

SAPC Prescribing and Medication Optimisation SIG - Annual Report

Activities*(required)

The SIG continues to aim to hold termly online meetings up to an hour 90 minutes long, comprising a number of relevant presentations, mainly from members. These provide an opportunity to present recent research, as well as seek feedback from colleagues on new proposals and projects. Attendance at meetings has fallen gradually over the past few years, although people of a wide range of seniorities still engage representing a considerable breadth of methodological and topic expertise. We led on organising a very successful workshop at the SAPC ASM in Cardiff around growing research capacity reflective of the broader primary care workforce.

Members of the SIG still have ongoing contact with a range of external stakeholders working in the field of pharmacy and medicines optimisation, including NHSE, the national Pharmacy Research Advisory Group, and the National Pharmacy Association. We maintain a memorandum of understanding with the College of Mental Health Pharmacy. We continue to work with the British Pharmacological Society to develop clinical pharmacology as a sub-speciality within primary care. We have engaged with organisers of the Health Services Research and Pharmacy Practice conference to represent SAPC at their 2026 conference in Belfast. Members have spoken at regional (e.g. South-West Pharmacy Research Network) and national (e.g. Department of Health) events.

Future Plans*(required)

Due to attendance and engagement issues, one termly meeting earlier in the year was cancelled, and the in-person meeting we usually hold at the ASM did not go ahead. A “member survey” was undertaken to try to establish what the future of the SIG might look like and offering further leadership opportunities, but unfortunately response rates were poor. We recognise that the SIG serves an important networking opportunity and has a key role to play in attracting non-medical clinicians (specifically pharmacists) to SAPC. As such, we are keen for the group to continue. We have, however, invited all 56 SIG members to a meeting in April 2026 to discuss the future direction of the group.

Evidence of impact of the SIG*(required)

This is reflected in ongoing activities described above.

Outcomes from SIG meeting at last SAPC ASM (if held)*(required)

Not applicable.

How affiliation with SAPC has helped the SIG*(required)

The affiliation of the SIG to SAPC helps provide credibility to the group, as well as improving its visibility, and recognition by external stakeholders.