Welcome to the 2015/16 SAPC Officers’ Report – a treat we know you look forward to every year!

Once again, this has been an exciting, busy and eventful year for our academic community, and for SAPC. In addition to providing our ‘usual service’ in the form of conferences, newsletters, career support, Special Interest Groups and more, we have been adding to our portfolio. Here, we offer you a whistle stop tour of some of the highlights and look forward to discussing more of the detail with you at our Annual General Meeting.

This year, we present our update against the three major pillars of SAPC activity: to raise the profile of APC/SAPC, to build and support a vibrant and sustainable workforce, and to foster impact through collaboration. Finishing with an update on SAPC organisational issues.

So put your feet up and enjoy!

Dr Joanne Reeve, Chair

Dr Nathan Hill, Secretary

Dr Jo Protheroe, Treasurer

Prof Kate O’Donnell, Chair-elect
Raising our profile

SAPC champions expertise in Academic Primary Care driving improvements in Primary Care provision. Several pieces of work this year have focused on raising awareness of both our discipline and our Society – who/what we are and why we matter.

*Developing the resources to support this activity – a new website*

The website has been designed with our members needs foremost. There has been a significant investment of time and money in getting a unified resource that will serve us all for the future.

- Conferences - organisation, booking, payments and personal programmes
- Training Events – booking and information
- Publications – All abstracts accepted for conferences are published and available for reference
- Resources – by the bucket load, tips and help for getting on in primary care, mentoring, special interest groups, latest news, latest jobs etc.

That’s just the beginning much more to come this year!

*Academic Primary care offering Strategic Leadership (APOSTLE)*

This year, we have continued our close working relationship with the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) and other partners to put forward a vision of academic primary care as part of the solution to current primary care service and workforce challenges. Our leadership roles have included:

In 2015, the Health Select Committee launched an Inquiry into Primary Care. SAPC submitted a written response in August in which we argued that primary care needs strong academic primary care.

https://sapc.ac.uk/article/academic-primary-care-now-more-ever

We put forward 4 specific recommendations to support quality improvement of primary care through education and research:

- The need to prioritise sustained and sustainable support and investment in primary care and academic primary care
- The need to establish a Primary Care Strategic Body, with academic primary care at the core
- The need a Primary Care Observatory to survey the impact of policy and practice changes on the core components of the primary care model
- The need to Seed Innovation through a strategic shift in the funding and focus of research.
In November 2015, Maureen Baker – Chair of RCGP – organised a round table discussion between College, SAPC and NHS-England. The purpose of the meeting was to share a conversation about opportunities, priorities and future direction for General Practice and primary care Research. It was clear from this discussion that there was more work to do to engage a wider audience in understanding the purpose and value of our discipline. There was discussion of the gap between what knowledge and when is needed by the service and what is/can be produced by academia. This led to the articulation of Terry’s challenge (see below).

A consideration of what APC has to offer to very immediate and practical problems such as workforce led to being invited to support a briefing paper to RCGP. Maureen Baker, RCGP Chair, had been invited to give oral evidence on the workforce issues to the HSC Inquiry. Our briefing paper can be found on our website:

https://sapc.ac.uk/article/releasing-potential-of-academic-general-practice-addressing-gp-workforce-crisis-how-we-could

(Or you can just search for ‘crisis’ on the SAPC website)

SAPC was cited in the Health Select Committee final report:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmselect/cmhealth/408/408.pdf

Sharing the work

In addition to making use of the new website to share this work, we have also led/been part of a number of editorials and discussion pieces:

Campbell J et al. UK academic general practice and primary care. http://www.bmj.com/content/351/bmj.h4164.short


Our reports have been shared with international colleagues. They were, for example, and used to support PHCRIS¹/AAAPC² in their own profile raising work (see later).

¹ Primary Health Care Research Information Service  www.phcris.org.au/
² Australisian Association for Academic Primary Care  www.aaapc.org.au
**Terry Kemple’s challenge**

At Maureen’s meeting, Terry put forward a challenge to our community to show front-line GPs the relevance of general practice research. To offer a response to the challenge: what has academic general practice ever done for me? Lively conversation followed, and has led to two pieces of work.

**Working group led by Professor Martin Roland**

This group met to scope out the feasibility and desirability of undertaking an exercise aimed at increasing understanding of the relevance of general practice to the everyday practice of the ‘jobbing’ GP.

The group identified the aim of the project as to produce *a cultural shift in the knowledge and beliefs of GPs about the value of research in general practice*. But with some challenges in identifying how best to achieve this – including recognising a risk in any initiative backfiring. To date the group has decided to focus activities around the RCGP conference in November 2016, including:

- A ‘winners enclosure’ session for research paper of the year and Yvonne Carter prize winners
- A workshop run by the College’s overdiagnosis group (supported by SAPC) on valuing the input that scholarship and research can make to a complex and topical area
- A workshop on ‘hidden gems’ of academic general practice which may include recommendations made by SAPC into current policy debates.
- Update on the Research Surveillance Centre and Research Ready

The group also considered whether there was a need to identify a set of priority areas for general practice research to discuss with funders. This was last done formally by MRC in its 1998 Topic Review. SAPC proposed that this exercise could use our Health Select Committee report as a framework for discussion. Issues are being taken forward by HODS and Exec.

**RCGP Conference workshop**

SAPC in conjunction with BJGP Board members is hosting a workshop at RCGP Conference in 2016 on revealing the hidden gems of academic general practice. Discussions are still in progress about the detail of the session. However, to avoid the concerns highlighted by MR’s group, we are proposing to focus on General Practice (not academic Gen Practice) – exploding myths about GP (GPs are just technicians) and revealing the hidden gems of Gen Practice (the innovation and scholarship happening in front line practice). Whilst also demonstrating how the academic community supports both the activity and the dissemination/sharing of activity. Come to Harrogate to find out more!
Is all this work being effective in raising our profile?

It is probably too early to say, but we are seeing an increase in external contacts from potential partners. For example, PULSE LIVE (http://www.pulse-live.co.uk/) have contacted us to discuss establishing working partnership. We are being recognised as an influential partner in the PC community.

We did however notice that we still have some work to do in raising our profile within our own academic community. Conversations at both regional SAPC meetings, and at the national Academic Clinical Fellows meeting revealed a surprising level of lack of awareness about SAPC and what we do. In response...

**Departmental/member liaison**

Dr Becci Morris – elected Exec member – has taken on a new role of departmental/member liaison lead. More details at the AGM, but Becci will be helping us launch two new initiatives – our SAPC Ambassadors scheme and our new Members packs.

**A vibrant workforce**

One of the key pieces of work shaping our current strategy was the career scoping survey led by Dr Ann Adams, past SAPC Secretary. That work supported the development of both our Primary Healthcare Scientists (PHoCuS) and Early Career Academics (ECA) groups. We are proud to support their work, and to be working with RCGP/NIHR/SPCR to support academic GPs.

https://sapc.ac.uk/article/sapc-supporting-your-career

Each group will be presenting details of their activities at the AGM. Highlights include an expansion of our mentorship scheme, and the development and roll out of new career support resources. Other developments include:

**The new SAPC Awards Committee**

SAPC has long recognised the importance of prizes in supporting career development – whether as a boost to a fellowship application or simply for recognition and celebration of your work.

In addition to the prizes offered at regional and national conference - including prestigious travel prizes - SAPC also supports a number of nationally competitive awards. Including the Yvonne Carter early career, the RCGP John Fry Award and applications/citations for the national Clinical Excellence Awards scheme.
Recognising the growing workload involved in running these schemes, at last December’s Heads of Departments (HODs) meeting it was proposed to establish an SAPC Awards Committee to oversee the running of these three awards. (In the case of the Yvonne Carter Award, the new group will oversee SAPC’s contribution to the award since RCGP supports the administrative side).

Following a trial run of the new arrangements this year, we have now described protocols for each award and identified the administrative time needed to support the work. We will be taking a proposal to the July HODS meeting in which we suggest that the HODS Chair, or nominated representative, take over Chairing the Awards Committee. Funding for necessary additional administrative support is being negotiated. We will report back on discussions at the AGM.

**Opportunities to build your CV by working with SAPC**

Any of us working with and for SAPC will be able to describe the career development opportunities these roles can offer – in developing new skills, creating new opportunities. New opportunities arise every year to join Exec, but we have been working on ideas to offer additional opportunities to a wider group of SAPC members. The success of the PHoCuS champions initiative - where members of the PHOCUS group take on support roles for the group - has been guiding our discussion. This year we will be rolling out our new SAPC Ambassadors role. Ambassadors will support SAPC in raising the profile of the organisation within departments and acting as a liaison between the Society, the department and interested external parties. In return, SAPC will offer Ambassadors a set of resources to support their work, input from the SAPC Exec lead for departmental liaison, Dr Becci Morris, and an opportunity to sit in on SAPC Exec meetings. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you all at the AGM.

**For the year ahead – additional activities**

**Establishing an academic general practice group.** Academic GPs are already represented and supported by the ECA group. Our mentorship scheme is being roles out to AGP with next training programme for mentors in autumn 2016. However we noted at the recent Academic Clinical Fellows conference that many ACFs hadn’t heard about SAPC. We have also noted increasing interest and contact from GPs (without academic contracts) at all career stages interested in how they can get more involved with scholarship/academic activity as part of a portfolio of work. So in 2016 /17 we propose to establish a 3rd career group alongside PHOCUS and ECA which will focus on academic general practice. More at the AGM – and/or watch the website
Impact through Collaboration

Conferences

Conferences are a key part of our work to promote impact through collaboration. Many of our Special Interest Groups form/are launched at conferences. Opportunities to present work at regional and national sparks the conversations that lead to new networks, new working groups and new ideas. And of course, conferences help raise our profile and offer key workforce development opportunities too.

The 2015 Oxford team provided stunning weather to support another glittering ASM success – one which has generated a healthy financial contribution to our activities for 2016 onwards. Thank you to the whole Oxford team.

Our thanks also to the hosts of this year’s regional. Regional meetings provide additional opportunities to meet, network, and present. But are also a vital additional to SAPC - in particular in raising our profile within departments and so in contributing to future collaboration and impact.

Given the importance of regional meetings, some recent problems/issues have been of concern to us. We have noted ongoing uncertainty about who is linked to which regional meeting. Our view at Exec is that anyone is welcome to attend any regional SAPC meeting; although the hosting arrangements for this events are shared by local/regional networks. Capacity issues for hosting came to the fore this year when the Northern meeting nearly had to be cancelled. Thank you to Keele for stepping in to run the 2016 meeting. But the problems revealed a need to revisit the regional network arrangements to ensure that we have the right meetings and the right network of resources to support those events.

We also noted from a show of hands at a recent regional meeting that many attendees had limited knowledge about the work of the wider SAPC organisation. There is more work to be done in linking regional networks with the national team.

To address both of these issues we would like to think with you about how we can strengthen awareness of the whole SAPC community at regional meetings. Regional networks are important, including maintaining local identify. But we are also perhaps too small a community to lose sight of the bigger connections too.

The work we have started on this includes developing our new Conference handbook to also include regional meetings. The new website has been designed with capacity to potentially support regional as well as national meetings (although this will not be a cost-free resource!). We are also working on ‘branding guidelines’ to help link our network of meetings. All of which we will share with you through newsletters and through the HODS network. Dr Sarah Tonkin-Crine is leading this work.
International APC

Contribution to International Primary Care book: SAPC gets a mention in this new publication

International Perspectives on Primary Care Research, Eds: Goodyear-Smith, Mash. 2015


NAPCRG International Committee: SAPC continues to work with this group seeking to support international cross-collaboration between our organisations in the US, Europe and Australasia.

AAAPC and PHRCIS: Important news emerged in 2016 about primary care research in Australasia - with withdrawal of funding for two major initiatives

- PHCRIS – the Primary Health Care Research Information Service (http://www.phcris.org.au/aboutus/). First established in 1995, PHCRIS generates, manages and shares research, information and knowledge about primary health care to accelerate the impact of research and evidence in policy and practice.
- BEACH – Bettering the Evaluation And Care of Health http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/fmrc/media/BEACH-closure-2016-04.php BEACH is a unique 18 year continuous national study of general practice which collects data from random samples of GPs to links management actions to the exact problem being managed, provide extensive measurement of prevalence of diseases, multimorbidity and adverse medication events.

We worked with PHCRIS colleagues on our career development work.


And have ongoing links with the APC community in Australia.

We have offered support to our colleagues – including sharing our Health Select Committee reports with AAAPC colleagues preparing similar reports for their government. BEACH funding has now ended. PHCRIS funding has been extended whilst negotiations are ongoing. This is an important time internationally to be arguing the need for APC.

Working with Academic Primary Care publishers

We have been approached by Sandra Cox, Swiss Medical Press (Journal of Comorbidity) to discuss opportunities for collaboration between SAPC and SMP. We already have a working relationship with the journal – SMP have sponsored our conference for the last couple of years. This conversation was to consider additional opportunities arising.
The Journal of Comorbidity grew out of the expressed frustrations of patients on the need for care which better understood/reflected the experience of living with multi- or co-morbidity. Editors include some prominent senior APC professors including Stewart Mercer, Jane Gunn, Martin Fortin, Susan Smith, Marjen van den Akken. It is an open access journal working towards being indexed on Medline.

The journal is keen to enhance its profile – let people know they are there, and to engage, inform and educate all with an interest in enhancing the management of patients with multimorbidity. To help with this, they are interested in collaborating with Societies who share their mission.

We have negotiated an agreement with the Journal whereby

**Contribution from Journal of Comorbidity to SAPC and its members**

- Offers discounted rate for publishing with JOC
- Sponsors a prize at SAPC conference
- Link from JOC site to our website
- Joint editorial to be published to coincide with Dublin conference announcing our new collaboration

**Contribution from SAPC to JOC**

- Link to JOC on our website, recognising JOC as an affiliated journal
- JOC offered an affiliated rate for exhibition table at the conference
- Contribution to joint editorial

The arrangement is not mutually exclusive – both parties can seek additional collaborations and affiliations.

We see this as an opportunity to strengthen our links with JOC. But also to pick up our previous discussions with Primary Health Care Research & Development HCRD to build a network of publishers working with SAPC to support impact through collaboration.

**SAPC and Exec News**

We look forward to sharing news of new appointments, Honorary memberships, and Honours awarded to SAPC members at the AGM.

We will also be saying good bye to 3 elected Exec members. Drs Helen Atherton, Greg Irving and Ben Brown have all reached the end of their time with us on Exec. Their contribution to the work described here and in previous reports has been invaluable. We will miss you! But wish you sincere best wishes for your next projects and plans.

Which means also that we welcome three new members. Drs Jon Dickson (Sheffield), James Prior (Keele) and Suzanne Richards (Exeter) all stood for election in Spring of this year. Since
we had three places to fill – all were duly elected. We look forward to welcoming you to Exec in September.

We are delighted also to have been joined by our new Chair-Elect – Professor Kate O’Donnell. Kate will take over as Chair at this year’s AGM. Welcome Kate!

A word from Kate

I’m delighted – and humbled – to be the Chair Elect of SAPC. Throughout my career in academic primary care, SAPC has been a key part of it. Both when we hosted the ASM in Glasgow, where I chaired the Scientific Programme Committee, and when I was previously on the Executive, I worked with a great bunch of colleagues who also became friends. I am greatly looking forward to the next three years as Chair, to working with and for all of you, ad to making new friends and colleagues

A personal note from Joanne

I will keep this (uncharacteristically!) short.

The 2016 AGM brings to a close my time as SAPC Chair. I am not leaving SAPC Exec immediately as I will be co-opted for a further year to lead the 2017 conference, and also to support a handover to Kate. But as I approach my final AGM as Chair, I wanted to take this opportunity to say in writing how proud I am of the SAPC Executive team – current and previous members – and of what we have achieved in the last three and a half years. It has been a joy and a privilege working with Exec, and working to support and serve all of you – the SAPC membership. I have learned an incredible amount in these years. (If you get a chance to take on an SAPC role, I would recommend grabbing the opportunity with both hands.)

My deepest thanks to all of the Exec team – past and present – without you, none of this would have happened. Thank you to all who have supported me and us – from some difficult beginnings and in to what I hope feels to all like an exciting present and future.

And most of all to Sue who has been amazing.

Thank you Kate, for picking up the baton with such energy and enthusiasm. And my very best wishes as you lead us all to pastures new.
### Executive Committee 2015-2016

#### Elected Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>UNIVERSITY</th>
<th>Year elected (re-elected)</th>
<th>Lead Role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joanne Reeve</td>
<td>Warwick</td>
<td>2012 (VC), Chair 2013-2016</td>
<td>Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kate O'Donnell</td>
<td>Glasgow</td>
<td>2016-16, Vice Chair</td>
<td>Vice Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathan Hill</td>
<td>Oxford</td>
<td>2013-2016, Secretary 2015-2018</td>
<td>Secretary, website, fundraising</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen Atherton</td>
<td>Oxford</td>
<td>2012, Early career role 2013-2016</td>
<td>Early Career Academics lead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ben Brown</td>
<td>Manchester</td>
<td>2012, Early career role 2013-2016</td>
<td>Early Career Academics lead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greg Irving</td>
<td>Cambridge</td>
<td>2013-2016</td>
<td>Academic GPs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Tonkin-Crine</td>
<td>Oxford</td>
<td>2015-2018</td>
<td>Conference/events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca Morris</td>
<td>Manchester</td>
<td>2015-2018</td>
<td>Department/member liaison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clare Jinks</td>
<td>Keele</td>
<td>2015-2018</td>
<td>Stakeholder liaison</td>
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Constitution of Nov 2001 allows 8 Executive Committee members in addition to Chair and Vice-Chair.

#### Coopted Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>UNI/ORGANISATION</th>
<th>Year invited</th>
<th>Lead role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Campbell</td>
<td>Exeter</td>
<td>2012-</td>
<td>HODs representative</td>
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<tr>
<td>tbc</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Communication Lead - tbc)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Rosenthal</td>
<td>UCL</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>HOTS representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christine Bond</td>
<td>Aberdeen</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>PHoCus lead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandra Eldridge</td>
<td>QMUL</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>PHoCus lead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imran Rafi</td>
<td>RCGP</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>RCGP representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tbc</td>
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Constitution of Nov 2001 allows for 7 coopted members.

**Observers:** Dr Phil Evans (Clinical Research Networks 2014- )

**SAPC Representation:** MASC – Bob McKinley, Keele (Medical Academic Staff Committee - Winifred Annan [WAnnan@bma.org.uk](mailto:WAnnan@bma.org.uk))
SAPC Exec 2016-2017

**New elected members**: Dr Suzanne Richards (Exeter), Dr James Prior (Keele), Dr Jon Dickson (Sheffield)

**New co-opted members**: Dr Joanne Reeve (for 1 year only)

**SAPC Membership Figure**

As of June 2016, SAPC has: 368 Medical members, 252 Academic/PHoCuS members. Making a total of 620 members.