

Report following the July meeting of the Faculty of Pain Medicine Board

The Faculty of Pain Medicine Board met on July 25, 2016 and welcomed the ANZCA President, Professor David A Scott and the ANZCA CEO, Mr John Illott, to the meeting.

The board also welcomed Professor Bruce Robinson, Chair of the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Review Taskforce and Chair of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). Professor Robinson addressed key areas of health care reform.

2016 FPM Board meeting dates:

Thursday September 15 (SA)

Monday November 14 (teleconference)

2017 FPM Board meeting dates:

Monday, February 13

Thursday, May 11

Monday, July 10

Thursday, September 21

Monday October 30

Honours, appointments and awards:

Professor David A Scott, FANZCA, FFPMANZCA, has been appointed clinical professor with the Melbourne Medical School, University of Melbourne. Professor Scott has been promoted from associate professor in recognition of his leadership and fostering of excellence in research, teaching and policy development in anaesthesia and pain medicine. The appointment also reflects Professor Scott's national and international reputation, and his innovative and distinguished contributions to research and scholarship.

Professor Michael Nicholas, PhD, FFPMANZCA has been elected to leadership of the IASP in the position of secretary from 2016-2018.

Professor Maree Smith, PhD, FFPMANZCA recently joined an elite group of scientists when she received the Clunies Ross Knowledge Commercialisation Award 2016.

Build Fellowship and the Faculty

Corporate affairs

Enhancing efficiency and communication within the Faculty's structure: The board discussed potential committee realignment and the proposal to form an FPM Professional Affairs Executive Committee that would support professional standards, scientific meetings and research and innovation committees. In realigning committee structures there is an opportunity to engage a greater number of the fellowship, and particularly younger Fellows, in the work of the Faculty.

ANZCA Professional Document PS62: Statement on Cultural Competence: The board approved the newly developed ANZCA professional document [PS62 Statement on Cultural Competence](#) and accompanying background paper for publication on the FPM website for a 12-month pilot period.

Assessor

New Fellows: The following are to be congratulated on their admission to FPM fellowship by training and examination:

Dr Khaldoon Alsaee, FRANZCP	Queensland
Dr Michael Bassett, FANZCA	Victoria
Dr Guy Buchanan, FANZCA	ACT
Dr Preshanthy Rajeepan, FAFRM (RACP)	NSW
Dr Anandhi Rangaswamy, FANZCA	ACT

Election to FPM fellowship: Dr Andrew Jeffreys, FANZCA, FPPMANZCA (Vic) was admitted to fellowship of the Faculty of Pain Medicine by election.

Revision to By-law 3: The FPM Board approved a minor change to by-law 3, [Admission to fellowship of the Faculty](#). An additional clause has been added requiring applicants for admission to fellowship by election to either show how they have already contributed to FPM or how they will contribute in the future.

Training unit accreditation: The Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, NSW and Austin Health, Victoria have been reaccredited for pain medicine training for five and three years respectively. The number of accredited pain units now stands at 33.

The board approved the withdrawal of accreditation for training in the core training stage from the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne.

New by-law and handbook for the accreditation of training units: The FPM Board approved [by-law 19, Accreditation of units offering training in pain medicine](#) and the [FPM accreditation handbook](#). Units can apply for an extension before they need to comply with the minimum staffing requirements set out in the by-law. These policies replace *PM02, Guidelines for Units Offering Training in Multidisciplinary Pain Medicine* which was retired. The policies were revised following a review and consultation process to bring the policy for the accreditation of training units in alignment with the 2015 training program.

Build the curriculum and knowledge

Education

2016 examination: Trainees may sit the fellowship examination in either the core training or practice development stage following completion of one long case assessment and two in-training assessments.

The written exam will be held across FPM regional and national offices on Friday November 4. The clinical exam will be held at the Australian Medical Council's National Test Centre in Melbourne on Saturday November 26. The closing date for registrations (written and clinical) is Friday September 30. To register, please complete the [application form](#).

Structured oral viva voce (SOV) and observed structured clinical examination (OSCE) [guidelines](#) have been developed to assist trainees in their preparations.

Learning and Development Committee: The ongoing support and evaluation of the training program continues to be carried out by the Learning and Development Committee.

The SOT Workshop was held in Auckland on May 3 in conjunction with the ANZCA Annual Scientific Meeting and chaired by Dr Meredith Craigie. The workshop focused on practice development stage (PDS) requirements and supervision, workplace-based assessment, forms and processes. SOTs were well engaged in the discussions which were ably facilitated by Maurice Hennessy, ANZCA's Learning and Development Facilitator. Continuing support for supervisors of training with contributions from Learning and Development Committee members is planned for the next half-day SOT Workshop at the Spring Meeting on September 16.

A successful Advanced Clinical Skills Course, convened by Dr Paul Wrigley, was held in Sydney on July 16 and 17 and was attended by 20 trainees. The Faculty would like to thank those who presented, including board member, Dr Newman Harris and FPM Director of Professional Affairs, Professor Milton Cohen. Other facilitators included Professor Mike Butler and Dr Damien Finnis.

Implementation of the FPM Curriculum Evaluation Strategy 2015-17 remains ongoing with support from the ANZCA Education unit.

Revisions to by-law 4 and the training handbook: The FPM Board approved minor updates to [by-law 4](#), [FPM Training Program](#) and the [training handbook](#). The policies were amended to reflect the recent committee restructure and introduction of the accreditation by-law and handbook.

FPM Better Pain Management education program: Progress with this initiative continues. Modules 7-12 are now complete and are now being loaded in Networks. Several organisations have recently made contact expressing interest from their membership in accessing the modules.

Opioid equi-analgesic dose calculator: The FPM Opioid Calculator smart phone app is available for downloading in both Apple and Android formats. There are now more than 10,100 unique users and more than 61,000 sessions. Development of a website to house the app is close to completion.

Continuing professional development

Scientific Meetings:

2016 Spring Meeting

September 16-18

Adelaide Hills Convention Centre, Hahndorf, SA

Title: "*Managing pain in the workplace*"

Convenor: Dr Dilip Kapur

2017 ASM and FPM Refresher Course Day

May 12-16 (ASM), May 12 (RCD)

Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Queensland

Title: "*Big Specifics*"

Convenor: Dr Kathleen Cooke, FANZCA, FFPMANZCA

2017 Spring Meeting

September 22-24

RACV Resort, Torquay Victoria

Convenor: Dr Jacquelyn Nash, FANZCA, FFPMANZCA

Medical Board of Australia registration standards: In February, the Medical Board of Australia announced changes to the mandatory Continuing Professional Development and Recency of Practice Registration Standards. They will come into effect from October 1, 2016. All medical practitioners must meet the minimum registration standards, including trainees in specialist training programs. The new standards can be viewed on the [MBA website](#).

Development of FPM position statement or policy around recency of practice: The board approved the development of a position statement or policy around recency of practice and the return to practice of a specialist pain medicine physician who has been absent for at least 12 months.

Graduate Outcomes Survey: The Graduate Outcomes Survey, circulated on June 6 to all new Fellows within three years of fellowship has just been completed and the response rate has been excellent. The FPM survey included FPPMANZCAs and those with dual fellowship. Most respondents completed the section on bullying, discrimination and sexual harassment. The results will be collated and inform our strategies in a number of areas.

Research

Electronic Persistent Pain Outcomes Collaboration (ePPOC): Progress continues with this initiative. There are 58 services which are either collecting data or in the process of implementing ePPOC. NSW Health has committed to fund ePPOC for another three years. Lobbying for a joint Commonwealth/state funding proposal is ongoing.

Pain Device Implant Registry: A briefing was held with the Department of Health, Canberra to discuss proposed governance arrangements, and to seek the additional funding needed to progress this initiative.

Build advocacy and access

Professional

National Prescribing Service – Choosing Wisely Survey: The Faculty has been keen to participate in this initiative of the National Prescribing Service designed to improve patient care. In concert with ANZCA, an FPM working group developed a short list of pain medicine-related practices which may have limited or no benefit to patients, or that may be potentially harmful and these were circulated in a survey to Fellows on June 30 to gauge the Fellows views on items for inclusion. The response rates have been good.

Painaustralia funding: FPM and ANZCA continue to provide support to Painaustralia both financially and through representation on the Clinical Advisory Group.

Notified Fellows' publications:

Professor Milton Cohen, FRACP, FPPMANZCA is associated with the following two publications:

- Eva Kosek, **Milton Cohen**, Ralf Baron, Gerald F. Gebhart, Juan-Antonio Mico, Andrew S.C. Rice, Winfried Rief, A. Kathleen Sluka. Do we need a third mechanistic descriptor for chronic pain states? Pain 2016;157:1382–1386

The publication can be viewed here:

http://journals.lww.com/pain/Citation/2016/07000/Do_we_need_a_third_mechanistic_descriptor_for.3.aspx

- Gabrielle Campbell, Raimondo Bruno, Nicholas Lintzeris, **Milton Cohen**, Suzanne Nielsen, Wayne Hall, Briony Larance, Richard P. Mattick, Fiona Blyth, Michael Farrell, Louisa Degenhardt. Defining problematic pharmaceutical opioid use among people prescribed opioids for chronic non-cancer pain: do different measures identify the same patients? Pain 2016; 157: 1489–1498

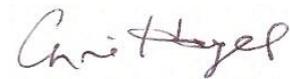
The publication can be viewed here:

http://journals.lww.com/pain/Citation/2016/07000/Defining_problematic_pharmaceutical_opioid_use.15.aspx

Submissions:

The Faculty contributed to the following submissions:

- NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation: Pain Clinic Tier Classification Hierarchy and Definitions.
- NPS MedicineWise: comment with respect to Fact sheets on Opioids for the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services.
- University of Qld, University of SA and PainAustralia submission to the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) supported by FPM: addressing the unmet clinical need in chronic pain prevention and management.
- Response to the Victorian Coroner regarding low dose ketamine infusion for chronic non-cancer pain.



Dr Chris Hayes
Dean, Faculty of Pain Medicine

August 5, 2016