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Faculty Board

The Faculty of Pain Medicine Board met on November 21. Dr Kieran Davis attended his first meeting as a co-opted North Island New Zealand representative, and observers Dr Andrew Zacest and Ms Linda Sorrell, ANZCA CEO, attended for the day.

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

2012 Board election

Nomination forms for the 2012 board election have been circulated for the six vacancies on the FPM Board. At least one of these vacancies must be filled by a Faculty Fellow with FANZCA, at least two by a Faculty Fellow with fellowship from a division, faculty or chapter of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and at least one by a Faculty Fellow with FRACS. The remaining two vacancies may be filled by any Faculty Fellow. Nominations close on February 3.

If you have not yet received nomination forms, please [contact us](#).

Relationships

FPM/RACGP online modular GP Education in Pain Management

Development of this project is on schedule and expected for launch at the 2012 FPM Spring Meeting and the GP12 Annual Scientific Meeting. There has been an excellent response from Fellows approached to produce the content of the first six topics and work is expected to commence early in the new year.

National Pain Strategy

Successful advocacy by Painaustralia will lead to revision of assessments for disability support pensions, to ensure that people with chronic pain and a genuine need for support can qualify for the pension.



[Click here](#) to view the latest Painaustralia newsletter.

Medicare Telehealth Advisory Group

Two draft papers for consultation on this issue have been issued: Telehealth Technical Standards Position paper and Guidance on Security, Privacy and Technical Specification for Clinicians. On November 14, the department advertised an invitation to apply for funding for Telehealth support.

Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC)

Subsequent to the Faculty's May submission regarding PBS-subsidised opioids, we are advised of this being referred to the National Medicines Policy Committee, and that no changes were to be made to the PBS arrangements for the time being. The Faculty has indicated to the National Medicines Policy Committee its willingness to be further involved.

National Pain Outcome Initiative

Following the October meeting in Canberra, a teleconference was held on December 7 in order to include those that missed the Canberra meeting. Both meetings were successful in reaching agreement on a minimal data set. An application for funding is under consideration as a collaborative project involving the University of Wollongong, Australian Pain Society and the Faculty of Pain Medicine.

Undergraduate prize in pain medicine

As part of the Faculty's strategic plan to increase education and training in pain medicine, an undergraduate medical student prize has been piloted in ten medical schools across Australia and New Zealand. All medical schools were offered the opportunity to apply for the award. Ten prizes, each of \$500 and a certificate will be awarded to the best undergraduate students in pain medicine in the last two years of undergraduate training. Lucinda Thomas from the Graduate School of Medicine, University of Wollongong has been awarded the first ever Faculty of Pain Medicine Undergraduate Prize in Pain Medicine. The prize was presented by Dr Guy Bashford at the Graduate School of Medicine prize ceremony on Friday 2 December.



Trainees

2011 examination

The 2011 Faculty of Pain Medicine examination was held 25-27 November at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Brisbane. The Faculty was pleased to welcome Dr Kate Grady, FPM Royal College of Anaesthetists (UK) and Dr Donal Harney, FPM College of Anaesthetists of Ireland, as international observers. A record twenty-eight candidates sat the exam. Twenty-three were successful. The Barbara Walker Prize for Excellence in the Pain Medicine Examination was awarded to Dr Roderick Grant (Qld). Merit awards went to Dr Simon Cohen (NSW), Dr Corry De Neef (VIC) and Dr James Yu (NSW).



Training unit accreditations

Following successful on-site reviews, Prince of Wales Hospital, St Vincent's Hospital (Sydney), Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and Geelong Hospital were all re-accredited for training in pain medicine.

Blueprinting curriculum revision project

Work completed

Work on the Blueprinting Curriculum Revision project is proceeding well. The job of an excellent Pain Medicine Specialist (PMS) of the future has been defined and the key roles (areas of focus) within this job have been identified. The key roles include "Clinician", the generic CanMEDS roles of "Professional", "Communicator", "Collaborator", "Scholar", "Health Advocate" and "Manager"; and the new roles of "Clinical Team Leader", "Teacher-Coach-Mentor" and "Change Agent". When a physician can perform all of these roles appropriately in an integrated way, they can be seen as a "Medical Expert".

A modular way of structuring the curriculum for the training and assessment of new PMSs has been developed, based on these roles. To assist trainees, Supervisors of Training and examiners, a clear way of documenting the competencies, and the associated learning and assessment methods in the curriculum, has been developed.

Work to be completed

A core working group is being established to work on the project with the Chair of the Education Committee and the Medical Educator, Ann Maree Bullard. Members of the group will work individually and as a group on the project. Individually they will focus on one or two of the key roles that a PMS performs. For each of these roles they will work with the Medical Educator to determine:

- the competencies that a trainee needs to demonstrate
 - the learning goals (that underlie the competencies) that they need to meet
 - the required underlying knowledge, skills and attitudes
 - how best to help a trainee learn these areas
 - how formative and summative assessment should be completed to see whether the learning goals and competencies have been met.
- The Core Working Group will meet together as a group once each quarter, to review as a whole the work that have been completed by the individual members of the group.

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

AFRM Bi-national training program, 2012

The AFRM Bi-national training program will continue in 2012. There will be no site or individual fee for Faculty trainees attending BNTP sessions from a site where there is an AFRM trainee.

[Click here](#) to view the 2012 BNTP timetable.

Fellowship Affairs

New Fellows

By election:

Dr Paul Hardy, FRCA (New Zealand)

Mr Yun-Hom Yau, FRACS (South Australia)

Terms of reference

In a project encompassing all of ANZCA, terms of reference are being finalised for all Faculty committees and sub-committees. The Faculty also has representation on an ANZCA working group developing terms of reference for Fellows and trainees occupying leadership roles within ANZCA and the FPM.

Research publications

Is your research about to be published? The Communications Unit would be keen to hear from any Fellows or trainees who are about to have their research published, particularly if you received ANZCA funding. We would love to be able to promote your work to the media so please keep us informed of any new developments in your field. Educating the community about the role of anaesthetists and specialist pain medicine physicians is an important role for the College and your research can contribute to this ongoing work.



Please [contact](#) ANZCA Media Manager Meaghan Shaw.

ANZCA Research Grants

ANZCA strongly supports research via the Anaesthesia and Pain Medicine Foundation, annually dedicating in excess of \$600,000 to research, a figure that is growing each year. Applications for the 2013 grant round close on April 1, 2012. Applicants are strongly advised to read the [ANZCA Research Grant Policy](#) before completing the application form. Applicants are required to obtain a **RegKey** before submitting an application. The conditions and rules set out in the application and guide are adhered to very strictly.

[Click here](#) for further information.

Australian and New Zealand Tripartite Anaesthetic Data Committee (ANZTADC)

At the suggestion of ANZCA Quality and Safety Committee, the Faculty supports reporting and including pain management-related complications and incidents, aimed at improving practice. The pathway for Fellows to notify such incidents will be investigated with ANZTADC and Fellows will be encouraged to submit data via WebAIRS, a web-based anaesthetic incident reporting system.

Medical board request

The Medical Board of Australia is writing to doctors with specialist recognition asking them to correct any errors in their specialist registration entry. ANZCA and FPM Fellows are urged to respond, as the specialists register will eventually be used as a resource by Medicare Australia. Fellows can check their own entry at www.ahpra.gov.au.

Targin listed on PBS

A new drug, marketed as Targin®, which treats chronic severe disabling pain and opioid-associated constipation, has been listed by the Australian government on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme from December 1. Targin is a combination of controlled-release oxycodone (Oxycontin) and controlled-release naloxone and has been listed following representations by PainAustralia, supported by the Faculty of Pain Medicine.



Therapeutic Goods Administration to cancel prescription pain-killers

All pain-killers containing dextropropoxyphene - Capadex, Di-Gesic, Doloxene and Paradex will be removed from the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) by the Therapeutic Goods Administration from 1 March 2012.

More information is available [here](#).

Would you like to be a reviewer for Pain Medicine?

"Our" journal is always on the lookout for reviewers, especially those hungry for academic activity. Yes, reviewing can be time-consuming, especially if you like to add value in your feedback to the editors and authors, but it is also rewarding in terms of keeping up-to-date, generating ideas and gaining insights. Through reviewing (as well as contributing), you may also influence the tone and direction of the journal. Many Fellows are valued reviewers and this is an opportunity for you also to indicate whether you would like to continue. The journal has a number of sections and you may care to nominate in which if these you would like to be involved.



Please contact Milton Cohen if you are interested or would like to know more.
E: M.Cohen@unsw.edu.au; M:0414914538.

Continuing Professional Development

Inaugural Victorian Regional Committee meeting - "Central sensitisation: A medico-legal conundrum"

The inaugural educational meeting of the Victorian Fellows of the Faculty of Pain Medicine was held at ANZCA House on Wednesday December 14. The meeting was opened by Dr David Jones (from across the 'ditch') and was organised by Associate Professor George Mendelson. Speakers for the evening were Assoc Prof Mendelson, Professor Rob Helme, who led us down memory lane with a discussion of the past and present science as it applies to central sensitisation, Dr Tissa Wijaratne who described the clinical application of QST testing in the diagnosis of central sensitisation, Dr Carolyn Arnold who provided us with a case study of a patient who faced these very medico-legal challenges and Mr Paul Mulvany, a solicitor with Shine Lawyers, who provided some legal commentary on proceedings.

This was followed by some Christmas cheer in the College foyer where discussion provoked by the meeting continued, in an informal setting with drinks and canapes.

ANZCA Foundation Teacher Course

In 2012, three Foundation Teacher Courses will be delivered in Australia and New Zealand.

The aim of the course is to equip participants with the knowledge, skills and professional behaviours fundamental to teaching ANZCA trainees effectively. The focus will be promoting the application of core teaching skills to the clinical environment.



By the end of the two and a half day course participants will have:

- applied an understanding of theoretical perspectives on learning and teaching to your own context;
- used a structured plan for teaching and learning in a variety of contexts demonstrating learner centred principles and practiced preparing learning objectives;
- provided constructive feedback to enhance learning in the workshop setting;
- demonstrated effective teaching practices and the ability to reflect constructively on teaching performance of yourself and others;

- compared and contrasted individual perspectives on teaching and learning within the group

In 2012 it is provisionally confirmed that the courses will be held in South Australia, Queensland and Wellington, New Zealand.

We are seeking expressions of interest from those Fellows who would be interested in participating in the Foundation Course in 2012. Before applying, please review the aims and objectives carefully to ensure you can make an informed choice regarding the suitability of the course for your needs.

Please note that there is no cost for participating in the course however, participants will be required to pay any expenses they incur in attending. For further information please contact education@anzca.edu.au.

Test pilots wanted – are you ready to further your learning and development skills?

Since 2010 the Education Development Unit has conducted six, two and a half day face-to-face Foundation Teacher Courses. In mid October 2011 a pilot Online Foundation Teacher Course was launched. The Online course has identical aims and objectives as the face-to-face course. Currently we have 36 participants involved in the three pilot modules currently available.

This pilot course provides a rich environment where learning is a combination of self direction and group participation. The philosophy of the course is based on: adult learning principles, learner centeredness, active learning with reflection, and teaching in the clinical environment. Sociability as a medium to share learning experiences and resources is promoted.

As such, it mirrors the face to face version in terms of content and outcomes.

We would like to invite further participants to provide feedback on usability, navigability, content acceptance and interactivity with online activities.

Module 2 - Planning Effective Teaching and Learning, has recently gone live. An additional two modules - Interactive Teaching and Learning and Teaching in Context will be completed for the pilot between November and March 2012 in readiness for the launch of the online course at the ASM in Perth, May 2012.

Please email education@anzca.edu.au or call 03 8517 5361 to register your interest.

New Fellows' Conference 2012

Team Leadership

Date: May 9-11, 2012

Venue: Seashells Caves House, Yallingup, WA

Dr Simon Tame, FANZCA, FPPMANZCA (NSW) was confirmed as a FPM nominee to the 2012 New Fellows' Conference at Yallingup, WA, May 9-11, 2012

2012 Refresher Course Day and Faculty Dinner: 'Measuring Outcomes in Pain Medicine'

Registration is now open for the 2012 RPM Refresher Course Day and Faculty Dinner to be held on 11 May 2012, in conjunction with the 2012 ANZCA/FPM Annual Scientific Meeting in Perth.

For further details contact the Faculty office or visit our [website](#) to download the registration brochure.

2012 ANZCA & FPM Annual Scientific Meeting Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre May 12-16, 2012

Abstract submissions are now open! All authors are requested to submit their abstracts in electronic format online at www.anzca2012.com by 5pm (WST) on February 10, 2012. To ensure abstracts are included in the final program, please register for the ASM 2012 by March 23, 2012 (close of early-bird registrations).

For further information and regular updates, please visit the [website](#).

2015 Annual Scientific Meeting – Adelaide

Dr Gary Clothier has been confirmed as the FPM 2015 Scientific Convenor.

Participating colleges' Annual Scientific Meetings:

Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP)

Brisbane 6 – 9 May 2012

Theme: Future Directions in Health

[Website](#)

Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS)

Malaysia 6-10 May 2012

Theme: The Making of a Surgeon

[Website](#)

Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine (RACP)

Melbourne 16 - 19 May 2012

Theme: Innovations in NeuroRehabilitation

[Website](#)



Royal Australian & New Zealand College of Psychiatry (RANZCP)
Tasmania 20 – 24 May 2012
Theme: Cells, Circuits & Syndromes
[Website](#)

Perioperative/Acute Pain SIG Meeting
Byron Bay 27 – 29 July 2012

External Events

Inclusion is for information only and does not imply endorsement

Pelvic & Perineal Pain: Consensus on Disease Identity

A scientific meeting organised by the Women's Health and Research Institute of Australia, in conjunction with the University of New South Wales, School of Women's & Children's Health.
Date: February 4, 2012
Venue: Mathews Auditorium, University of New South Wales, Sydney

[Click here](#) for further information.

Australian Pain Society – Acute Pain Day

Date: 1 April 2012
Venue: Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

The Acute Pain Day will explore the APS ASM them of "Integrated Perspectives of Pain".

[Click here](#) for further information.



Australian Pain Society - 32nd Annual Scientific Meeting

Integrated Perspectives of Pain - People, Policies, Science, Education
Date: April 1-4, 2012.
Venue: Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

[Click here](#) for further information.

13th ICCVA/NZ Anaesthesia ASM 2012

Theme: What becomes of the broken-hearted? Outcomes and how to change them
Date: November 14-17, 2012
Venue: SKYCITY Convention Centre, Auckland
Contact: Megan O'Brien
Tel: +64 3 379 0390
Email: megan@conference.co.nz
Web: <http://www.iccva2012.com/>



The 13th International Congress of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Anesthesia is being jointly hosted by the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists and the New Zealand Society of Anaesthetists with support from the Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists. The meeting will be combined with the New Zealand Anaesthesia Annual Scientific Meeting.

2nd International Multidisciplinary Forum on Palliative Care

Date: 22 – 25 November, 2012
Venue: Florence, Italy

[Click here](#) for further information.

Resources

Inclusion is for information only and does not imply endorsement

Online Course in Pain Medicine

Elementsofpain.com is an online resource aimed at furthering education in pain medicine, and may assist FPM trainees preparing for their examination. The site includes reading material and video presentations for each topic. Current topics include:

- definitions of pain
- history & examination - an overview
- 'The History'

[Click here](#) to visit the website.



The following articles may be of interest to trainees and Fellows:





[Yoga for chronic low back pain: a randomized trial.](#)

Tilbrook HE, et al, Annals of Internal Medicine. 2011 Nov 1;155(9):569-78.

Conclusion: Offering a 12-week yoga program to adults with chronic or recurrent low back pain led to greater improvements in back function than did usual care.

[NCAPOP: First National Pain Audit reports](#)

First National Pain Audit finds many people across England and Wales have no access to specialist pain services. Dr Foster Intelligence and the British Pain Society have, for the first time, audited the availability of specialist centres for the diagnosis and management of complex chronic pain disorders. The three year study was commissioned by the Health Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) in September 2009 and has a year left to run.

The National Pain Audit aims to improve information on and awareness of pain services in England and Wales for patients with chronic pain. Prior to this audit, little has been known of the population served, the services offered and outcomes from them. The audit also aims to improve the quality and effectiveness of care by measuring services against established national standards.

Communications

Media news

December 11: The red tape is hurting those who need us the most – [The Sunday Age](#)

December 7: Woman died of suspected overdose from pain-relief patch – [Dominion Post](#)

November 20: Foreign doctors' obstacle course 'a disgrace' – [The Sunday Age](#) (in-depth feature)

November 16: Painkiller deaths on the rise – [Herald Sun](#)

November 14: Melbourne pain specialist Dr Malcolm Hogg discusses pain – [774 ABC Melbourne](#)

November 14: Talk therapy by phone may ease fibromyalgia: study – [reutershealth.com](#)

November 13: Medical researchers close to cracking pain code – [Sunday News](#)

October 31: SA Professor Lorimer Moseley discusses chronic pain – [774 ABC Melbourne](#)

Positions vacant

To advertise your vacant position in pain medicine here, please [contact](#) us.

Christmas closure

The Faculty will be closed from 12.30pm Friday 23 December, re-opening Wednesday 4 January 2012.

Further College 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 painmed@anzca.edu.au.

Season's Greetings

Finally, the Faculty would like to send their best wishes for a safe and happy festive season and a thank you to the many Fellows who have contributed through their participation in Faculty activities during this very busy year.



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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