



G127M

**Minutes of the Society for Academic Primary Care  
Annual General Meeting 2008  
held at National University of Ireland, Galway  
on Thursday 10 July 2008 from 11.45 to 12.30**

**1. Attendance and apologies**

The meeting was attended by 77 members of the Society.

No apologies were received in advance.

**2. Minutes of last AGM and matters arising**

Minutes of the last AGM (126M) were approved and there were no matters arising.

**3. Acknowledgements**

AH congratulated the following people:

9 members who had been granted a senior investigator award by the NIHR.  
Professor Tony Kendrick – RCGP president's medal for innovation and support in the academic community through chairmanship of the Scientific Foundation Board.

Jonathan Mant – chair of primary care at University of Cambridge

Ann-Louise Kinmonth – invited to be a member of the American College of General Practice

**Action** – letter of congratulations to ALK (AH/HL/SS)

**4. Executive and Secretariat Report 2007/2008**

AH reported that the new sub-groups structure of the Executive was working well and that even more work was being achieved between meetings.

The meetings sub-group, led by Chris Salisbury, has been working hard on developing systems to retain the organisational memory for ASMs.

The education, training and careers sub-group, led by Jane Richardson, will be reviewing previous work and a SAPC paper on non-clinical careers, in the Autumn.

#### **4a. Election result**

Kate O'Donnell had stood again for the one vacant post and since no further nominations were received, Kate was duly re-elected. HL was delighted that Kate was continuing on the Executive but disappointed that no new nominations had been received.

HL explained that the Executive had discussed the lack of interest and thought that this may have been as a result of only having one vacancy. The Executive felt the problem could be overcome by ensuring that there were more posts falling vacant each year. HL therefore proposed a motion to extend the 3 year period served by some members of the Executive by one year (as a one off) so that each year there would be two or more members due to stand down (or be re-elected).

Martin Underwood queried whether this decision can be made at the AGM. The Chair and Secretary confirmed that this was possible within the constitution.

**Vote** to extend the period of office by one year as a one off.

Votes: 63 for, 2 abstentions, 0 against. Formally carried.

HL reported that the membership has grown to 773.

Special interest groups are thriving with nine at present plus a proposal for a new education SIG (lead by Bob McKinley) which will be discussed at the Executive meeting in the Autumn. The role and responsibilities and constitutional framework of SIGs will also be reviewed by the Executive at the Autumn meeting.

Awards and bursaries: Richard Neal attended the NAPCRG conference in Vancouver in 2007 as the winner of the NAPCRG/SAPC travel prize at the ASM 07.

#### **Research Training Alliance**

Peter Croft is leading this new development for SAPC. It is hoped that it will become an important umbrella organisation to help support the career development of Walport and non-Walport posts. RTA progress will be reported next year's ASM.

The alliance between the College and SAPC continues to flourish with SAPC representation on the Council, BJGP, CIRC and official affiliation of SAPC to RCGP. Nigel Mathers is an observer on the SAPC executive. SAPC is involved in organising research sessions (including a showcase session of leading papers

from ASM 08 Galway) and a careers workshop at the RCGP annual meeting in October 2009. It is hoped this will continue on an annual basis.

RAE – SAPC keeps a watching brief and assesses changes in the NHS which will affect the academic primary care community.

Tooke report on postgraduate medicine – SAPC’s main goal is to ensure that academic career paths are enhanced in the next model.

## **QOF**

This is the fourth year of an affiliation between the College, SAPC and the Universities of Birmingham and Manchester. There are 28 reports covering a wide range of information across clinical and organisational issues in primary care. In the Darzi review of primary care, it was suggested that NICE may take over responsibility for developing QOF in future. HL

## **Votes of thanks**

Thank you to Adrian Edwards who had represented SAPC on the BJGP editorial board for several years. Chris Salisbury is the new representative, with Peter Murchie as deputy.

Thank you to Peter Murchie, in his absence, for his hard work on producing an excellent newsletter for SAPC.

Thank you to Sue Stewart and Sharon Pidgeon for their hard work on SAPC.

## **Q&A**

Tony Kendrick asked if there was any guidance from the meetings sub-group for the regional meetings. Chris Salisbury confirmed that there was no particular guidance at this stage for the regional meetings, but that there was for the ASMs.

AH reiterated the need for the regional meetings to be inclusive and open to all members regardless of location and encouraged colleagues to continue organising and hosting the regional meetings. The meetings help make SAPC more accessible to young researchers, organisations and colleagues involved in primary care research and education.

## **5. Treasurer’s report**

The chair thanked the treasurer for her role and work in overseeing SAPC’s finances. KF confirmed that the accounts had been signed off. KF confirmed that the Society had done well to remain in the black in view of the additional expense incurred by affiliating to PHCR&D. This had been achieved by increasing the

subscriptions by £10 per member per year. However we will need to use reserves next year when a full year's payment of the affiliation with PHCR&D is due.

## **6. Heads of Department's report**

Paul Wallace reported that during the HODs two half day meetings, the RAE and NIHR had been discussed at length.

### **RAE**

A survey carried out by HoDs showed that 12 departments were submitted under the unit of assessment 8 (primary care). The benchmarking exercise initiated by Martin Roland and implemented by Tony Kendrick and assessing the volume and quality of research produced by the UK compared to the Netherlands, Germany, US, Australia showed that the UK compares very favourably.

### **College/SAPC/Deanery**

HODs is involved in developing stronger links between the College, SAPC and the Deaneries in order to bring together undergraduate teaching, postgraduate training and professional development (through the College). Clare Gerada, vice-president at the College had joined the meeting to discuss these issues.

HODs have made commitments to building an academic stream into the new 5 year GP training described in Tooke.

### **NSCPR - National School for Primary Care Research**

Membership of the NSPCR had been decided as a result of the 2001 RAE exercise. This would be reviewed in the light of the 2008 RAE exercise.

## **7. PHCR&D**

HL presented the results of survey of members' views on SAPC's affiliation with PHCR&D. 25% of the membership had responded and most were positive about the journal and affiliation. A copy of the presentation will be placed on the SAPC website. HL pointed out that the AGM needed to vote on whether or not to continue the affiliation for a further twelve months. HL invited Dan Edwards, CUP Editor of PHCR&D to address the AGM.

Dan Edwards reported that the journal was very happy with the affiliation. The following future developments are planned:

1st August – on-line manager system will go live. Authors will be able to submit papers on-line and track progress.

Indexing by Medline – the application for this will be submitted early in 2009.

## Q&A

John Campbell asked if SAPC's affiliation with PHCR&D had had any impact on the number of papers submitted to Family Practice and the British Journal of General Practice.

Brendan Delaney replied for FP and on behalf of David Jewell, Editor of the BJGP. Brendan reported that there had been a slight drop in the number of submissions to both these journals but suspects that the recent higher impact factor of the US journal – Annals of Family Medicine – is the reason behind this drop.

Christine Bond asked what proportion of the PHCR&D circulation are SAPC members. At present SAPC is the vast majority of the circulation although there are also many people subscribing to the on-line only service.

TK recommended that in view of the rapid changes taking place in academia in general and primary care in particular, that the decision to continue the affiliation with PHCR&D should be for one year only.

HL proposed the motion that the SAPC should continue affiliation with PHCR&D for a further twelve months.

**Votes: 66 for, 3 abstentions, 8 against.**

Brendan Delaney asked colleagues to remember that they can submit papers to any primary care journal. **Action: place this message on SAPC website (SS) and in newsletter (PM).**

## 8. ASMs

2009 – 8-10 July, St Andrew's

2010 – 7-9 July, UEA

2011 – to be confirmed

## Date of next meeting

Thursday 9th July 2009, St Andrew's University