

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### ASM 2024 - *Sustainable Primary Care: Healthy Systems, Healthy People*

#### Officers' Report to Members

##### Chairs' Report:

Writing this Chairs' report marks the end of the second, and penultimate, year of our term as SAPC co-chairs. Last year's AGM was incredibly well attended, and we are grateful for the continued support and engagement from our membership. The last twelve months have been busy, and we have continued to adapt the way we work in order to mitigate the pressures of the contemporary academic and clinical space in primary care. Our Executive meetings have switched from being all in-person, lasting a day or more four times a year, to a mixture of shorter online meetings, retaining our in-person meetings in the Winter and at the Summer ASM. Key streams of work have included:

- the development of our Strategic Priorities
- securing Incorporated Status for SAPC
- redevelopment of our online presence

**Strategic Priorities:** To briefly expand on each of these, our Strategic Priorities, which will be presented in more detail later in the AGM, were developed by the Executive through working with partner organisations (e.g. RCGP) to propose the three following broad priority areas:

Priority 1: growing academic primary care

Priority 2: addressing health inequalities

Priority 3: improving sustainable healthcare

More detail will be presented in relation to these in a dedicated agenda item, but we hope that these priorities will help focus our thinking, work and action to benefit the communities primary care serves.

**Incorporated Status:** Next up, our application for Incorporated Status: SAPC had previously been in a position where each member was equally liable in the hypothetical situation of SAPC accruing liabilities. Our original aim was to apply for Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) status, which we did in 2022. Our application was unsuccessful, but we received very detailed feedback on how we might be more successful on re-application. Work continues to address the points raised in the feedback from the Charity Commission. In the meantime, however, we sought to protect our members through securing Incorporated Status. This process was rather more convoluted than one might initially think, and took longer to sort and secure than we anticipated. Finally, however, we have been approved and registered by Companies House. In relation to this, we had to develop **Articles of Association** based on a template provided. After our approval was granted, it became apparent that the approved Articles deviated somewhat from the former SAPC constitution, especially in regards to quorum, and to the election to the executive committee. These points of departure have been amended in the draft Articles circulated for this AGM, and we will later be seeking feedback and approval to adopt these.

**Online presence:** The platform for our website (Drupal) is now far more advanced than the version of the platform that we have running our website. This means the technical support (etc) for our version of the platform is now obsolete and forces us to make a decision about how we continue to maintain a web presence going forward. This has prompted us to undertake a full-scale review of our website, in order to overhaul and update the content and functionality, as well as think about how else we might augment our online presence more generally. You might have seen that SAPC is now on LinkedIn and X (formerly Twitter). As we continue to review options and costings for web development and hosting, we will also be reviewing what information we share on our website, and how, to ensure that it is accessible and useful to the public and our members.

**SAPC Prizes and Awards:** We continue to see enthusiastic engagement with our range of prizes and awards. The standard of work or applications submitted continues to be high and promising. This year, congratulations go to:

- Martha Hughes (Oxford), SAPC Medical Student Prize
- Dr Sarah Mills (St Andrews), SAPC Doctoral Prize
- Dr Ioan Wardhaugh (Liverpool), RCGP/SAPC Elective Prize
- Dr Ben Brown (Manchester), SAPC/RCGP Award for Outstanding Early Career Researcher – Academic GP
- Dr Sarah Bailey (Exeter), SAPC/RCGP Award for Outstanding Early Career Researcher – Primary Care Scientist
- Dr Marije te Winkel (Amsterdam UMC), North American Primary Care Research Group
- Dr Rhea Singh (Monash) Australasian Association for Academic Primary Care
- SAPC Regional Winners:
  - o Dr Sarah Pocknall (QMUL), SAPC Southeast
  - o Dr Jamie Collins (Aberdeen), SAPC NADEGS
  - o Dr Emma Copland (Oxford), SAPC Southwest
- Dr Jenny Newbould (Cambridge), NAPCRG/SAPC Senior Travel Award
- Dr Charlotte Albury (Oxford), NAPCRG/SAPC Junior Early Career Award
- Dr Jonathan Stokes (Glasgow), AAAPC/SAPC Senior Travel Award
- Dr Charlotte Albury, SAPC Education Award
- Dr Umar Chaudhry, SAPC Early Career Award
- Dr Zahraa Khammas, SAPC Poster Prize
- Dr Benjamin Pickwell-Smith, SAPC Poster Prize
- Dr Richard Baker, SAPC Distinguished Paper Prize
- Dr Carol Bryce, SAPC Distinguished Paper Prize

The future of Academic Primary Care feels secure with such wonderful people contributing such excellent work to better care for our communities.

**Special Interest Groups:** Our community of Academic Primary Care continues to grow in other ways too. This year sees us welcoming PACT (the **Primary care Academic CollaboraTive**) into the SAPC community of Special Interest Groups. PACT started off as a grass-roots network of medical students, doctors in training posts, GP trainees, GPs, nurses, physiotherapists and pharmacists, paramedics and other AHPs working in primary care - working together to address real-world challenges faced in primary care through high-impact

collaborative research. We have also supported the Educational Research SIG in their ongoing work, which continues to attract a wide audience across the UK and beyond.

**Charitable Giving:** Over the past 12 months, SAPC have run a number of fundraising events raising a total of £1035 for the following charities: The Clocktower Homeless Sanctuary, The Clare Project, Friends Families and Travellers.

**Regional meetings:** As well as our Annual Scientific Meeting, we have a vibrant programme of regional events run throughout the country throughout the year. This year has seen conferences that have been run by:

- Southeast Region, hosted by Imperial College medical school in January 2024, and
- The North Region hosted by the University of Manchester in November 2023, and
- The Southwest Region, hosted by the University of Birmingham in March 2024.

These events are great opportunities for researchers from all stages of their career to share their work in a friendly environment, and there is always plenty of networking that goes on too.

And lastly, as we enter the final year of our term as co-chairs, we are reminded that we need to recruit a vice chair (or two co-vice chairs). Our community is an inherently busy one, and so we understand these sorts of roles may appear daunting, but the year of overlap created by having the vice chair position allows for a comprehensive and smooth handover, and we will continue to support SAPC and the wider APC community when our term is completed. So if you or a colleague feel they could consider taking on this role, we really would love to talk with you to share more about what is involved, so do come and say 'hi'.

To close, whatever the outcome of the 4<sup>th</sup> July's general election, let us hope that the future of the NHS and of primary care is secured through investment and careful planning to benefit our diverse communities, and protect those most vulnerable within them.

## **Announcements and Congratulations:**

It is customary at the SAPC AGM to share announcements pertinent to the national academic primary care picture, and take the time to congratulate colleagues who have had achievements recognised.

This year, we start with the sad announcement of the passing of one of our esteemed colleagues: Professor Paul Wallace who died in February this year. Paul held the David Cohen Chair in Primary Health Care UCL and was head of department between 1994 and 2001. He was a dear colleague to many and will be sorely missed by the community.

We can see academic primary care growing and developing, and within our community a number of colleagues have been promoted to professor in the last year, including:

- Prof. Caroline Mitchell, professor of general practice (Keele)
- Prof. Helen Atherton, professor of primary care research (Southampton)
- Prof. Sophie Park, professor of primary care & clinical education (Oxford)
- Prof. Alex Harding, professor of community based medical education (Exeter)
- Prof. Jaz Taggar, professor of primary care & medical education (Nottingham)

As well as promotions to Chair, we have seen some colleagues be appointed to senior leadership roles, including:

- Prof. Dame Helen Stokes-Lampard, being appointed to the role of Chief Medical Officer for New Zealand, beginning in October.
- Prof. Richard McManus, being appointed to the role of Dean of Brighton & Sussex Medical School, starting this month.