

Special Interest Group Report

SIG: Sexual and Reproductive Health Research

Society: Society for Academic Primary Care

Reporting period: January 2025 – Present

SIG Co-Chairs: Dr Richard Ma, University of Bristol; Dr Rebecca Mawson, University of Sheffield

1. Purpose and strategic focus

The Sexual and Reproductive Health Research SIG aims to strengthen academic primary care research in sexual and reproductive health across the life course, with a strategic emphasis on equity, lived experience, and methodological innovation. Over the coming year, the SIG will prioritise early career development, cross-SIG collaboration, and externally visible outputs aligned with SAPC priorities.

2. Recent activity

The SIG met at the SAPC Annual Scientific Meeting (July 2025, Cardiff), focusing on networking, horizon scanning, and identifying shared research priorities. A subsequent joint meeting with the Women's Health SIG explored overlapping agendas, including underserved populations, digital health, and best practice in patient and public involvement and engagement (PPIE). This collaboration will continue informally in 2026.

3. Planned outputs and activities (2026)

a) Seminar programme

The SIG agreed a structured seminar programme for 2026:

- **April 2026 – Student-focused seminar (online)**
Lead: Dr Rebecca Mawson
Aim: Provide a supportive platform for undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral students to present sexual and reproductive health research and build academic capacity.
- **June 2026 – Online SIG meeting during SAPC Conference**
Lead: Dr Richard Ma
Aim: Maximise accessibility and engagement for members unable to attend in person; support SIG visibility within the conference programme.
- **September 2026 – Thematic seminar: Digital health records and sexual and reproductive health**
Lead: Dr Adam Williams
Distinctive feature: Embedded lived-experience component.
The SIG plans to request SAPC funding to support meaningful PPIE involvement, noting recent NIHR developments that strengthen expectations and templates for PPIE activity.

b) External-facing output: *STI BMJ* Podcast

The SIG is exploring a contribution to the *STI BMJ* Podcast. Two candidate topics have been identified:

1. Management of people ageing with HIV
2. Supporting the sexual health needs of underserved populations through primary care

Lead: Dr Adam Williams (Social Media Editor STI BMJ)