

SOCIETY FOR ACADEMIC PRIMARY CARE CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARY REPORT 2009

The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee has met on three occasions in the last twelve months. We have continued to meet as a group in the morning and then as three sub groups in the afternoon to allow us to focus on critical issues for the wider membership. During the past twelve months the **meetings sub group** has produced detailed guidance for ASMs; the **membership sub group** has worked on the SAPC relationship with Primary Health Care Research and Development and also on the SAPC newsletter and the **training and careers sub group** has led thinking around a revised non-clinical careers paper.

Executive Membership

Following the agreement by members at the 2008 AGM to extend some Executive committee member's terms of service in order to enable a greater number of Exec places overall each year, Chris Salisbury and Andrew Farmer agreed to stay on the Executive until 2011. In Spring 2009 there were three vacancies on the Executive and four nominations were received (two existing and two potential new members of the Executive). The resignation of Sarah Shaw also meant that there was a vacancy for a co-opted member to represent early career researchers. Five nominations were received for this co-option and Joanne Reeves from the Primary Care Group at the University of Manchester was appointed.

Voting System

Those of you with long memories will remember that in 2006 there was some disquiet over the move to an electronic only voting system for nominations for the Executive. We therefore reintroduced a dual system of voting. This year we had 147 votes, 73 by post and 74 on line. The advantage of 'on line' is that people are forced to rank all candidates and it is of course a cheaper and greener method than the traditional paper ballot.

The Executive would therefore like to propose to the membership that, in future, we move to an electronic only voting system.

Terms of Service on the Executive

It was agreed at the May 2009 Executive that individuals should not serve for more than two consecutive terms (6 years) unless they become the Chair or Secretary. It was also agreed that in principle if somebody wanted to rejoin the Executive, they should leave at least one term (three years), before re-nomination.

This suggestion represents a constitutional change of procedure and therefore needs to go before the membership at the AGM.

Membership Numbers

Membership figures currently stand at 718 people. This is a little lower than it has been in the last few years. The emergence of thriving topic specific networks could provide an

opportunity for encouraging new members particularly if we can demonstrate the relevance of our interests and work to network members.

Special Interests Groups

Special Interest groups continue to thrive. There are currently 10 special interest groups with Bob McKinley's Education Group affiliating just after the last ASM in September 2008. Seven of the groups are quite active and it is great to see that a small number have submitted successful panels to this year's ASM. We agreed at the last Executive meeting that Chris Salisbury and Helen Lester would produce an options appraisal paper around the future development of SIGs thinking through issues such as funding, work programmes and level of affiliation with the Society. If anybody in the wider society would like to raise any specific issues around the future of SIGs, please contact Chris over the next few weeks so that you can feed your ideas into this appraisal paper.

SIG	Contact	Affiliation date
Cancer	david.weller@ed.ac.uk	May 2004
Epidemiology	Blair.smith@abdn.ac.uk	January 2005
Personal Care	g.freeman@imperial.ac.uk	January 2005
Diabetes	andrew.farmer@dphpc.ox.ac.uk	January 2005
Complementary and alternative medicine	s.brien@soton.ac.uk	January 2005
Education	r.k.mckinley@hfac.keele.ac.uk	September 2008
Monitoring and Self Management in Chronic Disease	paul.glasziou@public-health.oxford.ac.uk	May 2005
Palliative care	Scott.murray@ed.ac.uk sigb2@medschl.cam.ac.uk	November 2005
Health literacy	Rowlang2@lsbu.ac.uk	May 2006
Discursive Methodology Group: talk, text and social interaction in primary care	j.bailey@pcps.ucl.ac.uk	May 2008

Regional SAPC Meetings

At the last Executive meeting we agreed to offer a complimentary registration at the SAPC ASM to the best early careers paper at each of the four regional meetings (Northern, South West, Madingley, and SSPC). A judging form has been sent to each of the regional organisers as a suggested template to ensure a degree of consistency across meetings.

Awards and Bursaries

Last year's winner, Sarah Purdy from the Department of Primary Care in Bristol presented her paper at the 2008 NAPCRG conference in Puerto Rico. Judging for this year's NAPCRG/SAPC travel award will take place at the ASM and the winner will be announced at the closing session of the ASM. This year we also have an early careers prize - the winner will again be announced in the closing session.

Relationship with the RCGP

The formal affiliation between SAPC and the RCGP continues to thrive. In particular the Clinical Innovation and Research Centre chaired by Nigel Mathers affords opportunities for the interests of SAPC to be pursued within the RCGP. Amanda Howe's recent election to the post of Secretary of the RCGP will further strengthen the links between the two groups and also raise the profile of academic primary care within the College. It is of particular note that this year's annual RCGP conference has the largest ever academic representation.

SAPC Links with Primary Health Care Research and Development

At the AGM in 2008 the membership voted to continue the affiliation to Primary Health Care Research and Development for a further twelve months at the block rate of £20 per member. During the last twelve months the journal has moved to an online system for submitting papers which appears to be working well most of the time. The journal has also begun to publish a new series of master classes, starting with Anne Roger's plenary from last year's ASM. In the spring of 2009, Cambridge University Press (the journal publisher) offered to reduce the costs per year per member from £20 to £15 for online access only and also to print and e-only annual ASM abstract supplement at no extra charge. However CUP would like this agreement to stand for three years. On your behalf the Executive suggested that this package is only acceptable if Thompson Reuters Indexing/Abstracting is confirmed prior to SAPC ASM. If the Thomson Reuters Indexing/Abstracting is not confirmed then the Executive feel it is appropriate to continue with a one year deal, holding the current 2009 rate of £20 per member for the print and online subscription but that this should also include the e-only annual abstracts supplement.

At the AGM we hope to update you about events and ask the membership to vote on the future relationship between SAPC and Primary Health Care Research and Development..

SAPC Newsletter

Peter Murchie has done an excellent job over the last few years as the newsletter editor. At the Executive Committee in May 2009 Peter circulated a paper with cost options for the future of the newsletter. The Executive felt that the most cost effective way forward would be to issue a single annual paper newsletter but that this should be supplemented at 4 months and 8 months by an e-bulletin. Particularly time sensitive information would continue to be issued using periodic newsflashes. This move to an annual newsletter with two e-bulletins would save approximately £2,500 each year. Work still needs to be done on the content of future newsletters and e-bulletins and we will be inviting HODs and SIGs to contribute more actively along with individuals organising regional meetings and other conferences. Peter has sadly said that he would now like to step down from his role as newsletter editor and therefore we are actively seeking a replacement to join us as a co-opted member of the Executive to lead the proposed changes. Please contact Helen or Peter if you would like more information about this role.

Special Thanks

We would like to thank Peter Murchie for his work as Editor of the newsletter, Jane Richardson and Sarah Shaw who have both stepped down from their roles as members of the Executive and HODs for their support during the past twelve months.

We should also say that none of the work of the Executive would be possible without the commitment and enthusiasm of Sue Stewart.