

## FPM Board meeting | September 2024

This is a report following the FPM Board meeting held via Zoom on 15 September 2024.

### Governance

#### Board call for nomination and election

Fellows will be invited shortly to nominate for the FPM Board in accordance with [by-law 1](#).

Fellows considering nominating are encouraged to read the [Board Member Attributes](#) document and to contact the [FPM Dean Dr Dilip Kapur](#) or the Executive [Director FPM, Martina Otten](#) prior to nomination, to discuss the level of commitment and responsibilities associated with board membership. Further information about the upcoming call for the board nomination and election can be found on the [website](#).

#### Membership

Dr Debra Devonshire has been appointed the ANZCA councillor representative on the FPM Board. The faculty and board extend their appreciation to Dr Scott Ma for his wide-ranging contributions to the board during his tenure from 2022-2024

#### Risk register

The importance of a specific FPM risk register was highlighted at the recent board meeting. The Executive Director FPM, Martina Otten and the ANZCA Risk and Governance Manager, Andrew Tomaszewski, have developed a formal risk management framework for FPM which was accepted by the board.

#### FPM bylaws

Following the merging of [ANZCA regulations 30 and 31](#) which govern the reconsideration, review and appeal processes of the college, minor changes have been made to [FPM bylaws 3, 4, 19 and 20](#). Bylaw 13 "Appeals procedure" has been retired. The revised regulation 30 comes into effect from 1 December 2024. In addition, [bylaw 15](#) has been updated to ensure that candidates standing for election for regional and national committees of the faculty, are fellows of the faculty in good standing.

### Advocacy

#### ANZCA Te Tiriti o Waitangi Roadmap and cultural safety plan

The board supported the adoption of the ANZCA Te Tiriti o Waitangi Roadmap 2024-2028. The Te Tiriti Roadmap (2024-2028), a companion document to the Reconciliation Action Plan, documents, advocates for, and will maintain this progress. This first iteration (2024-2028) proposes specific, achievable, actions prioritised by Māori members of the Indigenous Health Committee, and informed by consultation with Māori fellows and trainees, members of MANA.

#### FPM communications plan

The board has approved a new FPM communications plan. In alignment with its goals, based on the FPM advocacy priorities, and in addition to its X social media presence, FPM will be launching a dedicated LinkedIn page ahead of the [FPM Spring Meeting](#).

This initiative marks the start of a more strategic and focused approach to enhancing the faculty's presence across key digital platforms. The new LinkedIn page will offer numerous benefits, including increased visibility, enhanced engagement, networking opportunities knowledge sharing and thought leadership.

Launching the LinkedIn page ahead of the Spring Meeting will help ensure that FPM is well-positioned to leverage these benefits and drive forward its communication and engagement goals.

## **Service delivery**

The continuing shortages of certain opioid medications in Australia remains a concern for both patients and fellows.

FPM continues to work with the Therapeutic Goods Administration, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) and the Federal Department of Health to highlight the difficulties this is causing across the sector.

Whilst the immediate problem relates to supplies of some opioids, there appears to be a broader problem relating to the priority that pharmaceutical companies consider when supplying markets in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific.

Unexpected shortages of a number of medications have been noted in recent years. Such shortages do not appear to occur in other geographical regions (particularly Europe and North America). The faculty has written to the Australian Health Minister Mark Butler emphasising the need for a long-term solution to the problems arising in this area.

## **Strategy**

### **FATES Project: Development of Flexible Accreditation Pathways for Pain Medicine Training in Rural Settings**

The “Development of Flexible Accreditation Pathways for Pain Medicine Training in Rural Settings” project funded by the Australian government’s Flexible Approach to Training in Expanded Settings (FATES) program is progressing well.

An initial survey drew over 60 responses from fellows. The consultancy employed to evaluate further options, Health Management Advisers (HMA) has been conducting interviews through focus groups and individual meetings to gauge more detailed opinions regarding future options.

### **Australian Standards for Health Practitioner Pain Management Education**

Further work continues on this major FPM project. Stakeholder consultation meetings are being held across Australian state capitals with the project management team analysing the outcome of these meetings through the remainder of the year.

### **Pain Device Implant Registry (PDIR)**

The faculty and the Neuromodulation Society of Australia and New Zealand (NSANZ) and Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI) have applied for a \$7 million project grant from the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) to develop a pain device implant registry.

If successful a governance committee will be formed that will include clinicians, industry and health insurance representatives, community members and one or more members from the Therapeutic Goods Administration. The application has been supported by multiple stakeholder groups across the pain management sphere, including consumers, private health insurers, industry, academia and other health provider peak bodies.

### **FPM Spring Meeting**

Fellows and trainees are encouraged to register to attend the 2024 Spring Meeting from 18-20 October 2024 at the Pullman Hotel in Auckland, New Zealand. The theme for this year’s meeting is “Collegial intelligence in pain medicine”.

A wide range of topics and discussions will be featured, with speakers sourced from neurology, neurosurgery, psychiatry, rheumatology, general surgery, gastroenterology, genetics and many more. There will be several fantastic workshops on offer to help you fulfill your emergency response continuing professional development (CPD) requirements.

The 2025 Spring Meeting will be held in Fremantle, WA from 24-26 October 2025.

## Professional Affairs

### Persistent pelvic pain position paper

The position paper on the “Management of Persistent Pelvic Pain” has been released for a six-month pilot.

Responses from professional and consumer groups have been largely positive. While some criticism has also been received, much of this appears to be related to misunderstandings of the contents and emphasis of the document.

Given that questions about the document may arise during patient consultations, advice regarding appropriate answers to [FAQs](#) has been shared with fellows.

### Submissions

The FPM Dean Dr Dilip Kapur and FPM DPA Professional Affairs Assoc Prof Mick Vagg provided a written submission to the Victorian Department of Health Inquiry into Women’s Pain on 29 July 2024.

### Procedures Endorsement Program

There has been a substantial increase in fellows applying for endorsement this year. There is now a total of 43 endorsed fellows, with another nine pending formal approval by the FPM Executive Committee. Eighteen endorsements have been completed during 2024.

### 2025 board meeting dates

- Sunday 23 February (Zoom)
- Sunday 13 April (F2F, Melbourne)
- Sunday 4 May (Annual Business Meeting, F2F Cairns)
- Thursday 15 May (New Board Meeting, via Zoom)
- Sunday 20 July (F2F, Melbourne)
- Sunday 21 September (Zoom)
- Wednesday 19 November (Zoom)
- Sunday 7 December (Zoom)