) to view FPM podcasts.

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Medtronic is pleased to invite you to learn how neuromodulation can be of value to your clinical practice and chronic pain patients. This workshop uses peer-to-peer discussion, expert lectures, and case studies to expand your knowledge and skills in the use of neurostimulation and intrathecal drug delivery. Topics include history of neuromodulation, current applications of neuromodulation, evaluation of clinical evidence, patient and device selection, management of the implanted patient, and basic trouble shooting.

Date: Thursday, September 27, 2012

Time: 10am-4pm. Registration is from 9.30am and breakfast is available.

Venue: Medtronic Training Centre, Level 7, 200 Creek Street, Brisbane 4000

RSVP: PLEASE [CLICK HERE](#) or call +61 2 9857 9348 by Monday September 17, 2012

Pain medicine in the media

Media update

Professor Michael Cousins and Dr Michael Vagg recently featured in an episode of ABC's 7.30 focusing on the growing chronic pain epidemic. Please [click here](#) to watch the segment.

2012

July 31 - [SBS Insight program on Accidental Addicts](#)

July 26 - [Better pain focus at hospital helps cut stays by nearly five days](#)

July 18 - [ABC 7.30 - Australia faces silent epidemic of chronic pain](#)

June 15 - [Old drugs offer new uses for pain relief](#)



Library

Pain Management journal trial

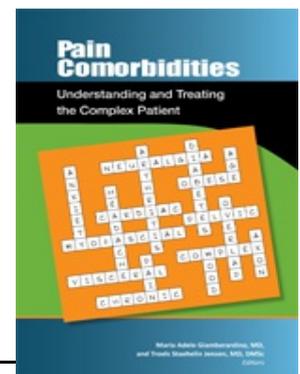
The journal, Pain Management, is available through the ANZCA Library for a 90-day trial. Pain Management presents findings, analysis and commentary on the battle with acute and chronic pain. The journal provides guidance to the interdisciplinary pain management community regarding the most effective pain strategies.

Feedback on this journal trial is welcomed by the library: library@anzca.edu.au

Access Pain Management and Perioperative Medicine through the [ANZCA Library online journal list](#).

New to the ANZCA Library

Pain comorbidities: understanding and treating the complex patient / Giamberardino, Maria Adele [ed]; Jensen, Troels Staehelin [ed]. / International Association for the Study of Pain. -- 1st ed -- Seattle: IASP, 2012.



Positions Vacant

Austin Health - Locum VMO Pain Medicine Specialist

Applications are invited from pain medicine specialists holding either FRACP (Rehabilitation Medicine) or FRANZC Psychiatry to join the pain service at Austin Health. The locum position (six months initially) involves two sessions per week. The pain service is a multidisciplinary team, comprising medical, nursing, physiotherapy and psychology clinicians. The service manages acute pain and chronic and complex pain including pain due to cancer or its treatment.

All inquiries to Chris Bailes, Administrative Manager, Anaesthesia and Intensive Care at chris.bailes@austin.org.au Tel (03) 9496 3800

Canberra Hospital - Director of the Pain Management Unit

Applications are invited for the Director of the Pain Management Unit at Canberra Hospital. This role could accommodate a young trainee interested in being trained and fast tracked for this position.

For further information, please contact Acting Director [Andrew Watson](#) for more details.

Please contact the Faculty to advertise your position in Synapse.

Further ANZCA news

Please [click here](#) to view the ANZCA E-Newsletter

Synapse

We look forward to receiving your contributions which should be directed to the Faculty office. Email jstephens@anzca.edu.au.

The Faculty of Pain Medicine (FPM) is the professional medical body in Australia and New Zealand that conducts the education, training, and continuing professional development of pain medicine specialists.

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