

Nominee statements

Treasurer

Dr Serge Engamba

Personal statement

Personal statement I am standing for the role of SAPC Treasurer because I believe that sound financial stewardship is fundamental to realising SAPC's vision of supporting excellence in academic primary care. With experience across regional and national leadership roles—including financial oversight, strategic planning, and championing inclusivity—I am well-prepared to guide SAPC's financial management to sustain a vibrant, inclusive, and impactful community.

As Treasurer, I would work closely with the SAPC Executive Committee and Secretariat to ensure robust and transparent finances. This includes approving year-end accounts, overseeing financial statements, and maintaining reserves equivalent to 18 months of running costs, in line with policy. I see this role as providing strategic financial oversight, ensuring decisions are informed by accurate data, and safeguarding SAPC's long-term sustainability.

I am particularly passionate about linking financial stewardship with inclusivity and member engagement. By maintaining strong reserves and planning carefully, we can expand opportunities for participation, support emerging researchers, and keep SAPC events accessible. I will advocate for budgeting that supports underrepresented groups and enables innovative initiatives, such as targeted scholarships, reduced-rate memberships, and seed funding for novel projects.

If elected, I will bring diligence, integrity, and a collaborative approach to ensure SAPC's finances support its strategic goals and inspire growth.

Areas of Interest

I am particularly interested in supporting SAPC's work on financial stewardship that enables inclusivity and growth, ensuring our events, membership, and research opportunities are accessible and reflective of our diverse primary care community. I would also like to develop targeted financial initiatives, such as scholarships and seed funding, to support underrepresented members and innovative projects.

General Exec Committee Member

Dr Victoria Tzortziou Brown (For re-election)

Personal statement

Primary Care is under immense pressure. Clinicians are overwhelmed and uncertain about their futures, and patient experience is at an all-time low. Now, more than ever, SAPC must provide strong leadership to support our members and promote academic primary care as a key part of the solution.

I am standing for the SAPC Executive Board to help ensure we offer a clear voice and bold vision. We must challenge unsafe policies, champion sustainability, and advocate for the resources needed to build a fairer and more compassionate healthcare system.

As a frontline GP for over 20 years, and an active researcher and educator, I am deeply committed to primary care. My career bridges clinical practice, research, and health policy, including senior roles with the RCGP and NHS. I understand the day-to-day realities of general practice and how to influence the systems that shape it.

My passion lies in reducing health inequalities and building strong networks that connect researchers, clinicians, and policymakers. If elected, I will work tirelessly to ensure SAPC remains vibrant, inclusive, and impactful, showcasing the essential role of primary care research and empowering a workforce that is supported, skilled, and inspired.

Areas of Interest

I would be particularly interested in contributing to SAPC's communications work, helping to strengthen our voice and visibility, and fostering better connections across our membership. I am passionate about developing meaningful networks that bring together clinicians, researchers, and educators—creating spaces for collaboration, mutual support, and shared learning.

I am also keen to explore opportunities for closer integration between primary care education and research, ensuring that these vital areas inform and enhance one another. A key priority for me is advocating for appropriate support and fair, sustainable contracts for academic colleagues at all career stages, recognising the essential contribution they make to the future of our discipline.

I would welcome the opportunity to continue my involvement with MASC and am open to taking on other roles where I can add value. Most importantly, I would listen to members and work responsively, helping to shape SAPC's priorities around what matters most to our community.

Dr Sarah Mills (For re-election)

Personal statement

I am running for re-election to SAPC Executive after having thoroughly enjoyed serving on the 2022-2025 committee. I am Lecturer in General Practice (Education and Research) at the University of St Andrews. My current involvements include:

- Early career researcher 2015-2021 CSO Academic Clinical Fellow PhD in primary palliative care (March 2021).
- Organising and hosting the 2026 SAPC Conference at the University of St Andrews.
- Leadership roles include nationally elected positions in the British Medical Association including Chair of Women in Academic Medicine (WAM) Committee, MASC committee & executive (2015-present), GPC (2016-2017), GP Trainee Subcommittee 2012-2016 (Exec 2012-2015), Committee on Community Care (2016-2018).
- Principal Investigator on three externally funded projects. Co-investigator for a large St Andrews-led programme grant researching improving unscheduled care use for people in their last year of life.
- Scottish Government advisory roles on Palliative/End-of-Life Care, Future Care Planning and National Digital Platform.
- Equality Diversity and Inclusivity: background in promoting EDI in medical academia and education.

It would be a pleasure and a privilege to continue to represent you on the SAPC executive.

Areas of Interest

My background is in health data science and its application to urgent/unscheduled care and to palliative and end of life care with a focus on multimorbidity and equality, diversity and inclusivity issues with regards to service use.

I am leading the St Andrews team organising the 2026 SAPC conference and am working to include a special interest in leadership within medicine, which I hope to roll out more broadly through SAPC during my time on the exec.

Dr Deepthi Lavu

Personal statement

I am standing for the Executive Committee because I am passionate about contributing to academic primary care while learning from experienced leaders. SAPC events always inspired me and I'm eager to be involved in organising high impact activities. This role offers a valuable opportunity to develop academic leadership skills whilst helping shape policy and practice through research dissemination and engagement. Opportunities to observe national and international academic and policy boards as SAPC representative will broaden my learning and networks.

I hope to bring:

Fresh ideas – from my departmental Wellbeing, Inclusion and Culture Committee and previous British Society of Biopsychosexual O&G ExCo, StratOG editorial board and the 4M 2024 international conference organising committee roles. I've created content and used social media, TV and podcasts to engage diverse audiences. I co-invented the PreMentriCS app, bringing transferable tech and organisational skills.

A constructive voice – as nationally elected RCGP GP Registrar Co-Chair, I've championed issues like GP unemployment. As an IMG, I'm committed to amplifying diverse voices to strengthen academic quality and inclusivity. I value cross-disciplinary work, evidenced by Exeter Women's Health and 4M network involvement.

Meaningful connections – internationally (WONCA Europe 2025 scholarship) and nationally (RCGP Women's Health SIG and Wellcome-NIHR SCPR Fellowship).

Areas of Interest

Early Career Academic - I am happy to co-chair if the opportunity arises. It would be nice to have a SAPC ECR specific area for shared learning and collaborations.

EDI - I am passionate about this area and am working on sex and ethnic inequalities in my current work. Would be good to have a more wider area spanning across all research involvements / specific EDI support within SAPC.

Existing interests : Women's health and sexual and reproductive health.

Jeffrey Lambert

Personal statement

I am passionate about the role of primary care research in addressing complex, real-world health challenges, particularly at the intersection of physical and mental health. I have been actively involved in primary care research, with a strong focus on mental health, digital health and the design and evaluation of interventions for at-risk populations, with an emphasis on how mental and physical health interact.

I currently serve on an executive committee for a large NIHR-funded programme in youth mental health, where I contribute to strategic direction, interdisciplinary research, and engagement with policy and practice. This experience has given me a deep appreciation of the value of academic primary care in translating research into meaningful impact.

As a non-clinical academic, I am committed to improving visibility and career pathways for others in similar roles. I understand the challenges faced by non-clinical researchers in clinical environments and would work to ensure SAPC continues to support and represent the full diversity of our academic community.

If elected, I would bring experience, energy, and a strong commitment to equity, collaboration, and innovation. I am excited by the opportunity to contribute to SAPC's strategic vision and to help strengthen an academic primary care community that is inclusive, impactful, and reflective of the realities of people's lives.

Areas of Interest

I am particularly interested in supporting SAPC's work to strengthen the visibility, development, and leadership opportunities for non-clinical academics within primary care. I would also like to help develop new initiatives that focus on the integration of physical and mental health research, and promote interdisciplinary collaboration across sectors.

Dr Peter Edwards

Personal statement

I'm standing for the Early Career Academics Lead. As an early career clinical academic, I understand first-hand the challenges many of us face – particularly around funding and career progression. I'm especially concerned about the persistent bottlenecks researchers encounter at the doctoral stage. We risk losing talented people not because of a lack of ability or motivation, but due to structural hurdles in accessing funding and opportunities.

Having benefited from SAPC's vibrant community throughout my academic journey, I'd welcome the opportunity to give back. I'll advocate nationally for early career needs and promote initiatives that help us retain and nurture the next generation of academic leaders in primary care. I also have experience of how committees function, having served on my Local Medical Committee for two years.

If elected, I will work to support early career researchers – both clinical and non-clinical – to navigate these challenges. I plan to draw on SAPC's rich, supportive network to help members access funding opportunities, connect with mentors, and foster collaborative bids. I'm committed to strengthening peer networks and improving visibility for early career researchers within and beyond SAPC.

Areas of Interest

I'm particularly interested in developing grant and fellowship application support for early career researchers. I'd also like to build a cross-organisational network of potential supervisors, and create opportunities for cross-organisational interview and viva preparation. My research focuses on artificial intelligence and patient safety in primary care consultations.

Dr Bhautesh Jani

Personal statement

I am an academic General Practitioner (GP) and a clinical senior lecturer at University of Glasgow in Scotland, UK. I have been a practicing GP since 2012. I have 14 years of experience in academic primary care, winning research grant income more than 7 million pounds and publishing >110 peer reviewed publications.

I am currently the national clinical lead for the primary care research network in Scotland which is a Scottish government funded network tasked with enabling research recruitment from GP practices in Scotland. In NHS, I am the clusters quality lead GP for Bellshill locality (North Lanarkshire) and leading the quality improvement activities for 7 GP practices and >40,000 patients.

I am currently the co-chair for special interest group (SIG) on multimorbidity research at the Society of Academic Primary Care (UK) and North American Primary Care Research Group-NAPCRG.

I am also a member of NAPCRG annual conference organising committee since 2023.

Areas of Interest

I would like to develop and support representation from ethnic minority groups across all levels of primary care research within the UK. Ethnic minority representation needs strengthening in primary care research study participants but also among primary care academics from early career academics to senior professors.

Dr Hassan Awan

Personal statement

I am a highly motivated NIHR Clinical Lecturer in General Practice at Keele University and Manchester-based GP with expertise in interdisciplinary primary care research, focusing on mental health equity in underserved populations and culturally safe healthcare delivery. I have extensive experience in qualitative methodologies, community engagement, and developing innovative approaches to reach underserved populations. I have demonstrated success in building research partnerships across healthcare systems and communities.

As an early career academic, I understand firsthand the challenges we face such as job security, balancing clinical work, research demands, and training development. I am keen to develop supportive networks that help ECAs develop. My community engagement experience has taught me the importance of listening to diverse voices and creating inclusive spaces where everyone feels valued. I would bring this collaborative approach and work on initiatives and advocating for ECA needs at regional and national levels. I am committed to fostering an academic culture where early career professionals can build fulfilling careers while maintaining their wellbeing and sense of purpose.

Areas of Interest

I am particularly interested in developing supportive networks that bridge the gap between clinical and research-focused ECAs, facilitating PHoCuS and clinical members to learn from each other and develop collaborative relationships. I would also like to help develop initiatives that address the specific challenges faced by ECAs of different backgrounds, drawing on my experience in culturally safe healthcare delivery to promote greater inclusivity within SAPC membership and academic culture.

Dr Anna Podlasek

Personal statement

I am driven to serve as Early Career Academics Lead because I've experienced the value of mentorship, structured support, and inclusive networks. These enabled me—still an early career academic with 58 peer-reviewed publications (h-index 15)—to contribute meaningfully to research through international collaborations, transparent methods, and rigorous biostatistics and evidence synthesis. I would love to help shape similarly supportive environments for others, fostering skills and career development across the SAPC community.

If elected, I will initiate a survey early to identify priority topics and preferred formats. Based on member feedback, I will explore:

- A dedicated SAPC platform (modelled on Cochrane Crowd) to support skills exchange, peer learning, and networking
- A webinar/workshop series covering “My Research Journey”, idea-to-publication workflows, reference management tools, AI in research, and essential statistical methods
- Continued support for networking events, the PI of the Year award, and ad-hoc support for medical and non-medical early career academics—following in Bekki’s footsteps to ensure these initiatives are sustained and expanded

Through these efforts, I hope to create practical, inclusive, and measurable opportunities that enhance competence, confidence, and career satisfaction across our early career academic community.

Areas of Interest

I am particularly interested in strengthening support for early career academics through structured peer-learning, skills exchange, and targeted training in research methods, publication workflows, and biostatistics. I also bring expertise in research methodology and am committed to promoting rigorous, transparent approaches across SAPC activities. In addition, I will join the new Special Interest Group in Urgent Care (initiated by Alex Burrell, Matthew Booker, Sara McKelvie), which will be formally launched in July 2025, and look forward to contributing to its development and impact.

Dr Shoba Dawson

Personal statement

I am applying for the SAPC Executive Committee EDI Lead role because I am committed to building a more equitable and inclusive academic primary care community.

Our work and workforce must reflect the diversity of the populations we serve. Achieving this requires embedding equity, diversity, and inclusion into our structures, processes, and values. Equally important is the meaningful support and retention of our workforce, critical to maintaining sustainability but overlooked.

I have 12 years of experience in academic primary care, focusing on advancing equity and inclusion. I co-lead GPs at the Deep End Bristol, which addresses health inequities, and the Trial Forge Inclusive Research Centre, which builds the evidence base for inclusive methodologies.

I collaborate with the NIHR Inclusion Team and HRA to develop inclusion exemplars and contribute to the School for Primary Care Research EDI Strategy Development Group. My experiences of systemic barriers have shaped my belief that we must move beyond traditional EDI frameworks, which often perpetuate tokenism. Instead, we should adopt systems-based approaches rooted in anti-exclusion principles to drive structural change, transparency, and accountability to create a lasting impact. SAPC plays a vital role in this transformation, and I am eager to help lead it.

Areas of Interest

I am interested in supporting both the education and research arms of SAPC. I am especially keen to weave in equity, diversity and inclusion in all aspects of SAPC work. I also have an interest in developing inclusive research methodologies and keen to help develop this further if this is an area of interest for SAPC.

Dr Stephen Woolford

Personal statement

My name is Stephen Woolford, and I am an NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow in General Practice at City St George's, University of London (CSGUL), as well as a GP registrar in Southwest London. With the landscape of general practice undergoing rapid change, it is increasingly important to advocate for the role of academia within our specialty. Research and medical education opportunities must be embedded in GP training and early post-qualification careers to ensure a sustainable culture of academic innovation.

As Communications Lead for the Primary care Academic Collaborative (PACT), I have supported the development of a UK-wide research network of over 1,000 general practice clinicians, many new to research. Locally, I organise regular pan-London teaching events for academic GP trainees and coordinate monthly academic primary care meetings at CSGUL. I have also served as a GP registrar representative to the London training deanery and am contributing to the upcoming 10 Year Health Plan through a working group of early career GPs convened by NHS England.

As SAPC's Early Career Academics Lead, I hope to bring a clear and practical voice for my colleagues, shaping policy, strengthening peer networks, and making academic primary care a more visible and viable career path.

Areas of Interest

My research interests are focussed on the pragmatic analysis of real-world problems facing general practice. I am currently the Co-Chief Investigator for The Hidden Workload Study, a national-mixed methods research study exploring the full scope of general practice workload and clinician's lived experience of workload. I was recently awarded the Early Career Research award for preliminary findings from this study at the SAPC Southeast Regional Conference. I am also interested in the interface between research and policy, and the development of communities of change in general practice and primary care. My ORCID profile can be viewed here if wanted: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4184-7390>
