

Experts in the Criminal Process

(continued from page 1)

exchange of insults between expert witnesses (Liars for Hire) and lawyers (Barrister comes between Bankrupt and Bastard in the OED). On a more serious note Prof Crane listed the qualities required by an expert witness as expertise, experience and the ability to form a clear, reasoned opinion. Experts should allow the court to make up its own mind when that is possible and that more use should be made of visual aids. His most disturbing anecdote concerned well-presented DNA evidence which he had been unable to follow, which indicated that it would also be beyond most members of the jury. Perhaps there is a need for greater simplicity and brevity in the evidence presented to a court.

The final speaker was Christiana Hayward, a solicitor who started off by asking us to remember that a criminal trial was about people – the victim and the defendant – it was not a point scoring game. This caused some resentment as it is lawyers rather than forensic scientists who indulge in this kind of behaviour. She gave some basic advice on the questions an expert should ask him or herself when approached by a lawyer. The paucity of legal aid funding has an adverse effect on expert evidence available to defendants who cannot afford to 'go private' although Ms Hayward's experience of the speed with which experts are paid seemed to be at variance with the views of practitioners in the audience.

The final session was a panel discussion involving three of the speakers and Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, Chairman of the Expert Witness Institute, in place of Lord Justice Auld. The major topics were the desirability of feedback from the court on the performance of expert witnesses, and the need for discussion between experts. The latter should be positively encouraged, or even enforced, as one judge present seemed to do. Overall, it was an interesting and enlightening day which set the CRFP in context even if it gave no further information about what will be expected of practitioners or how they will register. A further meeting next year has been suggested and this must start to tackle these practical issues.

Helen Hodgson

In January 2000, Helen Hodgson, the Membership Secretary, retired after working for the Society for ten years. Council marked the occasion by taking Helen, her husband Mike, and all the staff to dinner in Harrogate, and Helen was presented with a china dinner service and vouchers.

Most members will have spoken to Helen on the telephone and met her at conferences. She was always a kind and gentle link between the members and their Society.

In retirement, Helen was looking forward to spending more time with her family and grandchildren, all of whom live locally. She has a particular love of Devon where she visits regularly and hopes to escape some of the bitter Yorkshire weather.



The British Academy of Forensic Sciences

AGM & Dinner

1 June 2000 Royal Society of Medicine

5.30pm Tea 6.00pm AGM followed by

The Inaugural Ormrod Lecture

to be given by Roger Henderson QC

'Professional Self Regulation'

7.30 pm Dinner

Details and tickets from Sandra Dawson, BAFS,
PO Box 6314, Islington, London N1 0DL Tel: 0171 837 0069

INTERfaces is edited by Richard Forster and published by the Forensic Science Society. All correspondence should be sent to him at the Society's address:

18A Mount Parade, Harrogate, North Yorkshire,
United Kingdom HG1 1BX.

Society: Tel: +44 (0)1423 506068 Fax: +44 (0)1423 566391

Journal: Tel: +44 (0)1423 566973 Fax: +44 (0)1423 530948

E-mail: Jane@FSciSoc.demon.co.uk

<http://www.demon.co.uk/forensic>

REGISTERED CHARITY No. 209592

© Forensic Science Society 2000



*INTER*faces

A forum for forensic scientists and associated professionals

Number 22

April – June 2000

Experts in the Criminal Process

This joint meeting of the Council for the Registration of Forensic Practitioners (CRFP), The Expert Witness Institute and the Forensic Science Society was held at the Royal College of Physicians, London, on 18 April.

The meeting, which had been postponed from January, turned out to be well worth waiting for although it was probably a disappointment to those who expected to hear about CRFP and how practitioners would get onto the register. There were only four speakers, three lawyers and a pathologist – a scientist was a notable omission. It was significant, in the light of later discussion of how to make expert evidence accessible to juries, that only the pathologist used visual aids.

The meeting was opened by Charles Clarke MP, Minister of State at the Home Office. It was clear that the Government supported the establishment of CRFP and the introduction of the register. However they wished it to remain voluntary leaving the presiding judge as the final arbiter of who should be classified as an expert witness. Whilst Mr Clarke expected the register to be independent of the Government and self-financing he alluded to the prospect of further aid if it was required.

The first paper was presented by an academic lawyer, Prof John Spencer of Selwyn College, Cambridge. Prof Spencer suggested that there were a number of problems associated with expert witnesses in an adversarial system. These included, incompetence, bias, inequality of resources between the two sides and the ineptitude of the whole system. The last point was concerned with the way the adversarial process positively encouraged the magnification of any differences between opposing experts and made it much more difficult to discern the area of agreement. As an alternative Prof Spencer discussed the French system of court appointed experts. Inclusion on the list of experts is deemed an honour and these experts are neither witnesses nor judges but something in between. At least one appropriate expert is appointed when required by the evidence in a case and there is provision for a second opinion or even a panel of experts to review the evidence and conclusions reached. This seemed to Prof Spencer to be a superior system to that in the UK.

Here and in later discussions there was a strong lobby for court appointed and approved experts. As ever these seemed to ignore the role of a variety of forensic practitioners in the investigation of an incident, often before it was obvious that any crime had been committed and long before there was a suspect with interests to protect. One example which was quoted was the Confait case (a failure of forensic pathology) where, as often will be the case with a wrongful conviction, the accused does not even realise he or she has any interests to be protected until arrested. Whilst the concerns are understandable there seems to be a view prevalent amongst lawyers that all would be well if they ran and/or supervised everything.

Lord Justice Auld, who is conducting a review of criminal procedure, then followed. He discussed some of the issues that his review will be considering particularly as they affect expert witnesses. He asked rhetorically, why, if we have a criminal justice system, does it include a number of competing bodies. The answer is perhaps because the investigator, the prosecutor and the courts all have distinct roles which need to be kept apart. The effect of the European Convention on Human Rights on lay magistrates and the jury could have far reaching effects on the organisation of criminal justice in the UK. More radically, however, Lord Justice Auld also asked if we got the best out of expert witnesses in an adversarial system. He re-emphasised that the primary duty of all expert witnesses was to the court. He seemed to recognise that the court system was not user-friendly and that the laws of evidence were arcane and could prevent the court getting the best evidence. Lord Justice Auld's enquiry has already sought written evidence to which Norman Weston has collated a response on behalf of the Society and responded. If you have anything that you would like raised in future submissions please write to the Society office at Clarke House.

Prof Jack Crane, the State Pathologist from Northern Ireland, opened the afternoon's proceedings with an

Continued on back page

INTERfaces is SPONSORED BY FOSTER + FREEMAN
improving the quality of forensic evidence

A plea from the Editor

The Assistant Editor, Jane, has now informed me that the *INTERfaces* cupboard is bare, so in time for the next edition of *INTERfaces* I would like to be deluged with articles. Anything will be considered but certain things are topical and I would like to stimulate some informed debate on the following subjects.

Registration of Forensic Practitioners

Bayesian approach to forensic interpretation

Interesting case studies/novel techniques

“A day in the life of...”

The future ...

Reflections on days gone by

Richard Forster, Editor

40th Anniversary Meeting, 1999

The second issue of *Science & Justice*, volume 40, contains the complete proceedings of the 40th Anniversary Meeting and AGM of the Forensic Science Society, held in Nottingham, England, November 1999. The Editor is pleased to reproduce a few more photographs taken at the meeting, and we are hoping to have a display of photographs at our Summer Meeting in York, 2000.



Professor Pierre Margot and Ingrid Margot.
Professor Margot gave the 1999 Firth
Memorial Lecture on 'Time'.



Viv and Myra Emerson. Viv is chairman of the
Society's Publications Committee.



Left to Right: Dr Janet Thompson, Professor Pierre Margot,
Dr Norman Weston and Dr Stuart Kind.

Sponsorship to attend Society Summer Conference, York, 7-9 July 2000

This year we have received a grant from the DTI (Promoting Science, Engineering and Technology for Women) to pay for women wishing to attend the Summer Meeting in York, which is on the subject of Murder and Rape Investigation.

The grants of around £165 will cover the weekend package together with some travel expenses. They are available firstly to women on a career break, or returners after having a family, and are restricted to UK residents. Members and non-members can apply. There is no age limit and applications must be received before 26th May 2000.

Successful applicants will be expected to write a short report and also register their names with organisations like Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) and the Association for Women in Science and Engineering (AWiSE) which take a proactive approach to careers talks and promotion of science and engineering to women [<http://www.awise.org>].

The theme of the conference is of interest to anyone working in the criminal justice system and its title 'Death and the Maiden' reflects the weekend's topics of rape and murder investigation.

A provisional programme is reproduced below and registration forms have been sent out by the Society with the May mailing.

Friday 7 July

Robert Forrest and Dave Ossleton – Date Rape Drugs
Mary Newton – Sexual Offences Kit
Monica Brown – American Case – rape and murder
Andy Wade – TBA

Saturday 8 July

Anne Davies and Kim Rossmo – Offender and geographical profiling
Ian Pretty – Odontology, bitemarks and sexual assault
Dave Pryor – Two innocents and a car: Firearms evidence in London murder investigation.

Callum Sutherland – Murder, rape and earprint evidence
D.I. Young and Suzanne Chapman – Dead man talking: interagency cooperation in identification of a body
P Balmbro, D Lewin and A Holman – Who killed Avril Dunn?

Sunday 9 July

Russell Stockdale, Jeremy Paine, } The Billie-Jo Jenkins
Adrian Wain and John McAughay } Case

Society Conference, Amsterdam, April 2001

The President is pleased to announce that the Society will be hosting a conference in Amsterdam in 2001. The theme of the conference is **European Connections**, and we have applied for funding from the Grotius Programme of the European Union. A call for papers has been issued and we are particularly keen to hear from speakers from laboratories around Europe.

"It is never right to do wrong or to requite wrong with wrong, or even when we suffer evil to defend ourselves by doing evil in return"

Socrates 469-399BC

Solution to Crossword No.17



Seven correct entries were received for this crossword. The winner of *Memories of a Northamptonshire Police Surgeon*, by Dr Hugh de la Haye Davies is Mr Trevor Wykes, Surrey. Congratulations!

INTERfaces Quick Quiz (No. 1)

- Q1. If you threw a 3 and a 2 at the start of a game of Monopoly, where would you land? (British version-sorry!)
- Q.2 What is the next number in the series 9 11 25 123?
- Q.3. What would a cruciverbalist enjoy doing?
- Q4. Which word with no vowel means to kill illegally by mob action?
- Q.5. Which British bank, associated with Nick Leeson, collapsed in February 1995?
- Q.6. What are deuteranopia, protanopia and tritanopia forms of?
- Q.7. What is the name of the tiny island in the North Atlantic annexed to Britain in 1955?
- Q.8. What name is given to Beethoven's 5th piano concerto?
- Q.9. From whose head did William Tell shoot an apple?
- Q.10. Who crowned Napoleon at his coronation?

All correct solutions will be entered for the prize draw to be held on 1 June 2000 and the winner receives a copy of *The Sceptical Witness* by Stuart Kind.

The Sceptical Witness

Members of the Society are reminded that copies of *The Sceptical Witness* by Stuart Kind are available from the Society, price £19.99 plus postage and packing. We will also be taking copies to our conferences in York (July) and Bromsgrove (November), where you can pick one up and not have to pay the postage. Advance orders for signed copies to be collected at these conferences can be made by contacting the Society office.

new millennium new VSC

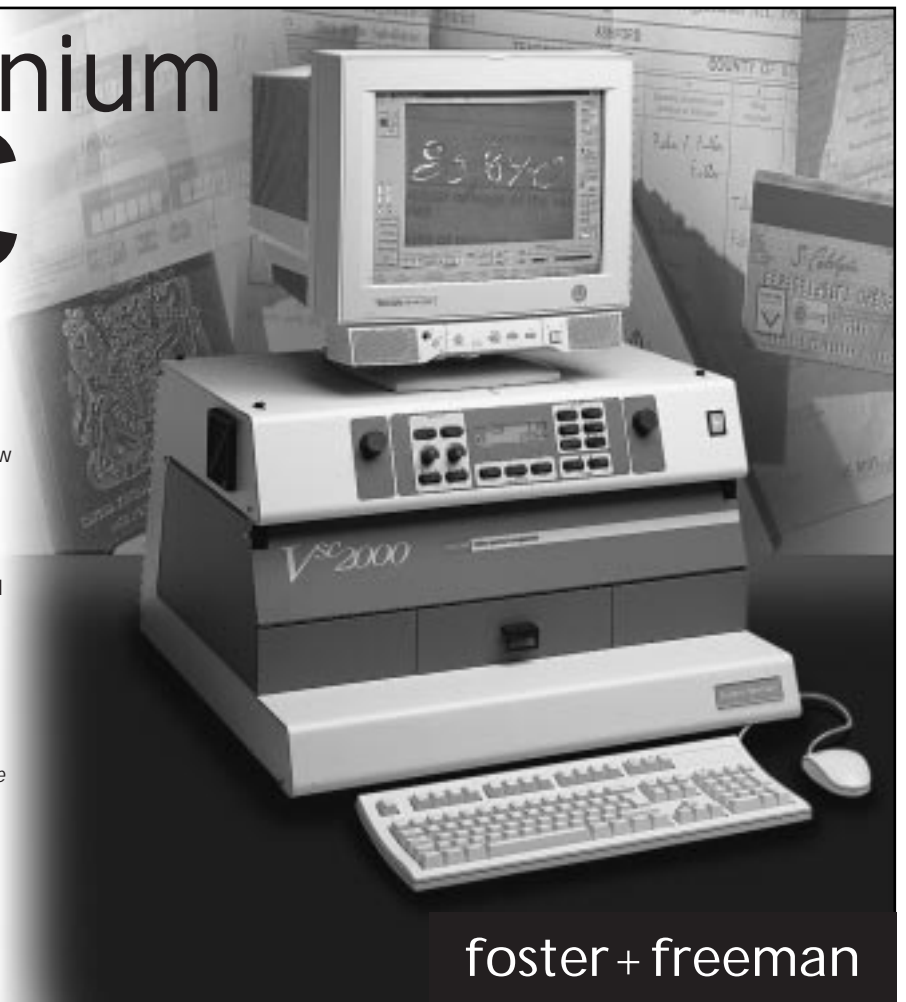
Powerful new analytical features and automation are highlights of the VSC2000 - the next generation of document examination workstations from Foster & Freeman.

Microspectrometry, colour imaging, colour coordinate measurement and CIE chromaticity charting are just a few features of the new VSC2000 which enable the user to build a more precise spectral description of a document for record or comparison.

And, because it's entirely engineered with digital control systems, the VSC2000 offers a new concept in infrared document examination - *automation* - a facility with the potential to save time and prevent vital evidence from being overlooked.

For further details or an opportunity to fully explore the new features of the VSC2000 in your own laboratory please contact either our Technical Sales Team or our web site at - <http://www.fosterfreeman.co.uk>

Foster & Freeman Ltd, 25 Swan Lane, Evesham, Worcs.
WR11 4PE, U.K.
Tel: +44 (0) 1386 41061. Fax: +44 (0) 1386 765351.
e-mail: sales@fosterfreeman.co.uk



foster + freeman

World List of Forensic Science Laboratories and Practices (9th ed.)

New members of the Society who are wondering why they haven't received a copy of the World List may like to know that we are changing the way that we provide this information and in the meantime have completely run out of copies of the 8th Edition.

Plans are afoot to put the updated World List on the Society web site and give password access to members. This involves changing the constitution of the Society to enable members to receive this information on request.

It is more than likely that the same information will be available on CD-rom in an Acrobat format. I would be particularly interested to hear from those members who want to receive their World List as a book or printout rather than the above formats, because it is very difficult for us in the office to gauge the demand for books when in the past all our members have received a list, whether they wanted one or not.

Jane Cross, Assistant Editor

Indemnity Insurance

During the President's visits to the Scottish forensic laboratories the question arose as to whether the Society should explore the provision of Professional Indemnity Insurance for its members. At the meeting of Council in March it was stated that, although for the medical profession there was collective indemnity insurance, the medical profession were advising all their members to take out individual professional indemnity policies. It appears that, for those who work in large organisations, individual members had not been given the insurance support that they needed when a situation requiring the collective insurance had been requested. This may be a problem for many members of the Society. Will those of you who are worried about this situation please contact the Society so that we can identify any need? If this becomes apparent then we will approach insurance companies on your behalf to see if we can find a good deal. Remember it is you who gives the evidence and not your organisation.

Brian Caddy, President

Meetings

31 May–2 June 2000. DNA Forensics, Springfield, Virginia. Contact Cambridge Healthtech Inst, 1037 Chestnut St, Newton Upper Falls, MA 02464, <http://www.healthtech.com/conference/00fdx>

1 June 2000. The British Academy of Forensic Sciences AGM & Dinner, Royal Society of Medicine, 5.30pm. AGM followed by, The Inaugural Ormrod Lecture to be given by Roger Henderson QC, 'Professional Self Regulation'. 7.30 pm Dinner. Details and tickets from Sandra Dawson, BAFS, PO Box 6314, Islington, London N1 0DL Tel: 0171 837 0069

4–9 June 2000. Summer Institute in Forensic Science. Hosted by Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Carleton University. For forensic scientists, pathologists, peace officers, members of the legal community, police identification officers and crime scene investigators. Contact School of Continuing Education, Carleton University, Room 302 Robertson Hall, 1125 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa, ON K1S 5B6. Tel (613) 520-3500 Fax (613) 520 3502 bernadette_landry@carleton.ca <http://www.carleton.ca/forensics/School of Continuing Education>

13–16 June 2000. 30th International Symposium on Environmental Analytical Chemistry, and short course on 'Emission Measurement'. Espoo, Helsinki, Finland. Contact IAEAC, Mrs M Frei-Hausler, PO Box 46, CH-4123 Allschwil 2-Switzerland. E-mail iaeacmfrei@access.ch

23–25 June 2000. WPA thematic conference Legal and Forensic Psychiatry. Includes CME course 25-27 June. Madrid, Spain. E-mail forensic@tilesa.es

26–29 June 2000. 27th Annual Summer School in Practical Interpretation of Mass Spectra. 26-28 June, EI and CI spectra. 28–29 June, CAD spectra. University of Manchester Inst of Science and Technology. Contact, Janine Flanagan, Michael Barber Centre for Mass Spec, Dept of Chemistry, PO Box 88, Manchester M60 1QD. E-mail janine.flanagan@umist.ac.uk

7–9 July 2000. Summer Meeting of the Forensic Science Society. 'Death and the Maiden' – murder and rape investigation. College of Ripon and York St John, York. Contact Celia Lloyd, Forensic Science Society, Clarke House, 18A Mount Parade, Harrogate, HG1 1BX. Tel: 01423 506068. E-mail Celia@fscisoc.demon.co.uk

31 July to 5 August 2000. 5th European Workshop in Forensic Anthropology. Montpellier, France. General osteology, field techniques, racial differences, stature, sexing, subadult age at death, adult age (Suchey Brooks System, Iscan method, dental method of Lamendin, microscoping aging), forensic odontology, DNA and identification, facial reconstitution, positive ID and many case studies. Contact: Pr. E. Baccino - Service de Medecine Legale - C.H.R.U. Lapeyronie - 34295 Montpellier cedex 5 - France - Tel : 04-67-33-85-86 - Fax : 04-67-33-89-91 E-mail: e-baccino@chu-montpellier.fr

13–17 August 2000. 36th TIAFT/SOFT annual meeting Helsinki, Finland. Contact: Vina Spiehler, SOFT/TIAFT 2000, 422 Tustin Avenue, Newport Beach CA 92663, USA. spiehleraa@aol.com

16–20 August 2000. 5th International Conference in Clinical Forensic Medicine of the World Police Medical Officers. WPMO 2000, 568-999 Canada Po, Vancouver, BC, Canada, V6C 3E1.

3–8 September 2000. ICHC 2000, understanding biocomplexity: the post-genome challenge. University of York. Contact: Royal Microscopical Society, 37/38 St Clements, Oxford, OX4 1AJ, UK. rebecca@rms.org.uk Details from web site at: www.rms.org.uk

12–16 September 2000. Second European Academy of Forensic Science Meeting, Cracow, Poland. Contact Cracow 2000, Institute of Forensic Research, ul. Westerplatte 9, Cracow, PO 31-033, Poland. E-mail seafsm@ies.krakow.poznan.pl www.ies.krakow.poznan.pl/seafsm

October 2–6 2000. Society of Forensic Toxicologists Annual Meeting SOFT 2000 Hyatt Regency Milwaukee, WI. Meeting Co-Chairs: Steven Wong, Ph.D. Susan Gock, M.S. Phone: 414-223-1227 Phone: 414-223-1228 Fax: 414-223-1237 Fax: 414-223-1237 E-mail: shwong@mcw.edu E-mail: ssgoc@aol.com www.soft-tox.org Meeting registration packet can be downloaded from the SOFT Website.

13–14 October 2000. Joint Meeting. Association of Police Surgeons Autumn Symposium and Section Meeting of Clinical Forensic and Legal Medicine of the Royal Society of Medicine will be held at the Stakis Hotel, York. Conveners: Dr Vicki Evans and Dr Janet Napier.

16–21 Sept 2001 7th Indo-Pacific Congress on Legal Medicine and Forensic Science, Melbourne, Australia. E-mail: P.Williams@latrobe.edu.au <http://vifp.monash.edu.au/inpalms2001>

1–7 September 2002 16th meeting of the International Association of Forensic Sciences. Convention Center Le Corum, Montpellier, France. Contact: Societe Internationale de Congres et Services, 337, rue de la Combe Caude, 34090 Montpellier, France. Tel +33 (0)4 67 63 53 40. Fax +33 (0)4 67 41 94 27. E-mail algcsi@mnet.fr

Courses

17–21 July 2000. Identification of Woods. Contact Dr D Catling, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Durham, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE.

24–26 July 2000. Identification of Plant Fibres. Contact as above.

3–6 September 2000. 15th Fire Science and Fire Investigation Short Course. Edinburgh, Scotland. Includes option of Accreditation by the Institution of Fire Engineers (7–8 Sept). Office of Lifelong Learning, The University of Edinburgh, 11 Buccleuch Po, Edinburgh, EH8 9LW. Tel +44 (0)131 651 1180 Fax +44 (0)131 651 1746. E-mail lisa.ellis@ed.ac.uk

Web site address change

We are changing our online address to Forensic-Science-Society.org.uk. E-mails will still reach us at the old 'FSciSoc' address but our new web site address becomes www.Forensic-Science-Society.org.uk. This will not happen overnight, but if you cannot find the web site, please send me an E-mail at jane@fscisoc.demon.co.uk.

Careers Information

Every year the Society receives thousands of enquiries about careers in forensic science. Understandably, the amount of information that the office has been able to provide is limited by time and cost. Therefore, we would like to make more use of our web site to provide careers information and now request the help of members to this end.

Budding authors are required to write 250 words on their own job description. Something along the lines of: Job title: necessary qualifications; job description. We would particularly like contributions from the more unusual forensic 'disciplines' and also SOCOs in all areas of the country.

This information will be placed on our web site to assist those investigating careers in forensic science. I am very grateful for all help and look forward to floods of information. Write to Jane@fscisoc.demon.co.uk or Society address.

We also need the names of members around the country who would be prepared to talk to learned societies and other organisations about their field of expertise and particularly careers in forensic science and the police, and scenes of crime departments. This can be valuable experience and a real confidence boost to those who expect to give evidence in court occasionally.

Help the Society to help you

DEEDS OF COVENANT/GIFT AID NEW LEGISLATION

In 1999 the Society received £2,207.99 in tax reclaimed from membership subscriptions paid under Deeds of Covenant. It is important for the society to maintain this source of income to enable subscription rates to be held at reasonable levels. The Chancellor of the Exchequer's new proposals aim to simplify and modernise the tax system for charities with effect from 6 April 2000. It is no longer necessary to provide a deed of covenant for the Society to continue to claim tax. Instead it will be necessary for members to complete a Declaration Form giving the Society permission to treat any subscription payments as Gift Aid donations.

If you:

- pay an amount of UK income tax or capital gains tax equal to the tax the Society reclaims on your membership subscription (28p for every £1 you give)

and you do not:

- reclaim your subscription fee from your employer or
- declare your subscription fee as an expense on your tax return

then you can help by providing a Declaration Form enabling the Society to reclaim £12.32 on the full membership subscription of £44.00 at no extra cost to yourself.

Blue Declaration forms are enclosed with this mailing. Please return the signed form to Christine Houseman at Clarke House, 18a Mount Parade, Harrogate, HG1 1BX.

Association of Police Surgeons forms new company

The Association of Police Surgeons has come of age. It exists in order to promote excellence in the field of clinical forensic medicine. It is concerned with education, training and research, as well as representing its members in negotiating for fees and working conditions. It is also working towards a 'European' mono-speciality together with the European Council of Legal Medicine (ECLM). However, as a result of a changing market in which police forces are seeking to cut the cost of providing police surgeon services, the APS has formed a company to act as its trading arm. The new company which is owned by the APS was formed on January 12th 2000. It is managed by five directors who are all practising police surgeons and it is called APS (Cellmed) Services Limited. The directors are Dr. Peter Crouch, Dr. George Fernie, Dr. Peter Franklin, Dr. Michael Knight and Dr. Ian F Wall.

Three police forces have chosen to use the services of a private provider of police surgeons. Healthcall were awarded the contracts for West Midlands and West Yorkshire. Wiltshire was awarded to Wiltshire (FME) Services Limited, a company formed by Peter Crouch and the other existing Wiltshire Police Surgeons, for the express purpose of bidding for the contract.

Peter Crouch is the Chief Executive Officer of Wiltshire (FME) Services Limited.

George Fernie is a regional Councillor for the APS and works for the Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland.

Peter Franklin is also a regional Councillor for the APS as well as being the English representative to the ECLM and is the President Elect of the APS.

Michael Knight is a past President and present Honorary Secretary of the APS.

Ian F Wall is a regional Councillor of the APS, and established a co-operative of 130 GP doctors in 13 weeks, when Healthcall stated that it could not be done.

On behalf of the company Dr Franklin wrote to all Chief Constables as well as many other interested parties including the Home Secretary, The Home Office Policy Planning Unit, the Medical Defence Societies, the Joint Prison Health Unit, the Audit Commission, the Police Complaints Authority, the Association of Police Authorities, the Local Government Employer's Authority and Keith Hellawell and invited them to a meeting at BMA (British Medical Association) House on April 12th to launch the company.

We had an audience of 84, including a number of Assistant Chief Constables and other police, prison and Home Office representatives.

The directors presented the newly launched company with able assistance from Dr. Guy Norfolk of the Education and Research subcommittee of the APS. The meeting heard about the importance of quality and re-validation of doctors. The company's aims are to promote excellence in clinical forensic medicine, through training, quality assurance, risk assessment and continuing education. All the directors then answered questions from the floor. Overall the audience seemed to have benefited from the meeting. APS (Cellmed) Services Limited aims to become 'the bill's doctors'.

Dr Peter Franklin, APS President Elect and Company Secretary for APS (Cellmed) Services Limited.

Consultancy List

As you may know, the Society offers the legal profession a service through the provision of a list of persons who are prepared to act for solicitors and private individuals looking to engage specific specialists in the forensic sciences. For a small charge the Society is prepared to add your name to this list. The Society does not, however, vouch for the competence of persons on this list but relies on the ethical status of the individual. We would like to encourage any independent practitioner to apply to be placed upon this list as a means of increasing their business contacts and as a means of promoting the activities and professional status of the Society.

Brian Caddy, President

Members' Information

Please remember to tell us promptly of any change of address because every quarter we have to try and trace many members whose journals have been returned to the office.

We would also like to keep up-to-date records of where our members work, even if that is not your mailing address, because it makes it easier to target information and also help you make use of the Link Persons which are dotted around the country. Also, please let us know your particular area of expertise/work so that we can target mailings for workshops, conferences, diplomas and other areas of Society business. Contact Michèle the Membership Secretary at the Society Office.

Society Staff (6)

The Society has a new membership secretary. Following in the footsteps of Helen Hodgson who has recently retired after 10 years of service with the Society, **Michèle Noble de Lima** joined us at Clarke House in November 1999 and worked alongside and under the guidance of Helen until the handing over of the baton in January 2000.

"I would like to introduce myself to all the members of the Society and tell you a little bit about me and how I came to be here. I am not only new to the Society but also new to Harrogate as I have been a Londoner by birth, culture and habit for 44 years.

I have discovered a secret. It is not necessary to spend one's whole life living in the capital city. There is life beyond Watford, it's just that no-one wants Londoners to know about it. When I told my work colleagues and friends that I intended to move to Yorkshire, most of them told me that it would not be possible for me to survive because I was a 'Londoner'. Well, six months later I am still thrilled to be here and the time has zoomed by. The northern way of life has come easily to me, having Yorkshire blood inherited from my father who was born in Huddersfield but migrated to join the bright lights of London in his youth.

In 1999, I popped up to have a look around Harrogate with a view to considering it as a possible place to live (my sister already lives here). My wish list included country walking, clean air, plenty of animals and friendly people. I had no difficulty at all in leaving London because when you are working there, you never seem to have time or energy to make proper use of the facilities and after all, I can visit any time I like.

Having already visited the web page on several occasions I was interested in the Society and I couldn't resist applying for a job here. In March this year, my husband Marcos and I, moved into our new house with Tiffy, Douglas and Luigi (cats).

It is unbelievably beautiful here. The only disadvantage is, the weather. Sometimes it is very hot but a lot of the time it is very very cold and I'm scared to take my hat off!



I am looking forward to going to my first Society conference in York this summer where I hope to meet as many members as possible. Some of your names are getting quite familiar to me as I file away your subscription forms and process your applications for membership! I'm not sure what is in store for me at the conference but I think you will probably spot me sitting behind a desk of memorabilia items.

Perhaps you are sitting reading this somewhere miles across the globe and will not be able to attend the conferences – we do have a large number of members overseas, and some of you have already spoken to me by phone, email and letter. Wherever you are, I am here to help you with any membership enquiries you may have. One more thing ... please don't forget to let me know if you have changed your address so I can be sure that your journals and newsletters will reach you in good time!"