

**Draft minutes of the Society for Academic Primary Care
Annual General Meeting 2021
held on Zoom during the virtual annual scientific meeting
on Thursday 1st July 2021 from 12.30 to 13.00**

Tabled papers: <https://sapc.ac.uk/article/agm-2021>

Paper A: Draft minutes of AGM 2019 (no meeting held in 2020)

Paper B: Officers' Report (Carolyn Chew-Graham)

Paper Ci & Cii: Treasurer's Report (Jo Protheroe)

Paper D: HODs Report (Joanne Reeve)

Paper E: HOTs Report (Joe Rosenthal)

1. Welcome and updates/news

Chair, Carolyn Chew-Graham, welcomed and thanked everyone for attending.

2. Attendance and apologies

Attendance: 66 members.

Apologies:

John Campbell

Sudeh Cheraghi-Sohi

Chris Clark

George Freeman

Amanda Howe

Christian Mallen

3. Minutes of last AGM

The minutes of 2019 were approved. There was no AGM held in 2020 due to the pandemic and cancellation of ASM 2020 although AGM papers were prepared and shared with members remotely with the opportunity to pose questions to the Executive team. No questions were received.

4. Acknowledgements and congratulations

SAPC members recognised in:

2021 New Year Honours

Prof Roger Jones OBE for services to general practice.

Prof Phil Heywood MBE for services to 'maternal healthcare overseas' in his role as a volunteer for VSO.

2020 New Year Honours

John Campbell MBE (for Services to General Practice)

Victoria Tzorziou-Brown OBE

New Chairs

Anne Stephenson, King's College London

Clare Jinks, Keele

Fiona Wood, Cardiff

Hazel Everitt, Southampton

Katrina Turner, Bristol

Miriam Santer, Southampton

Nick Francis, Southampton

Sophie Park, University College London

New roles and congratulations

Simon de Lusignan, Director Oxford RCGP research surveillance centre

Christian Mallen, Keele, new Director of SPCR

Chris Griffiths, QMUL, Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences

Fiona Walter, UCL who will be the director of the newly established Wolfson Institute for Health

Adrian Edwards, stepping down from his role in Cardiff to become Director of Wales COVID 19 Evidence Centre

Congratulations to Carolyn who has been awarded a President's medal by the Royal College of Psychiatrists for her contribution to improving the lives of people with mental illness (congratulations added by Jo Protheroe).

5. Chair's report

Carolyn Chew-Graham encouraged members to read the officers' report outlining SAPC's work over the last year. CC-G thanked Jo Protheroe, treasurer, for steering SAPC's financial situation in the right direction. CC-G also thanked all members who had rejoined SAPC.

CC-G thanked all the regional meetings organisers this year for hosting on-line meetings from SAPC North (Nov 2020) to SAPC SE and SW in January and March 2021. They had all been very well received and SAPC is indebted to them for encouraging attendees to join SAPC.

CC-G thanked Sue Stewart for her role in running the SAPC Secretariat and Conference.

SAPC's next ASM is the 50th conference at UCLan Preston. SAPC has fitted its dates around WONCA Europe and ASME so the dates are **Monday 4th to Weds 6th July 2021.**

Awards and prizes

Medical student essay prize

Winner:

- Andrew MacFarlane, St Andrews and Dundee Medical School

Highly commended:

- Janvi Karia, University College London
- Jennifer Knight, University of Oxford
- Hamzah Niaz, St George's University London

PhD/Doctoral awards

Winner:

- Emily McBride, University College London

Highly commended:

- Andrew Sturrock, Sunderland

Awards for outstanding Early Career Researchers funded jointly with RCGP (first year of offering 2 awards):

- Samuel Seidu (Academic GP), Leicester
- Shoba Dawson (PHoCuS/HSR), Bristol

Principal Investigator prize

- Kate Walters, University College London

Do consider nominating yourself or your colleagues for the awards next year.

6. Treasurer's Report

Jo Protheroe

I'm pleased to report that despite the challenging times we are all going through the SAPC finances are in better shape now than this time last year.

We faced the lack of income from the ASM 2020 and had some expenses relating to it. Our chair Carolyn Chew-Graham went on a membership drive to encourage members to renew. Thanks to regional meeting hosts who offered free registration but encouraged membership of SAPC.

We saved money on executive meeting travel and venue expenses and took the decision to cut other expenditure to ensure any losses were kept to the minimum.

We are heartened by level of registrations to the virtual regional meetings and to the national virtual meeting which shows that SAPC is alive and kicking and in a very health place to resume normal activities post-pandemic.

We want to aim to not have to rely on conference income which can be very variable so please continue to encourage your colleagues to renew their membership or join the Society.

We invite members to come forward with proposals for projects. SAPC is in a position to provide pump priming funds for new projects which can demonstrate that new members would be encouraged to join.

I am greatly indebted to Sue Stewart for the day-to-day running of the SAPC finances.

7. SAPC priorities and discussion

In advance of the AGM there was a Survey about which priority areas are most important to members.

The executive had identified three key areas and conducted a poll via a survey before the AGM and a live poll at the AGM.

Equality, diversity and inclusivity (17) – 31%

Workforce (34) – 63%

Conferences (3) – 6%

The live poll results at the AGM are shown above and these resonated with the pre-AGM survey monkey with Workforce and the future being considered the most important followed by Equality, diversity and inclusivity. The executive will work on these areas in the coming months.

Members were also asked to pose questions in advance and via the Zoom chat at the AGM.

Questions and discussion

Questions and suggestions in advance via Survey Monkey and selected questions from the Zoom chat at the AGM

1. Understanding how COVID has impacted on the work/opportunities of early and mid-career researchers (anonymous)

Rebecca Morris responded: at the moment we have anecdotal evidence about the uncertainty of contracts and significant effects of the pandemic on education colleagues.

We need to understand this better perhaps by conducting a survey among members. This can be explored as the key priority for SAPC in the coming months.

2. Increasing visibility of SAPC amongst early career researchers to ensure pipeline in numbers? (anonymous)

Rebecca Morris responded: a good question about sustainability of the Society. We need to make sure early career researchers join. To raise the profile of SAPC we have developed a number of prizes and career awards that will be good for CVs. Our career development awards range from Undergraduates to Principal Investigators and there is a new SAPC HODs future leaders programme aimed at more senior lecturers. There are awards across the spectrum although this is different for clinical and PHoCuS members. In addition to awards there are over 20 Special Interest Groups and the SAPC mentoring programme. SAPC activities are promoted through the ambassador programme. If you don't have an ambassador in your team get in touch with the executive. Another area is to keep active on Twitter and promote each other and lift each other up. SAPC currently has over 3,600 followers on Twitter. This year SAPC has introduced a new medical student membership rate.

3. Research methods in primary care given the changing and demanding environment (e.g. recruitment of GPs / practices (in light of increasing time constraints), patient recruitment & retention (esp contact via email / text message), use of GP records for research etc.)

(Kate Dunn, Keele)

CC-G responded that the CRN had a virtual stand at the ASM 2021 about their role and what they are doing differently. HODs is working with CRN to encourage practice engagement. View the CRN video from the virtual stand here: <https://sapc.ac.uk/institution/nihr-clinical-research-network>

Joanne Reeve added – HODs will be running a workshop at the next meeting on how we can work with and support CRN and how CRN can work with us.

4. The future of primary care delivery - closely linked to workforce but slightly broader, as includes issues around how to deliver primary care and not just who delivers it (Miriam Santer, Southampton)

Joanne Reeve responded: primary care is more than just a setting where either clinical practice or research or teaching happens and has a body of expertise around it. This was put to the health select committee in 2017 and we continue to work on this in our collaborations with RCGP.

This is about impact and profile – helping the wider world – including the funders of research including those working in a primary care setting.

We have this expertise – it's about the wider notion of how to improve primary care through scholarship.

5. What about encouraging international membership esp in LMICs by offering a discount for members from LMICs and fostering research in global health? (Merlin Willcox, Southampton)

CC-G responded: good idea, there was a registration rate at the ASM 2021 for those from Low and middle income countries (same as the student rate). The executive will look at membership rate for LMICs at the next meeting.

6. **How much does SAPC still see itself as a group of departments. As the academic workforce is becoming more dispersed this should be an opportunity for the SAPC to bring us together around some of these big challenges (like the future of the primary care workforce).** (Kerry Hood, Cardiff)

Joanne Reeve, Rodger Charlton, Rupert Payne responded:

Joanne Reeve:

We recognize that departments are important to what we do but insufficient.

The HODs group is a collection of the leads of each of the primary care departments around the UK. We recognize that our historical origins as a discipline of academic primary care came from those departments and how do we grow a discipline other than bringing people together and working collectively. The hidden work of academic primary care as well as the profile raising. Important for the sustained work that we do, provides a collective voice and enables us to put on annual regional and national conferences, supporting the mentorship that the career development that we do comes from a sustained and sustainable resource underpinning it.

We recognise departments are an important foundation for the work we do. They are changing and individuals are increasingly diversely spread. So it is important to have a Society that is bigger than the individual departments but that the departments are an integral part of SAPC.

Rodger Charlton:

It's very much about scholarship in primary care. Scholarship, teaching and research. The departments are very much part of this but it is much wider than that and we need to make sure our work is not just focused in the UK but internationally as well.

Rupert Payne:

To a certain extent structures of SAPC reflect the departmental nature of the membership (HODs, HOTs etc). We need to explore working with other policy circles and educators and see how we can improve our visibility to those individuals.

RP thinks we are perceived as a Society of academic general practice rather than primary care. We need to reach out to those working outside departments and those in other departments that don't always perceive themselves as being part of primary care eg pharmacy, dentistry and nursing. SAPC already has links with some groups eg dentists and pharmacists. SAPC is open to broadening the scope of membership.

It would be interesting to hear from members about ideas for reaching out to other disciplines.

7. **What are you actively doing to we address the inequity between the SPCR departments v non-SPCR funded departments.** (Anonymous)

CC-G responded: SPCR has a board and SAPC has a place on the board. Christian Mallen in his ASM welcome message said SPCR is open to closer collaborative working between SPCR and non-SPCR departments.

8. **What is SAPC doing to help allied health professionals.** (Frances Mair)

CCG responded: SAPC has SIGs which cover a wide area of interests eg dentists/oral health, medicines optimization (Rupert Payne and Ian Maidment who is a pharmacist)

Mentoring is open to non-GPs, PHoCuS, HSR members – please take a look at the site and contact Caroline Mitchell, mentorship lead.

Thank you to everyone who engaged with the survey before and during the AGM via the poll. If you think we should be doing something else please contact us so that we can discuss your suggestions at future executive meetings.

Thank you for participating.

End of the AGM

Actions arising/points to note

Future priorities	
1. Workforce and the future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the impact of COVID on the workforce • Raising the profile of SAPC among early career researchers to maintain pipeline of membership • Keep in mind primary care delivery • Ria Aggarwal offered help with workforce discussion via the AGM Survey Monkey form
2. Equality, diversity and inclusivity	
Other items arising from Q&A	
Research methods in primary care	HODs/CRN
Inequity between SPCR v non-SPCR depts	Christian Mallen open to ideas/discussion
Low and Middle-Income Countries	Introduce lower fee for membership.
SAPC and helping Allied Health Professions	Developing links with other groups