

Minutes of the Society for Academic Primary Care
Annual General Meeting 2017
held at The University of Warwick
on Thursday 13th July 2017 from 12.30 to 13.20

Tabled papers:

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

Paper C: Treasurer's Report (Jo Protheroe)

Paper D: HOTs Report (Joe Rosenthal)

Paper E: GP Scholarship (Joanne Reeve)

1. Welcome and updates/news

46 members were in attendance.

Kate O'Donnell welcomed everyone to the AGM. She has enjoyed her first year as Chair and her job was made so much easier by the executive team. She thanked all the members of the executive for their hard work throughout the year and Sue Stewart and Sharon Pidgeon for their work on supporting the executive and the annual conference. Kate congratulated the host team for organising an excellent Annual Scientific Meeting: Joanne Reeve, Helen Atherton and Jeremy Dale.

Acknowledgements

New chairs:

Sue Richards - Leeds
Chris Burton – Sheffield
Robert Walton - Warwick
Paramjit Gill - Warwick
David Fitzmaurice – Warwick
Joanne Reeve – Hull York Medical School
Frances Mair – Glasgow
Umesh Chauhan – UCLAN
Rodger Charlton – Leicester

Honorary membership (on retiring from their University roles)

Tom O'Dowd
Margaret Cupples
Graham Watt, Glasgow
Nigel Mathers, Sheffield

Congratulations:

Amanda Howe – president of WONCA until 2019
Helen Stokes-Lampard – chair of RCGP
Mayur Lakhani – president-elect of RCGP

Queen's Honours List:

Graham Watt, CBE
Margaret Cupples, OBE
Gene Feder, OBE
Kamilla Hawthorne, MBE

NIHR Senior Investigator Awards held by SAPC members:

Martin Underwood
Peter Bower
Sandra Eldridge
Louise Robinson

Awarded Honorary Fellowships of RCGP:

Christine Bond
Sandra Eldridge
Kate O'Donnell

John Fry Award 2018 (RCGP)

Jo Protheroe

The George Abercrombie Award (RCGP)

Chris Dowrick

Kate O'Donnell noted with great sadness the death of George Lewith, Southampton, in February.

Executive

Kate O'Donnell reported on the changes on the Executive Committee:

Welcome to Rodger Charlton who was duly elected unopposed as a general member
Rebecca Morris will take on the role of Secretary

Amy Blakemore will take on the role of leadership of the SAPC Ambassadors
John Campbell has stepped down as Chair of HODs and Mike Moore has taken on this role
Christine Bond and Sandra Eldridge are to step down as leaders of the PHoCuS group and the mentoring scheme and new leads will be announced soon.

Kate thanked John Campbell for his work as Chair of HODs, and Christine Bond, Sandra Eldridge for establishing and leading the PHOCUS group so effectively, setting up the mentoring scheme and for their work with SAPC ambassadors. All of whom are stepping down, Kate thanked them and presented them with a gift.

2. Attendance and apologies

The meeting was attended by 46 members including the Executive.
Membership total: 578
339 Medical members, 239 Academic/PHoCuS members.

Apologies had been received from Jon Dickson, Phil Evans, Amanda Howe, Blair Smith.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

- a. There were no matters arising. The minutes were approved by Roger Jones and seconded by Christine Bond.

4. Celebrating a year of Making a Difference:

SAPC continues to divide its activities into three pillars: raising the profile of APC, building our workforce and supporting individuals' careers, and optimising impact and collaborations. The executive working on these activities in conjunction with the Heads of Department and Heads of Teaching groups and Old HoDs group.

Finance

Jo Protheroe - Treasurer

Jo highlighted from the report:

Sue Stewart and Jo had attended a meeting with the accountants last year – they pointed out that our subscriptions should cover our costs despite having good reserves. In order to address this we really need to build our membership numbers and increase the membership fee.

All those who register for the Conference as non-members will become a member for the year and all student and ACF registrations will receive the newsletter for a year.

Jo Protheroe reported an increase in the membership fee of £10, first increase since 2014. The fees are now £65 for PHoCuS (non-medical members) and £85 for medical members.

Q&A

Roger Jones – does everyone across the UK have access to regional meetings because these are important for generating new members?

Jo Protheroe, apart from the well established SW SAPC and Madingley meetings there was one in the North West and in Scotland. Kate has ongoing discussions with colleagues in Scotland to establish a link with SAPC. The executive are looking at this and will strengthen and develop links and coverage.

Umesh Chauhan – are all ACFs members?

Joanne Reeve said that the executive has been encouraging them to join by attending the ACF conference and distributing member packs. Jo Protheroe explained that SAPC tries to have representation at relevant meetings.

Helen Smith – book about younger generations not valuing membership of organisations and departments not being able to pay for individual membership but it will cover the conference fee.

Kate replied that this does need consideration. At present SAPC includes membership for one year in the non-member full conference fee.

Joanne Reeve said that SAPC also continues to work to enhance the value of membership eg by establishing links with journals to reduce the open access fee for members by more than the membership fee.

First pillar: Raising the Profile of SAPC/APC: at Departmental/member level

Ambassadors and Early Careers Group

Becci Morris - Ambassador and Early Careers Group lead

Becci Morris reported that the ambassador role was launched a year ago at the Dublin conference. Thank you to all the ambassadors, there are now 28 ambassadors across the UK, Ireland and Singapore. The aim was to encourage engagement in SAPC activities and for ambassadors to promote SAPC locally. Ambassadors are also asked to feedback and one of the ways of doing this is to have access via an open chair to attend the SAPC executive meetings. In the last year 3 ambassadors have attended executive meetings.

Resources available for ambassadors: membership packs and SAPC and ASM posters and flyers.

Early careers group

Becci Morris reported that a second networking event would be held later in the year in Cambridge following the success of the first event in May 2016 in Manchester.

Investigator award

This was mentioned at the last AGM and the feasibility of running such an award is being considered to recognise leadership for junior and early career academics.

Communications

James Prior – Comms Lead

Kate O'Donnell explained how important SAPC's outward facing communication is.

James Prior reported that he had attended his first meeting of the Executive in September 2016. He is currently focussing on increasing awareness of SAPC through social media mostly via Twitter with messages including links to the SAPC website to draw people in.

Twitter followers: currently 1,300 followers

In the last year:

270 new followers on Twitter

350 visits to the Twitter profile in September last year as of last month this has risen to 780.

We hope this is then translating in to footfall to the website and will encourage new members to join. Over the next year we need to establish if this is working or if we need to pursue other avenues.

Q&A

Roger Jones asked if the website was being analysed. James Prior said that this was being set up using Google Analytics for reporting over the coming months.

Second pillar: Building a vibrant workforce - careers

Primary Health Care Scientists (PHoCuS) and Mentoring

Christine Bond and Sandra Eldridge – leads for PHoCuS and the Mentoring Scheme

Kate O'Donnell explained that this had been one of SAPC's great successes over the last few years.

Sandra Eldridge said that the PHoCuS group was established 5 years ago. It was made possible with encouragement from Helen Lester and funding provided by Peter Croft, Keele. It is a group for non-GP members.

There are now 18 PHoCuS champions leading various areas of work including social media, organising PHoCuS meetings at regional meetings, leading discipline specific groups eg psychology, statisticians.

In the last year there was a survey to identify members with experience of applying for/being supported by externally funded fellowships. There is now a list on the SAPC website and all those listed are willing to help others with advice on future applications -

<https://sapc.ac.uk/article/applying-fellowship>

There was an inaugural statisticians meeting at the ASM. Thank you to Gary Abel and Beth Stuart for organising the meeting which was attended by 15 people.

At the PHoCuS group meeting held the previous day (Weds 12th July 2017) a number of items were discussed:

- The PHoCuS group is planning to find out more from members about barriers and facilitators to academic careers and this will be developed over the coming months.
- The PHoCuS name which is not self-explanatory - perhaps a strapline to describe what the group does will be developed.
- Ideas about changes on the website and at the conferences.

Christine and Sandra will be stepping down and handing over to new leads by the end of the year.

Lastly, a new Champion is needed in the South East, Jenni Burt has stepped down.

Mentoring

Christine Bond reported that the mentoring scheme had been running successfully for 5 years and has been opened to GPs as well over the last year. I

In 2013-2014 the first 5 mentors were trained and we now have 16 trained mentors. Funding was initially provided by Peter Croft, Keele. We have had 40 mentees go through the scheme, many of them still in mentoring relationships with their mentor. There is almost always universally positive feedback about the scheme and so it was widened to include the whole SAPC membership to include medical members. Despite the success there are many people who are not aware of it so more needs to be done to publicise the scheme. A flyer is in the delegate packs and will be in future SAPC membership packs and James Prior is taking video clips of mentors and mentees for the website to help promote the scheme

There would be a meeting later that day about the mentoring scheme for mentors, mentees and anyone interested at the close of sessions.

GP Scholarship

Kate: SAPC is always looking for new areas and identifying gaps to address. The idea of GP Scholarship came out of last year's SAPC meeting and the RCGP conference.

Joanne Reeve – lead on GP Scholarship

There is a need to urgently champion and cultivate the intellectual expertise that is at the heart of the profession of General Practice.

This is needed:

* for the sake of patients who have growing complex health needs need an enhanced kind of professional who is able to confidently and expertly deliver the person centred care that addresses the emerging challenges facing these patients.

* to enhance recognition of and capacity for the intellectual expertise of the profession, in order to attract the brightest and best clinicians into General Practice. To retain their expertise throughout their careers both in delivering care to those complex patients but also in redesigning primary care for the 21st century.

* for the sake of our academic discipline – so that all stakeholders understand the distinct intellectual challenge and tasks of primary care and therefore why we need a distinct academic primary care discipline at the heart of the profession and the service driving improvement in primary care through scholarship.

SAPC has been driving this for a while. The idea came out of a workshop in Quebec. We are now trying to crystallise all this work from various initiatives by RCGP and SAPC into a visible scheme of GP Scholarship – academic scholarship education and research in its broadest sense.

Last year at RCGP Conference there was a workshop celebrating scholarship – shining a light on scholarship going on in the everyday work of a GP. The workshop led to an article in the BJGP and a Blog series by Euan Lawson.

There is a follow on workshop at the 2017 RCGP Conference. Umesh Chauhan and Sara McKelvie will be working with Joanne on this.

The working group taking this forward: Joanne Protheroe, Jon Dickson, Imran Rafi, Sarah McKelvie, Emma Parry, Umesh Chauhan, Faraz Mughal are working with RCGP officers Martin Marshall and Kamila Hawthorne and making sure the plans fit with the College as well as international colleagues.

3 ideas focussing on:

- Every GP a scholar – how do we recognise the distinct challenges of the discipline
- GPs with extended roles engaged in scholarly work (education, research and innovation). This is a particular focus for the new RCGP Innovation and Research Board who are considering a number of new ideas including establishing College supported innovation fellowships
- Academic GPs – have always been embedded in everything SAPC does, but Exec has recognised an opportunity to emulate the success of the PHoCuS group through building an academic GP network

Detailed plans are being discussed and will be reported in the future. The SAPC executive have agreed to provide £5,000 funding towards this work.

Heads of Department (HODs)

Mike Moore – new chair of HODs

Mike Moore thanked John Campbell for doing a fantastic job of leading the group for the last 5 or 6 years. Issues discussed at HODs meeting:

- The existence of the group - there are often no departments in Universities any more so further discussion around representatives in the group is needed,
- The visibility of academic primary care,
- Academic pathways and financial support for them,
- The impact on policy decisions and making sure academic primary care feeds in to the decision making.

Mike Moore invited comments and ideas.

Old HODs

George Freeman – chair of Old HODs

The group is mostly made up of retired honorary members rather than HODs. George Freeman explained that he had been involved in setting up the first meeting in 1974 in Aberdeen when it was decided to set up an association for academic primary care – the Association of University Departments of Teaching in General Practice (AUTGP). The group therefore takes a long view.

Many of the old issues are ongoing:

- Recruitment into general practice is not yet solved
- Last year there was a recommendation that SAPC members consider contacting their GP to raise their concerns. With parliament being so interesting over the last year so this hasn't happened yet. It may be worth SAPC identifying some bullet points for members to include in a letter to their MP, most letters will fall on deaf ears, but some may reach an enthusiastic champion for our discipline
- Old HODs were impressed with the report by the Wass Report – there were 15 recommendations in the 60 page report. The group felt there was one omission – something that characterises British academic general practice - the split between postgrad and undergrad education. It's unfortunate for our discipline when we are trying to attract more people that the postgrad and undergrad and research and the critical thinking part is not joined up. We'd like to highlight this as a problem to be addressed.

Heads of Teaching (HOTs)

Joe Rosenthal, Alex Harding - co-leads of HOTs

In Joe's absence Bob McKinley reported.

The group was set up by Bob McKinley 10 or 11 years ago. This year HOTs have just held their biggest meeting which was attended by 32 people representing virtually all medical schools in the UK. It has been an important support group and resource and a way of disseminating good practice and solving problems together.

The big issues continues to be SIFT and the funding question. Over the last year good progress has been made and The Department of Health has now accepted that undergrad teaching in general practice is under-funded. The DH has a difficult job in deciding priorities and how to increase funding for this.

Issues of policy - the Disclosure and barring service reports and clearances which the CQC is starting to make more challenging.

Bob has been involved in doing some work around GP careers as a result of his membership of MASC and HOTs was a useful way of finding out information.

Also increasingly HOTs are being used as a defacto education research network of getting work done in multiple medical schools to address key education questions.

The group is strong and working well.

Kate O'Donnell thanked Joe and Bob and the HOTS team for the huge agenda they are covering.

Conferences

Future ASMs:

2018 – 11 & 12 July, Queen Mary University London at the Barbican Centre

2019 – 5-7 July, University of Exeter

2020 and 21 – two expressions of interest have been received

Kate O'Donnell is also tentatively exploring a joint meeting with Dutch colleagues, possibly a one day meeting to test the water.

Kate O'Donnell thanked everyone for attending.

The AGM closed at 13.20.