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MEASURING OUTCOMES IN PAIN MEDICINE

REFRESHER COURSE DAY
AND FACULTY DINNER
PARMELIA HILTON, PERTH
FRIDAY MAY 11, 2012

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.

2012 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. Ballot papers have been circulated to Fellows. The Ballot closes at 5pm on Wednesday 4 April 2012

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.

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

Relationships

FPM/RACGP online modular GP Education in Pain Management

A number of Faculty 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.

National Pain Strategy.

The second annual pain awareness week will be held 22-28 July 2012. It is designed to raise awareness about chronic pain and the challenges faced by people who experience pain every day of their lives. If you would like to be involved in National Pain Week activities in your area, please contact [Painaustralia](#).

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

Chronic Pain Outcomes Initiative

A consensus “minimum dataset” has now been agreed between FPM, the Australian Pain Society and New Zealand Pain Society. The next task involves development of a business case and lobbying of government for funding. Critical components will include funded data entry capacity at each participating site and also a central capacity to analyse data and provide six-monthly reports.

RACS pain medicine section

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) pain medicine section has been significantly involved in preparing and co-ordinating the scientific programs on pain medicine at the RACS annual scientific congress. Lectures include “Problems with peripheral nerve pain”, “International perspectives on pain management”, and a “Masterclass on post-hernia pain – from the operating room to the pain management clinic or courtroom?”

For further information on the RACS pain medicine section [click here](#).

For further information on the RACS annual scientific congress [click here](#).

Trainees

2012 examination

Examination dates

November 23-25, 2012 (Friday – Sunday)

The Auckland Regional Pain Service, Auckland NZ
Closing date for registration: October 5, 2012

FPM curriculum revision

The blueprinting curriculum revision process is proceeding according to schedule. A new curriculum framework has been developed by members of the Blueprinting Core Working Group for consideration. This proposed framework includes two streams of learning and assessment. These are:

1. A national centrally-run, quite structured training program, which includes some periodical face-to-face workshops, with monthly podcasts and webinars.
2. In-clinic training running alongside the central structured training program, continuing as it does now, with some improvement in the tools currently used.

A teleconference meeting of the core working group was held in mid-February and a face-to-face workshop with this group was run in Melbourne on February 28. The core working group (and later the Education Committee members) viewed the proposed new curriculum framework positively. At the workshop representatives from ANZCA and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) made presentations in relation to their large curriculum revision projects. At the conclusion of the workshop, it was decided that the director of professional affairs and the medical educator should further investigate some of the new approaches to learning and assessment being incorporated into the ANZCA and RANZCP curricula, which may be applicable to pain medicine. A report on what tools may be best used within the FPM program will be given in the blueprinting workshop to be run alongside the annual scientific meeting in May.

Training unit accreditations

Following a successful review, the Royal North Shore Hospital has been re-accredited for pain medicine training. After its initial review, Townsville Hospital has become an accredited training unit, bringing the number of accredited pain units to 27.

AFRM bi-national training program, 2012

The Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine (AFRM) is running a bi-national training program every month from February to November.

Content is delivered from varying locations and is accessed by videoconference sites around Australia and New Zealand.

The education series is aimed at trainees and Fellows, as well as any other interested health professionals. Each of the sessions addresses a pertinent topic in rehabilitation such as traumatic brain injury, pain management, cardiac and cancer rehabilitation, treatment of dementia and occupational rehabilitation.

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

Fellowship Affairs

New by examination:

Dr Chui Chin Chong, FANZCA (Western Australia)
Dr Symon Ross McCallum, FANZCA (Queensland)

Dr Timothy James Brake, FANZCA (Hong Kong)
Dr Luke John Murtagh, FANZCA (New South Wales)
Dr Richard Paul Sullivan, FANZCA (Victoria)
Dr Richard Martin Talbot, FANZCA (Victoria)
Dr Nathan Charles Taylor FANZCA (New South Wales)
Dr Kevin Young, FRACP (Victoria)

Director of professional affairs (DPA) report

Pharmaceutical drug misuse problems in Australia: Complex issues, balanced responses

The National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction has just released a review document as part of the process towards a National Pharmaceutical Drug Misuse Strategy. The Faculty, which was represented on the Project Consortium Group by Dr Penny Briscoe, made a comprehensive submission to this project. The review examines the extent and nature of the evidence base concerning this issue, in particular focusing on prescription opioids, benzodiazepines and codeine-containing analgesics. Part A describes in detail the nature of the problem, part B outlines key stakeholders, paradigms, strategies and activities underpinning this situation and any response to it, while part C discusses potential responses. Among other things, the review contains important discussion regarding the social determinants that impact not only on drug misuse but also on the experience of pain. It can be accessed through the NCETA website: www.nceta.flinders.edu.au.

Pain clinical updates, January 2012

Fellows and trainees who are members of the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP) - is there anyone who is not? - should have received this latest Pain Clinical Update written by John Loeser, a past-president of IASP. Professor Loeser identifies five "crises" in pain management: the lack of evidence for outcomes of most of the things providers do for patients; inadequate education of primary care providers regarding "pain"; the largely unknown place of opioid treatment for patients with chronic non-cancer pain; funding for the providers of pain management; and access to multidisciplinary care. Although written mainly about the scene in the United States, many of these themes will resonate with pain specialists in Australia and New Zealand.

Associate Professor Milton Cohen
FPM DPA

STP priority framework

Applications for the Australian government-funded Specialist Training Program (STP) are now open to eligible private hospital, community settings and rural, regional and remote hospitals, which can provide training for medical specialist trainees pursuing a recognised fellowship program. A total of 150 additional STP places across all specialties will be made available during this application round. Applications must be made directly to the Australian government Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) using the standard STP application form available on the DoHA website. Applications close on April 12, 2012.

Important: DoHA requires all applications for funding to include a letter of support from ANZCA (for anaesthesia training positions) or FPM (for pain medicine training positions). In order to facilitate this support, applications must be prepared in consultation with the College. Requests for support with the completed STP application form should be lodged with the ANZCA STP unit prior to March 19 so they can be assessed by the College as to their

suitability for funding.

Documents which might be useful for those not yet familiar with the process:

[STP priority framework 2013](#)

[STP 2013 application guide](#)



For further information, please contact:

DoHA Specialist Training Program, email specialist.training@health.gov.au

or

ANZCA STP Unit on 03 9510 6299 or stp@anzca.edu.au.

Doctors' health program funding

The Medical Board of Australia is inviting submissions regarding a proposal to develop the organisation and funding of doctors' health services to a more sophisticated and effective level. ANZCA and the FPM will make a joint submission.

This presents a very rare opportunity to bring about an important progress in the field of doctors' health, to be able to do more, more effectively, without continuing to rely only on the generosity and goodwill of volunteers, which has been the case to date. The profession now deserves a better level of service, to assist doctors who have difficulty to obtain good quality care. Funding by the profession, by a levy collected by the medical board along with registration fees, is considered preferable to funding by the health department, pharmaceutical industry, and other third parties who are not in a position to make the long-term commitment required.

Doctors' health services will still require that they be able to operate at "arms length" in relation to personal issues where this is professionally responsible, acknowledging the likelihood of financial reporting.

Please [click here](#) for further information.

It would be most helpful if you could submit your opinions as requested by the MBA, bearing in mind the closing date for submissions is **April 5, 2012**. Your assistance by encouraging colleagues to similarly submit responses would be appreciated.

Further enquiries can be addressed to Dr Frank New: frankjnew@gmail.com.

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.

As you are aware, the journal has a number of sections and you may care to nominate in which of these you would like to be involved.

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

Research

ANZCA research grants

A reminder that 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.

[Click here](#) for further information.

Pfizer Australia neuroscience research grants

The neuroscience research grants support and advance basic and clinical research. Applications are welcome for research into any aspect of cognitive decline, mood disorders or pain. The program



has been designed to promote excellence in medical research throughout Australia. It seeks to encourage and help develop the best of our young clinical researchers and extend Pfizer Australia's commitment and contribution to medicine and the health of our community. Applications close **May 11, 2012**.

[Click here](#) for further information.

Continuing Professional Development

Meetings and events

FPM events in 2012

2012 FPM Refresher Course Day and Faculty dinner: "Measuring outcomes in pain medicine"

The 2012 refresher theme is in keeping with the overall theme of the ASM – "Evolution: grow, develop, thrive". The program is designed to provide insights into the importance of outcome measurement in pain management, along with practical perspectives on setting up measurement systems and the particular outcomes that are of importance in different settings including palliative care, workers' compensation and interventional pain medicine.



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

2012 ANZCA and FPM annual scientific meeting Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre May12-16,2012

A reminder that early-bird registration for the ASM closes on March 23, 2012.



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

2012 Faculty of Pain Medicine Spring Meeting

Hyatt Regency Coolum, Sunshine Coast, Queensland

September 28-30

Dr Jerome Schofferman has been confirmed as the keynote speaker for this event.

For more information please visit the [website](#).

External Events

[Perioperative/Acute Pain SIG meeting](#)

Byron Bay July 27–29, 2012

“When worlds collide: Perioperative medicine – the new specialty on the block?”

Participating colleges’ annual scientific meetings:

[Royal Australasian College of Physicians \(RACP\)](#)

Brisbane May 6–9, 2012

Theme: “Future directions in health congress 2012”

[Royal Australasian College of Surgeons \(RACS\)](#)

Malaysia May 6-10, 2012

Theme: “The making of a surgeon”

[Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine \(AFRM\)](#)

Melbourne May 16-19, 2012

Theme: “Innovations in neurorehabilitation”

[Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatry \(RANZCP\)](#)

Tasmania May 20–24, 2012

Theme: “Cells, circuits and syndromes”

[ACHS education - Introduction to EQuIP and the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards](#)

This workshop is designed to give participants understanding of EQuIP5 process, cycle, and the structure: functions, standards and criteria – including the 15 mandatory criteria.

Date: Thursday March 22, 2012

Venue: Melbourne

[Australian Pain Society - Neuromodulation meeting pre-conference workshop](#)

Major theme will be “Headache and stimulation / DBS of the head”. Afternoon theme will be pelvic pain and incontinence.

Date: Sunday April 1, 2012

Venue: Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

[Australian Pain Society – acute pain day](#)

The acute pain day will explore the APS ASM theme of “Integrated Perspectives of Pain”.

Date: Sunday April 1, 2012



Venue: Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre



[Australian Pain Society - 32nd Annual Scientific Meeting](#)

“Integrated perspectives of pain - people, policies, science and education”

Date: April 1-4, 2012.

Venue: Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

[ACHS Education - Prevention and control of healthcare associated infection](#)

This workshop is designed to give participants an understanding of the intent and elements of the new National Safety and Quality Health Service Standard 3: Preventing and controlling healthcare associated infections, together with the intent and additional elements of EQUIP5 Criterion 1.5.2 / 1.3.2.

Date: Friday April 20, 2012

Venue: Melbourne

[National Medicines Symposium](#)

NMS brings together the partners to Australia’s National Medicines Policy along with international representatives to learn, discuss and debate contemporary quality use of medicines issues.

Date: May 24–25, 2012

Venue: Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre

[13th ICCVA/NZ Anaesthesia ASM 2012](#)

“What becomes of the broken-hearted? Outcomes and how to change them.” 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.

Date: November 14-17, 2012

Venue: SKYCITY Convention Centre, Auckland

Contact: Megan O’Brien

Tel: +64 3 379 0390

Email: megan@conference.co.nz

[International conferences in 2012](#)

August 27-31: 14th World Congress on Pain of the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP). Milano Convention Centre, Milan, Italy

[2nd International Multidisciplinary Forum on Palliative Care](#)

Date: November 22–25, 2012

Venue: Florence, Italy

Courses, workshops and podcasts

2012 FPM supervisor of training workshop

May 10, 2012, 1pm-5pm

This annual workshop will provide an excellent opportunity for FPM supervisors of training (SOTs) to interact, share stories and experiences and exchange ideas as well as highlight areas related to their portfolios as SOTs. This workshop also provides an opportunity to meet the Faculty’s requirements for workshop participation outlined in the SOT agreement and

SOTs are encouraged to attend.

For further information, contact [Jennah Collins](#), Administration Officer, Education and Research.

ANZCA Foundation Teacher Courses for 2012

In 2012, three Foundation Teacher Courses will be delivered in Australia and New Zealand. It has been provisionally confirmed that the courses will be held in South Australia, Queensland and Wellington, New Zealand. The Faculty encourages Fellows with an interest in teaching to attend.

The ANZCA teacher course is designed to support supervisors of training, module supervisors or anyone involved in the clinical teaching of ANZCA trainees. The aim of the foundation level course is to equip participants with the knowledge, skills and professional behaviours fundamental to teaching ANZCA trainees effectively. The course will focus on the application of core teaching skills to the clinical environment.

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.

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.

Communications

Pain medicine in the media

FPM has welcomed the Australian government's announcement of a national electronic system to track the prescribing of opioids. Real-time tracking of the prescribing and dispensing of opioids was a major recommendation of the prescription opioid policy released in 2009 by the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, to which FPM was a principal contributor.

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

Other media has included:

- A media release about the removal by the Therapeutic Goods Administration of four painkillers containing dextropropoxyphene.
- FPM Director of Professional Affairs, Associate Professor Milton Cohen, discussing the possible inadvertent extinguishment of empathy by doctors and other health professionals for chronic pain patients.

- ABC interviews with Royal Melbourne Hospital's head of pain services, Dr Malcolm Hogg, and Royal Melbourne Hospital Department of Medicine Professor and Epworth Hospital Neurologist Robert Helme on headaches and other pain issues.

FPM media

2012

February 17: [Chronic pain patients warned on drug withdrawal](#)

February 15: [Fewer deaths and overdoses to result from opioid tracking](#)

January 18: [Health professionals urged to have greater empathy for patients](#)

2011

December 24: [Professor Robert Helme discusses headaches and migraines on Melbourne's ABC 774](#)

[ANZCA Trials Group news](#)

ANZCA annual scientific meeting Perth May 12-16, 2012

The trials group will be holding its annual lunch time meeting on Sunday May 13, 2012 from 12-1pm, in room River View 4, level 2 Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. This meeting is open to all researchers, and their research co-ordinators, along with those interested in future research activity.

[ANZCA Trials Group Strategic Research Workshop, Palm Cove August 10-12, 2012](#)

Venue: Sea Temple Resort Palm Cove, Qld

Date: August 10-12, 2012

Further College news

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

ADVERTISEMENT

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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 and examination - an overview
- "The History"



Positions vacant

Townsville Health Service District – senior staff specialist or staff specialist (pain medicine)
Permanent full-time or permanent part-time, 40 hours per fortnight x 2 (1 FTE available)
For further information, please [click here](#).

To advertise a vacancy, please [contact us](#).

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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