



Faculty of Conflict and Catastrophe Medicine

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on: Wednesday 14 May 2025 17.30-18.00 at Apothecaries Hall

1. Minutes of the AGM held on 11 June 2024

These were approved and no further questions raised.

2. President's Report for the year 2024 – Oral

The President spoke to his report and the main points raised are listed below:

- Improvement in the number of course attendees. Course Director has redeveloped the syllabus and it is more dynamic. While the DMCC course once held a monopoly over delivery of the CCM syllabus, we must recognise that similar courses are now being offered by other institutions. We must ensure that our course remains up to date and of value for money.
- Successful eponymous lectures held in 2024 (one regarding the 30th anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda). An additional lecture would be added for 2025 on Maternal Health in Conflict Environments.
- For over 10 years now members of the Faculty have contributed to an annual humanitarian medicine course / symposium hosted by the Irish Military at the Curragh military base in the Republic of Ireland. This symposium took place again on the 15-17 October 2024 and 4 members of the CCM Faculty travelled to Ireland to lecture on the course, which uniquely unites healthcare providers, civilian and military, from both sides of the Irish border.
- Future plans for 2025 include input to a one-day short course on Major Incidents offered to the Cambridgeshire NHS Trust and a five week SSC to undergraduate students at QMUL .
- In terms of Faculty Finance, in the 23/24 year there were concerns regarding the financial viability of the CCM Faculty and DMCC course. Thankfully, with the discontinued subscription to the networking platform *CCM Connect*, which had cost c £15K per year, and reduced administration costs from the Society ((£15K less than previously), combined with a healthy number of registrants for the course this year (35) and a modest surplus from our support of the Irish course, the situation has very much improved. We do still have a modest financial deficit of around £5k, but this is within the scope of our current reserves and therefore the acute crisis has been averted.

Mr Steve Mannion, Faculty President, CMG RD CF

3. Honorary Treasurer's report for the year 2024 – Annual Accounts

The Treasurer reported a more stable picture for the Faculty in 2024, with the deficit reducing significantly from the previous year. The key was not to be complacent though and continue to make improvements. Focus now is to promote the course (and any future short courses) to maximise potential.



4. Charity merger – Explanatory Note for Members

The Head of the Academic Department and the Clerk explained the potential merger of the Society's charities, which was subject to Court approval and legal advice was also being sought. A letter was circulated to all Faculty members (see below) prior to the AGM:

'Dear Members,

As you will be aware from recent Society communications, a re-structure and rebranding of the Society's academic activities has taken place and now sits under the umbrella of the Centre for Health Studies (CfHS). We are delighted with the positive changes that have occurred and the interest that has been shown from our current and new audiences. A number of development opportunities with other educational partners have also arisen and this all helps towards furthering the important message of the work being done by the Society and the Faculties.

As a final part of consolidating this area and to firmly establish the CfHS, consideration also needs to be given to its governance structure. With that in mind, I am writing to consult with you, as our members and important contributors, as we move towards this next stage.

It is proposed that the three charities of the Society of Apothecaries are merged to create one single entity charity which represents the academic and charitable giving of the Society. The three charities in question are the General Charity, the Faculty of Conflict and Catastrophe Medicine and the Faculty of History & Philosophy of Medicine & Pharmacy. I would like to reassure you that both the Faculties and the General Charity will remain as separate activity areas or 'departments' but effectively under this one charity entity.

Activities carried out by the existing three charities will remain the same or 'business as usual' and this is also true of any monies earned, donations or legacies. These will be ring fenced so they are only for the use of the relevant area.

Again, I would like to reiterate that it is a proposal at this stage and no final decisions have been made. I am sure you will agree that it is important for the Trustees of the Society to consider all options and would appreciate your input on this matter. Expert legal advice has been sought and you will see from the remainder of this document an example of the potential way forward. The Trustees will meet in June to decide a final proposal of the merger and the governing structure. This will then be presented to the charities at Extraordinary General Meetings (EGM) which will be called later in the year, when there will also be an opportunity for you to vote.

There is nothing for you to do at this point in time and this document is intended to provide background information ahead of the future EGM.

You are most welcome to attend the upcoming Annual General Meetings and please do ask any questions.

Chair of the Board of Trustees

Worshipful Society of Apothecaries'

A question was raised in the audience, asking if members of the Faculty would still be members after the merger and what voting rights would there be. The Clerk explained existing Faculty members would still be members or associate members of the new charity. We would have to consult with the solicitors regarding voting rights.

5. Any Other Business – None

Liz Harriman

Head of Academic Department