



**THE AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE
OF LEGAL MEDICINE**

About the College

Established in November 1995, the **Australasian College of Legal Medicine** provides a network for doctors and dentists:

- who have completed dual qualifications in law or forensics, and medicine or dentistry
- whose areas of practice are impacted on by the law
- who are undertaking training to gain both a basic and advanced understanding of the law as it applies to their practices for the benefit of their patients.

The term Legal Medicine represents four broad areas of medical practice; encapsulating the fields of Civil Legal Medicine, Criminal or Forensic Legal Medicine, Medical Ethics and medical practice areas affected by statute law, such as the Health Insurance Act, Trade Practices Act, etc.

Aim

ACLM aims to provide the medical profession and the community with a better understanding of the legal implications involved in the practice of medicine, as well as to provide unique medical and legal insight into many medical issues not available to non-dually qualified doctors or lawyers.

College Governance

The current College Council is made up of twelve members including the Office Bearers:

- **President** – Dr Adam Griffin
MBBS, MForensMed, FFCFM (RCPA), FACLM,
- **Vice President Academic** – Dr Phoebe-Anne Mainland
MBBS, MA (Medical Law & Ethics), FANZCA, FHKCA, FHKAM (Anaesthesiology), FACLM, MAE, CF
- **Vice President Administration** – Dr Michael O’Connor
AM, MD, MHL, MForensMed, DCH, DDU, FRCOG, FRANZCOG, FACLM
- **Censor in Chief** – Dr Selva Mudaliar
DSM, AMC, FAFRM (RCPA), FACLM
- **Treasurer** – Dr Donal Buchanan
MBBS, FRACGP, FACLM, FACBS, MPH, JD, LLM (Health Law)
- **Secretary** – Dr Shelley Robertson
MBBS LLB FRCPA DMJ(Path) FFFLM(RCP) FACLM DAvMed MHealSc FRAeS

The remaining five Council members are Professor Roy Beran, Dr Alexander Holden, Marnie Manning, Dr David Gorman and Dr Dion Suyapto.

Teaching Faculty

Professor Roy Beran and Professor John Devereux jointly hold the position of Heads of Teaching Faculty. Tutors for each course are selected by the Heads of Teaching Faculty according to the needs of the curriculum.

The following tutors are currently part of the ACLM Teaching Faculty:

- Dr Donal Buchanan – *MBBS, FRACGP, FACLM, MPH, JD*
- Professor John Devereux – *Doctor of Philosophy (University of Oxford), LLB (Hons), BA*
- Professor Roy Beran – *MBBS, MD, FRACP, FRACGP, Grad. Dip. Tertiary Ed., Grad. Dip. Further Ed., FAFPHM, FACLM, FRCP, FAAN, FACBS, B Leg. S, MHL and FFFLM (Hon)*
- Dr Phoebe-Anne Mainland – *MB BS, MA (Medical Law & Ethics), FANZCA, FHKCA, FHKAM (Anaesthesiology), FACLM, MAE, CF*
- A/Professor Sandra Johnson – *MBChB, D.Paed, FRACP, FRCPC, FACLM*
- Dr Adam Griffin – *MBBS, M.ForensMed, FACLM, FFCFM(RCPA)*

Courses

Law Intensive 1

Precursor to the Law Intensive 2.

The aim of this course is to give health care practitioners better understanding of the legal complexities that underpin clinical decisions and equip them with the basic knowledge of health law necessary to make sound clinical and management decisions consistent with good medical practice. The curriculum includes:

- Legal Framework of the Australian Health System
- Consent to Medical Treatment
- Medical Negligence
- Assisted Reproductive Technology
- Doctrine of Double Effect
- Confidentiality, Privacy and Medical Records
- Introduction to Forensic & Coronial Medicine

Law Intensive 2

This course focuses on principles that define the legal relationship between the patient and the health care professional and how these principles are applied by civil, criminal and disciplinary law in the context of clinical practice, with the aim of enhancing the care of patients. The curriculum includes:

- Common Law and Consent
- Consent and Children
- Trespass to the Person in Medical Cases
- Duty and Medical Negligence
- Breach of Duty and Medical Negligence
- Causation and Medical Negligence
- Vicarious Liability and Non-Delegable Duty
- Defences and Medical Negligence
- Regulation of Health Professionals – Disciplinary Law
- Withholding and Withdrawing Life Sustaining Measures

Law Intensives Format

Each topic is presented with a didactic lecture, followed by case studies and scenarios used for small breakout group work and discussion.

Expert Report Writing

Precursor to the Expert Witness Training.

This one-day course provides in-depth training on how to prepare a high quality medical expert report. The aim of this course is for participants to appreciate the essence and content of a good legal medicine report, and to evaluate and improve their skills to establish a high standard of report writing. The curriculum includes:

- **Legal Brief** – including opinion evidence, role of the expert, ultimate issue rule, confidentiality, consent, solicitor-client privilege, accepting instructions, expectations of counsel, codes of conduct and compliance
- **Preparation of Report** – including commissioning, accepting the brief, discussing terms and conditions, materials required, essential requirements, content & structure, form, and common pitfalls
- Highly interactive with breakout group work and Q&A discussions



Expert Witness Training

The aim of this course is for health care practitioners to develop the skills required to provide evidence to the Court as an expert witness. This two-day course introduces participants to all facets of expert witness training, including report writing and presenting such a report in court. The curriculum includes:

- Expectations of a witness from a Solicitor
- Expectations of a witness from a Barrister
- Expectations of a witness from a Judge
- Requirements of an Expert Witness
- Moot court

Format

Each participant is expected to submit a de-identified Court-ready report prior to attending. Reports are critically marked to provide advice as to how they can be improved and they serve as a basis to be led and cross-examined in a moot (mock trial) involving real lawyers and a judge in a courtroom environment.

The course begins with didactic lectures on the expectations of the legal team and requirements of an expert witness. The moot court follows.

The moot is based on the case reports/material submitted by each participant. Before each participant enters the witness stand they are asked to give an overview of the material facts of the case in which they are appearing as a witness, in order for the audience to understand the nature of the case. After each moot, the performance of the participant is openly discussed with all in the audience invited to comment and a summary given before the start of the next case.

Marked reports are returned to the participants upon completion of the course.



Cause of Death Certificate Workshop (QLD)

A one-day workshop event designed to improve the quality of death certification and enhance GP's understanding of their obligations relevant to the coronial jurisdiction. Students learn to differentiate between when a certificate can be issued where natural causes is the probable cause of death, and which deaths are to be reported to a coroner and how to do this. The curriculum includes:

- Reporting Cause of Death: the Legislation
- Guided Tour of the Cause of Death Certificate
- Workshops: Completing Cause of Death Certificates based on scenarios

Tailored teaching for Universities and other organisations

ACLM is uniquely positioned to educate medical and allied health colleagues in Legal and Forensic Medicine. ACLM has delivered Health Law lectures to first and second year medical students of the University of Sydney Medical School. Please contact us if you are interested in a similar service.

Annual Scientific Meetings

ACLM holds Annual Scientific Meetings to discuss a variety of Legal Medicine themes. The programs feature guest, College and open speakers, and there is an open call for papers in the months leading up to the ASM. These meetings are held in a different location each year.

The College Annual Awards Dinner is held in conjunction with this event.



Membership

ACLM offers five main types of membership: Fellow, Member, Associate, Affiliate, and free Student membership.

A Fellow is entitled to use the post-nominal FACLM, and to claim his or her membership of the College as having specialist knowledge and experience. A Member is entitled to use the post-nominal MACLM to signify membership of the College.

Visit our website for up to date information on the requirements of different levels of membership and the application process.

Benefits

- Opportunities to meet with like-minded professionals
- Discounted member prices for ACLM courses and events
- Receive a subscription to the Journal of Law and Medicine (published by ThomsonReuters- not applicable to Student members)
- Access to our Member Connect tool for networking with other members
- Access to members only content on our website, including Library and past College Newsletters
- Ability to contribute expertise through contributing articles for publishing in the College newsletter or online Library
- Unique opportunities with other organisations continually being investigated for our members

Exclusive to Fellows and Members:

- Recognition of specialist expertise in Legal Medicine
- Join ACLM's Expert Witness database



The Australasian College of Legal Medicine

PO Box 250, Corinda QLD 4075

+61 431 529 506

aclm9@legalmedicine.com.au

www.legalmedicine.com.au