

Special Interest Groups Annual Report

Please submit by end December to office@sapc.ac.uk

A rough guide for maximum number of words – 400 but if you wish to write a longer report this is fine.

*Activities

*Future plans

*Evidence of impact of the SIG

*How affiliation with SAPC has helped the SIG

Special Interest Group: Oral health and Dental Care

Your name: Drs Vishal Aggarwal and Wendy Thompson

Date: 09/12/25

Activities:

We did not hold a formal meeting in 2025 although we have added to our membership and worked on joint projects with the SAPC mental health SIG.

Future plans:

1. Continue to grow the pipeline of clinical academic primary dental care professionals, including through funding from the NIHR School of Primary Care Research. Currently we have research active ACFs, IPSFs, doctoral fellows, clinical lecturers and senior clinical lecturers/associated profs. There are, however, still no research active professors of primary dental care.
2. Continue collaboration with other SAPC SIGs to identify common themes to investigate links between oral and systemic diseases – this activity has been particularly fruitful by collaborating with the mental health SIG and should perhaps be the focus of future activities of the dental SIG. This can then be used to engage with junior academic primary

dental care trainees who can embed into these collaborations. This might attract memberships from non-dental backgrounds.

Evidence of Impact and how affiliation with SAPC has helped the SIG

1. The SPCR-funded Engaging Dental teams in Research Study (EnDeaRS) project included SAPC members on its advisory group and they helped identify existing GP resources for use in primary dental care – including PACT and RISP.
2. Consensus statement on improving oral health in people with severe mental illness (both the dental and mental health SAPC SIGS were involved and the findings disseminated in an invited oral presentation at the SAPC ASM - https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/media/lancaster-university/content-assets/documents/fhm/spectrum/Oral_Health_Consensus_Statement.pdf
3. Oral health has now been adopted into physical health checks for people with severe mental illness.