

SAPC: Making A Difference

SAPC Officers Annual Report to Members for AGM, July 13th 2017

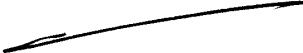
Welcome to the 2016/17 Officers' Report – my first as SAPC Chair. We hope you will enjoy this and agree that we have had another busy year promoting and supporting academic primary care.

As always, conferences, the newsletter and regular newsflashes, Special Interest Groups and career support have been central to our activities. However, we continue to add to our activities and are always looking for opportunities to make the voice of academic primary care heard. We continue to focus on three major pillars of activity: raising the profile of APC/SAPC; building and supporting a vibrant and sustainable workforce, and fostering impact through collaboration.

Here, we outline some of the highlights and look forward to discussing more of the detail with you at our Annual General Meeting.

Enjoy!

Kate O'Donnell.



Prof Kate O'Donnell, Chair



Dr Jo Protheroe, Treasurer

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.

Enhancing SAPC's profile through social media engagement

Following the redesign of the website, James Prior – one of our 2016 elected members – has taken on responsibility for the strategic direction of the website and our profile. You will see some of that bearing fruit at this year's ASM as members of the Executive, mentors and mentees are interviewed about the roles and experiences in SAPC. Our prize-winning presenters will also be interviewed about their work. All of this will go on the website, to increase and enhance our profile – both with our members and beyond.

Twitter is also featuring more in our activities, with regular Tweeting activity. Currently, we have 1370 followers but want to increase that. So, join us @sapcacuk

Academic Primary care offering Strategic Leadership (APOSTLE)

We continue to develop relationships with key strategic partners to ensure that academic primary care is seen as part of the solution to the many challenges facing primary care service.

A key partner is the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP); building on work of the last few year's, SAPC continues to have an Observer's seat at RCGP Council, which is a great way of ensuring that our contribution to national policy debate is heard. We are also delighted that several senior members of RCGP are also members of SAPC, and look forward to working with President-Elect Professor Mayur Lakanhi when he takes office later in the year.

In October 2016, SAPC ran a very successful workshop at the RCGP Conference in Harrogate in which we invited the GP audience to 'unleash their inner scholar'. The workshop celebrated the intellectual task of everyday General Practice. We aimed to encourage every GP to recognise the scholarly work embedded in all that we currently do, and to see academic General Practice as an integral part of our clinical discipline. During the workshop we explored ways in which every GP might extend and expand these activities as a way to refresh and revitalise their professional role. We have written about the workshop in the BJGP¹ and are following on from this with a Blog series in which we encourage GPs to share stories of everyday scholarship. Professor Umesh Chauhan and Dr Sara McKelvie will be joining Joanne Reeve to run a follow on workshop at RCGP Conference in Liverpool in September 2017.

As part of this work, SAPC Executives have been invited to a working dinner in August this year to discuss how to build on the work already undertaken. We will let you know what develops from that at next year's AGM.

¹ Reeve & Firth. Revitalising General Practice: unleashing our inner scholar. BJGP 2017; 67:266.

Providing evidence to support academic primary care

As part of our APOSTLE work, SAPC provided written evidence to the Academy of Medical Science in response to their consultation on 'Addressing the Global Challenge of Multimorbidity'. SAPC submitted an organisational response, with individual members also contributing either on their own or as part of their University's response. Our response can be found at <https://acmedsci.ac.uk/file-download/97065974>. We are now working on a summarised version for our own website and a commentary paper for the Journal of Co-morbidity, led by one of our SAPC Ambassadors, Amy Blakemore.

Another area of concern for SAPC was the recent reports of cuts to the GP training budget in England, being instigated by Higher Education England. This led to a letter to the BMJ from senior members of SAPC, published on-line and later in the 28th May edition of the BMJ.

O'Donnell CA et al. General practice needs ongoing commitment to training budgets. BMJ 2017; 357: j2401. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.j2401>

Supporting a vibrant and sustainable workforce

Mentorship scheme

Originally established to support PHoCuS members, the mentorship scheme continues to thrive. Over 2016, we had 13 ongoing mentors and 26 ongoing mentor/mentee pairings. In October, 2016 a new cohort of mentors, including clinical colleagues were trained, and we are now open to all members of SAPC. As part of our Website development, mentors and mentees will talk about their experience and anecdotal evidence shows that several of our mentees have gone on to promoted posts or Fellowships. While we can't say being an SAPC mentor was the cause, it is nice to speculate that it may have contributed to their success.

Departmental/member liaison

Dr Becci Morris – elected Exec member – took on the role of departmental/member liaison lead. Key activities include the SAPC Ambassadors scheme, SAPC Regional Champions and our new Members packs. The ambassador scheme was launched at the 2016 AGM and with support from HODs and HOTs we have recruited 28 local ambassadors. The ambassadors have worked locally to promote SAPC, the ASM, and support members through networking and peer support.

Another new initiative from the Executive has been the introduction of an 'open seat' for Ambassadors at each Committee meeting. We have been delighted with the response, with an Ambassador attending each of our Committee meetings in 2016-17. This 'open seat' policy appears to be very successful, giving us the opportunity to highlight the on-going work of the Committee, and we look forward to continuing it.

SAPC Awards Committee

As intimated last year, we now have an SAPC Awards Committee, chaired by Professor Chris Dowrick. This year, the Committee have been responsible for the Yvonne Carter Award for early career researchers, the RCGP John Fry Award, and applications/citations for the national Clinical Excellence Scheme in England. This Committee has worked extremely well and we are grateful to Chris, to the membership of each of the sub-groups reviewing the tree awards. We are also grateful to RCGP for providing administrative support for the John Fry Award and to the NIHR School of Primary Care for supporting the CEA applications.

GP Scholarship

New work – of which you hear more at the AGM – is in relation to the promotion of GP scholarship. Lead by Professor Joanne Reeve the GP Scholarship programme pulls together a number of threads of SAPC activity over recent years (including Ann Adam’s work on career development, SAPC’s support for the RCGP Sowerby Fellowships, Dr Jane Roberts work on supporting GPs with extended roles that include scholarship and the RCGP conference workshops described earlier in this report)

The GP Scholarship programme seeks to champion and cultivate the intellectual expertise at the heart of the profession of General Practice. Identifying and addressing the workforce and skills development needed to deliver a GP profession ready to meet emerging population and health systems challenges.

Further details can be found in the accompanying paper. SAPC is undertaking this work in collaboration with the new RCGP Innovation and Research Board.

Impact through Collaboration

Conferences

Our conferences – both national and regional – are a key means to promoting impact through collaboration. Last year, many of us gathered in Dublin for a highly successful, enjoyable and challenging ASM, combining internationally excellent research with entertaining and thought provoking cultural experiences. Thanks to all of the Dublin team for that.

Regional meetings continue to be an integral part of our activities, often providing the senior primary care academics of tomorrow with their first chance of presenting their work. We were particularly pleased to have a presence at the Scottish School of Primary Care’s scientific meeting earlier this year and look forward to supporting all the regions over the coming year.

We continue to support and review the regional network arrangements to ensure that we have the right meetings and the right network of resources to support those events. As part of this, the website is being used more promote regional meetings, with blogs of the several regional meetings posted this year. We hope to develop this in the coming year.

International APC

We continue to have good links with NAPCRG, with the Chair sitting on the NAPCRG International Committee, and with our Australian colleagues in AAAPC and PHRCIS. We note, however, the changes in funding that PHRCIS are now facing and the challenges that presents for them. We hope to continue our links with Professor Richard reed and his colleagues.

The on-going fall-out of the UK's decision to leave the European Union is being watched by the Executive. The 2018 ASM, hosted by QMUL in London, will have the theme of 'Looking to Europe'. In addition, we have had tentative discussions with Dutch colleagues to explore the possibility of a joint ASM – possibly in 2020 or 2021. Watch this space!

Developing a Community of Academic Publishing

Journal of Comorbidity

Last year, we announced an agreement with SMP and the Journal of Comorbidity to strengthen our links and support our mutual interests. Patients, carers, families and primary care practitioners all face the challenges of dealing with multi- or co-morbidity every day. An enhanced relationship between the journal and SAPC makes sense, both from an academic perspective but also from the practical realities of providing care. This agreement was launched with an editorial:

Smith et al. The Journal of Comorbidity affiliates with the Society for Academic Primary Care. Journal of Comorbidity 2016; 6: 73. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15256/joc.2016.6.88>

As described last year, the agreement includes:

- 20% reduction on Author Processing Charges for SAPC members
- Link from JOC site to our website
- Plans to sponsor a prize at a future SAPC conference

In return, SAPC will:

- Link to JOC on our website, recognising JOC as an affiliated journal - <https://sapc.ac.uk/news/2016/06/26/sapc-announces-new-affiliation-journal-of-comorbidity>
- JOC offered an affiliated rate for exhibition table at the conference

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

British Journal of General Practice

We have recently commenced a discussion with Professor Roger Jones, Editor of the BJGP, to develop a similar collaborative agreement. This is in its early stages, but we will keep you posted in the coming year.

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 did, however say goodbye to one member of the Executive Committee in November. Dr Nathan Hill, our Secretary, left having taken up an exciting new post with a pharmaceutical company. Nathan was the driving force behind our Website redesign and so leaves a lasting legacy! We wish him well in his new job and hope we might catch up with in the future.

We will also say goodbye (although not literally) and thank you to Professor John Campbell, who is standing down as the Chair of HODS – more of that at the AGM. In his place, we are delighted to welcome Professor Mike Moore, the new Chair of HODS.

While we said goodbye to Joanne Reeve as Chair of SAPC, it has been great to retain Joanne as a co-opted member as she is the Chair of this year's ASM in Warwick. As your incoming Chair this year, I have found Joanne's wisdom and knowledge a great benefit as I settled in. So my personal thanks to Jo.

We are also pleased to welcome a new elected member of the Executive, Professor Roger Charlton, who will take up his place on the Executive at the ASM.

Finally, huge thanks to Sue Stewart for her amazing support and dedication as our Secretariat and Conference Manager. We couldn't do half the things we do without having Sue – so our sincere thanks to her.

Executive Committee 2016-2017

ELECTED MEMBERS

| NAME | UNIVERSITY | Year elected (re-elected) | Lead Role |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kate O'Donnell | Glasgow | 2016-2019 2016-16, Vice Chair | Chair |
| Space | | | Secretary |
| Joanne Protheroe | Keele | 2010, Treasurer 2012- 2015, 2015-2018 | Treasurer, SIGs |
| Sarah Tonkin-Crine | Oxford | 2015-2018 | Conference/events |
| Rebecca Morris | Manchester | 2015-2018 | Department/member liaison |
| Clare Jinks | Keele | 2015-2018 | Stakeholder liaison |
| James Prior | Keele | 2016-2019 | Communications |
| Jon Dickson | Sheffield | 2016-2019 | |
| Suzanne Richards | Leeds | 2016-2019 | |

Constitution of Nov 2001 allows 8 Executive Committee members in addition to Chair and Vice-Chair

COOPTED MEMBERS

| NAME | UNI/ ORGANISATION | Year invited | Lead role |
|-----------------|------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| John Campbell | Exeter | 2012-2016 | HODs representative |
| Mike Moore | Southampton | 2016-2019 | New HODS representative |
| Joanne Reeve | Warwick | 2012 (VC), Chair 2013-2016 2016-2018 | Warwick ASM Lead, GP Scholarship |
| Joe Rosenthal | UCL | 2011 | HOTs representative |
| Christine Bond | Aberdeen | 2012 | PHoCuS lead |
| Sandra Eldridge | QMUL | 2012 | PHoCus lead |
| Imran Rafi | RCGP | 2015 | RCGP representative |

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)

SAPC Exec 2017-2018

New elected members: Professor Rodger Charlton, Leicester 2017-2020

Co-opted members: Dr Joanne Reeve 2017-2018.

SAPC Membership Figure

As of June 2017, SAPC has: 339 Medical members, 239 Academic/PHoCuS members. Making a total of 578 members.