

**Minutes of the Society for Academic Primary Care**  
**Annual General Meeting 2019**  
**held at the University of Exeter**  
**on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019 from 12.30 to 13.20**

**Tabled papers:**

Paper A: Draft minutes of AGM 2018

Paper B: Officers' Report (Kate O'Donnell)

Paper C: Treasurer's Report (Jo Protheroe)

Paper D: HOTs Report (Joe Rosenthal)

**1. Welcome and updates/news**

Chair, Kate O'Donnell, welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. SAPC continues to run with three main groups:

- the Executive, which meets four times a year and key activities include the running of the Society, Primary Healthcare Scientists, mentoring, GP Scholarship
- the Heads of Department (HODs) group which meets twice a year and is involved at university level, working with the College and keeping the profile of academic primary care high on the agenda
- the Heads of Teaching (HOTs) which also meet twice a year in parallel with HODs and works closely with RCGP taking forward teaching in primary care especially undergraduate teaching.

**2. Attendance and apologies**

Attendance: 49 members. No formal apologies.

**3. Minutes of last AGM**

The minutes were approved.

**4. Acknowledgements and congratulations**

**Congratulations to:**

Professor Amanda Howe, president elect of RCGP (due to become president in November)

**Honours**

Dame Professor Louise Robinson

Professor Richard Hobbs, CBE

Professor Willie Hamilton, CBE

Discovery Prize (awarded by RCGP)

Professor Richard Hobbs (in 2018) and Professor Paul Little (in 2019)

#### **New NIHR Senior Investigators and renewals**

Jonathan Mant, Cambridge

Kamlesh Khunti, Leicester

Alastair Hay, Bristol

Richard McManus, Oxford

#### **New fellows of Academy of Medical Sciences (AMS)**

Simon Griffin, Cambridge

Jonathan Mant, Cambridge

#### **New chairs**

David Kessler, Bristol

Lindsey Pope, Glasgow

Simon Gay, Leicester

Fiona Stevenson, UCL

Deborah Swinglehurst, QMUL

Peter Murchie, Aberdeen

## **5. Updates on SAPC activities from the Executive Committee**

Chair, Kate O'Donnell introduced members of the Executive to give updates on the year's activities.

### **5.1 Finance, treasurer: Jo Protheroe**

Jo Protheroe was pleased to report that SAPC is still healthy with a small surplus of £500. The Executive is trying to balance the books by increasing the number of members and therefore subscriptions received instead of having to rely on surpluses from the Annual Scientific Meeting. Any ideas for encouraging more people to join would be welcome.

SAPC is willing to consider supporting activities that require one off funds for pump priming for projects that support the aims of the Society.

Jo Protheroe, Treasurer, encouraged everyone to check that their membership is current and asked everyone to encourage colleagues to join the Society to benefit from the Society's many activities including Special Interest Groups, there are now 20 active SIGs.

## **5.2 Heads of Department (HODs), chair: Mike Moore**

HODs continue to develop a good working relationship with the Heads of Teaching (HOTs) including holding a joint session at the two annual meetings for mutual support and to ensure effort is not duplicated.

HODs also hold regular meetings with RCGP. RCGP are reviewing their relationship with research institutions including SAPC. Martin Marshall is closely involved with facilitating this relationship between RCGP and SAPC. It will be important to work through the College to benefit from RCGP's access to government and government funding.

Key issues for HODs:

Service Increment for Teaching Funding (SIFT) – HODs and HOTs are working closely on this (more on this from HOTs).

Honorary Contracts - Clinical Excellence Awards – HODs group continues to work with the Department of Health on honorary contracts for senior academic GPs.

Improving visibility of primary care research particularly through General practice Evidence for Modern day practice (GEMs - survey of impactful papers) in collaboration with RCGP. Joanne Reeve is leading this.

Understanding the workforce better through a Survey of the workforce. There have been far reaching changes in the way academic primary care is organized, departments are no longer recognizable and the reorganization of units means that in most cases teachers are separate from researchers.

Chair, Kate O'Donnell, pointed out that the sharing of information across the devolved nations of the UK ensures that high standards are maintained and are as consistent as possible throughout.

## **5.3 Heads of Teaching (HOTs), co-chairs: Joe Rosenthal and Alex Harding**

Alex Harding summarised the key topics for HOTs:

Increasingly working with HODs

SIFT – the funding discrepancy between primary and secondary care for student placements has been an ongoing issue for 5 years. The week before the AGM in a teleconference with the DH it was agreed to have a "level playing field between primary and secondary care". It is a major step forward that the DH recognized the need for a level playing field and it has decided to approach the treasury with a demand for new money to fund the rise in tariff for primary care. HOTs are very grateful to RCGP who have been of enormous help throughout the process.

Quality of teaching – SAPC HOTs and RCGP have published a guide for teaching general practice.

<https://sapc.ac.uk/article/teaching-general-practice-guiding-principles-undergraduate-general-practice-curricula-uk>

HOTs is now involved in developing a teaching resource that will supplement the publication. The document will be circulated later in the year to each medical school.

Capacity – Joe Rosenthal said that HOTs is considering ways of making general practice placements more attractive to medical trainees. Medical students - current area of pressure – need to think about undergraduate placements and ensuring this is on the agenda of the emerging networks and hubs. HOTs are happy to discuss opportunities for teaching in general practice with the new networks and hubs.

#### **5.4 Primary Health Care Scientists Group (PHoCuS), co-leads: Sue Richards and Julia Hiscock**

Julia Hiscock presented the PHoCuS report.

The PHoCuS group was formed 7 years ago by Christine Bond and Sandra Eldridge. The group has been maturing and very active over those years including setting up the mentoring scheme and activities to forge a sense of identity and inclusion for PHoCuS members within SAPC. One of the areas that PHoCuS now plans to develop is career progression of primary health care scientists in mid-career.

The Mentorship programme was established by PHoCuS and has over the last couple of years it is grown to include GP members as well. This programme is now led by Caroline Mitchell.

The network of PHoCuS champions continue to do great work leading PHoCuS sessions or creating a PHoCuS presence at regional meetings. There are a number of vacancies for champions at present so this role will be promoted to SAPC members in the coming weeks.

#### **5.5 Ambassadors, lead Amy Blakemore**

SAPC is continuing to build a network of ambassadors to help raise the profile of SAPC within their institutions and networks. There are currently just over 30. Ambassadors can be either PHoCuS or GP members – in some cases there are two ambassadors in the larger institutions. More ambassadors are needed in institutions not currently represented.

The Ambassadors' role involves:

- Raising the profile of SAPC
- Promoting the SAPC ASM and regional meetings
- Contact point for anyone wishing to get involved in research
- Promoting the mentoring scheme and other SAPC activities

#### **5.6 GP Scholarship, lead Joanne Reeve**

Joanne Reeve is working with RCGP and SAPC to develop GP Scholarship. Both offer some financial support.

This project involves championing and cultivating the pragmatic wisdom of general practice for two reasons, firstly, to tackle the change in professional skills needed in today's practice and secondly, to tackle the workforce crisis in terms of recruitment and training.

Last year three goals were identified to:

- Shine a light on the pragmatic wisdom of GPs
- Develop a skills academy to fill the gaps
- Connect existing networks around the country

While going ahead and working towards delivering some of these resources the team has taken time to consult other relevant groups:

NIHR

RCGP Council

RCGP's patient and carers' participation group

Royal College of Vets (which is also currently undertaking work on generalism)

Toronto, Department of Family Medicine

NAPCRG

WONCA Asia

There is consensus throughout that this is an important area of work.

The project is moving forward with the same areas of focus:

- Shining a light – working with people and GEMs – selected papers shining a light on what we do. SAPC is working with RCGP CIRC to identify the papers.
- Skills academy – this will be done with CIRC at RCGP who are working on this as well. This will enable us to create a sign post to existing resources and new resources as they become available (new recruits at Hull York Medical School will help with this).
- Networks - work with you as a community – setting up a list of experts – and through ambassadors to link with networks.

There is no big launch planned the resources will be unveiled throughout the year.

GP Scholarship has its own Twitter account should SAPC members wish to follow @wisegp

### **5.7 Early career group, lead Rebecca Morris**

This group works across the membership, the main focus this year has been launching the Principal Investigators award – early career colleagues were asked to nominate their PI for the award for exceptional support received. We had an outstanding response and excellent candidates. There were some heartwarming and inspirational stories of excellent candidates showing how their support has had a positive impact on the careers of the nominators. The judging panel acknowledged that it was very hard to judge because of the high standard of support being given. Becci Morris thanked those who submitted nominations for their PI and confirmed that the PI Award will run again next year.

## **5.8 Communications and stakeholder engagement, lead James Prior**

Social media is going from strength to strength. The Twitter account is particularly active with 2,500 followers and is being used regularly @sapcacuk and #sapcasm (for the annual conference and regional meetings).

Website – there have been a few changes on the website recently including the implementation of drop down menus to aid navigation.

Equality and diversity – SAPC is reviewing its communications to ensure we are saying things correctly and are being inclusive.

Stakeholder links – SAPC is developing links with other Societies with a view to encouraging new groups to join SAPC and attend the ASM and therefore increasing our membership and attendance at the ASM.

### **Discussion**

KOD invited questions.

Annette Bishop, Keele, suggested involving physiotherapists since there was such a lot of energy involved in embedding physios in primary care. James Prior confirmed that SAPC was looking at involving Allied Health Professionals (AHPs)

Mike Moore, Southampton, observed that SAPC AGM attendance was relatively low and had observed at NAPCRG, where attendance is good, that they hold the AGM in the same room that the food is served so you have to leave the room if you do not wish to participate.

Chris Dowrick, Liverpool, wished to check that SAPC is still considering working on links across Europe and asked what had been done recently. Kate O'Donnell responded that links exist with the European Forum for Primary Care (EFPC), chaired by Sally Kendall, although the links are unofficial because there is a charge to be affiliated. Kate also pointed out that there are a couple of delegates this year from the German Association.

Sandra Eldridge, QMUL, suggested that it would be good to know more about the good news stories eg the PI Award, and not just the winner. More about the award and the reason for winning on the website?

Wilhemena Rietsema, Oxford, - asked how much work has been done on encouraging GP Registrars to get involved? Joanne Reeve replied that SAPC had not specifically targeted that group but hoped that they were being reached through the RCGP Incubator, links with ACFs and trainee programmes. WR suggested presenting information about SAPC to those on the GP VTS scheme.

Dipesh Gopal (GP Registrar) – how do we attract new doctors and ensure quality improvement? Through the deaneries? Comms/social media – a way of encouraging people to engage with the website can be through a short piece of media eg a tiny video of a keynote speaker (for example) or a short podcast. Dipesh and James Prior have been discussing this.

George Freeman, Mackenzie Group (former HODs), the group had held a productive meeting one of the points was introduced by Sir Denis Pereira Gray who, when considering why there is a drop in medical students becoming GPs, had found that only a small percentage of medical students found General Practice intellectually stimulating. The group came to the conclusion, taking the long view,

is that the present is one of the worst times for the discipline of General Practice and that does not help attract medical students to General Practice. A solution could be to ask RCGP to push for more protected time for teaching and research in Practices. This could be an important motivator. (Applause from the audience).

Chair, Kate O'Donnell, suggested that SAPC could look at working with Amanda Howe at RCGP on this matter.

Aaron Poppleton, Manchester – in terms of European collaboration there are some big opportunities for SAPC coming up in the UK for taking a stall or participating in the programme:

- 2021 – Vasco da Gama conference, ACFs, Glasgow
- 2022 – European WONCA, London

## **6. Handover to new chair**

Kate O'Donnell, handed over the role of Chair to Carolyn Chew-Graham, Professor in academic primary care at Keele and currently Chair of the RCGP Scientific Foundation Board.

The three year term as chair had gone very fast and had been very enjoyable with many different activities.

New Chair Carolyn Chew-Graham, was proud to say thank you from the Executive and membership for all Kate's work and she looked forward to working with you.

Treasurer, Jo Protheroe, thanked Exeter for hosting a wonderful conference and Sue Stewart and Sharon Pidgeon for their support with SAPC and the Conference.

The AGM closed at 13.20