

InterestActivities

Following its reinvigoration in 2023, the Applied Genetics SIG continued to expand through 2025, strengthening research activity, collaborations, and workforce development in genomics in primary care.

Core research themes include:

- Pharmacogenomics – integration into routine prescribing practice.
- Cancer risk prediction – genomic stratification for screening and prevention.
- Diabetes – genetic stratification and monogenic diabetes research.
- Cardiovascular genetics – genomic approaches to familial hypercholesterolaemia and inherited cardiac disease.
- Genomic literacy and education – identifying and addressing training needs in primary care.

Key external collaborations include:

- Primary Care Workforce Group for Genomics, supporting GPwER roles in Clinical Genetics/Genomics.
- WONCA, aligning UK and international primary care genomics research.
- Early Career Workforce Group, supporting sustainability and capacity-building in the field.

Objectives of the Group

1. Build and sustain a network of researchers focused on genomics in primary care.
2. Facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration in genomics research.
3. Provide a forum for knowledge-sharing, idea generation, and research development.
4. Act as a central point of contact for expertise in primary care genomics.

5. Encourage and support early career researchers through mentorship and development opportunities.

6. Maintain and strengthen formal links with key genomics-focused organisations.

Future Plans

- Regular meetings every 4–6 months.
- Joint meeting between the Primary Care Workforce Group for Genomics and the SAPC Applied Genetics SIG (May 2026).
- Primary care and rare disease research workshop, NIHR NW RDN funded, University of Manchester collaboration (13 March 2026).
- Enhanced external engagement with WONCA, HEE SIGs, UK Pharmacogenetics & Stratified Medicine Network, and GMSAs.

Evidence of Impact of the SIG

- Presentations at national conferences including BJGP Annual Conference and NHS Genomics Conference.
- Academic GP adviser roles to Genomics England, Future Health, MHRA, PROGRESS Study and Generation Study.
- Contributions to dissemination and implementation of the RCGP GPwER framework in Clinical Genetics/Genomics.
- Primary Care Leads within Regional Genomic Medicine Service Alliances contributing to population health genomics strategy.

How Affiliation with SAPC Has Helped the SIG

SAPC affiliation has provided a valuable platform for collaboration, visibility, and dissemination. The SIG remains committed to advancing genomics research, education, and workforce development in primary care through 2026.