

Professional Network & EDI Officer Annual Report 2025-2026

Summary

Over the past 12 months, significant progress has been made in advancing MACP's Professional Network and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) agenda. Activity has focused on strengthening partnerships across the musculoskeletal (MSK) communities, promoting inclusive practice, improving accessibility, and enhancing engagement with members and professional networks. These efforts align closely with MACP's strategic priorities and commitment to fostering an inclusive and collaborative professional community.

Engagement and Collaboration

One achievement this year was the successful delivery of the collaborative webinar, Enhancing Cultural Sensitivity & Competence, delivered jointly with the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP), Advanced Practice Physiotherapy Network (APPN) and National Spine Network (NSN). The event brought together clinicians and professionals from across the MSK communities, other professional networks (PNs) and Clinical Interest Groups (CIGs).

The webinar received highly positive feedback, with 85% of attendees rating it as helpful or very helpful. Delegates particularly valued discussions around intersectionality, cultural competence and community readiness, while the collaborative approach across organisations was highlighted as a key strength.

Building on this success, discussions are underway with APPN, NSN and CSP to deliver a further EDI-focused webinar, provisionally planned for January 2027. This event will be aimed specifically at clinicians and will focus on practical implementation of EDI principles within clinical practice, including health literacy, accessibility, inclusive communication and patient-centred care.

Leadership, Accessibility and Inclusion

A key focus this year has been promoting accessibility and reducing health inequalities through the development of inclusive patient information resources. During 2025-2026, MACP worked collaboratively with a range of stakeholders to support this objective. As a result, both the *Easy Read Cauda Equina Syndrome (CES) Patient Information Leaflet* and the *Aftercare Following Steroid Injection: Patient Information Leaflet (Easy Read)* are now available on the MACP website. These resources reflect MACP's ongoing commitment to improving health literacy, enhancing accessibility, and ensuring that patient information is accessible to individuals with diverse communication and learning needs.

An important development is the production of an Easy Read Cervical Myelopathy Patient Information Leaflet is underway, led by Sharon Chan-Braddock and Sam Simmonds. The project will involve collaboration with professional networks, expert clinical contributors, patient and public representatives, and wider stakeholder groups. The aim is to provide a clear, accessible and nationally relevant patient resource that supports individuals with varying health literacy needs, enabling informed decision-making and equitable access to information.

This work reflects MACP's commitment to inclusive communication and patient-centred care and demonstrates how EDI principles can be embedded into practical clinical resources.

Further discussions throughout the year have also considered ways to strengthen members' sense of belonging within MACP. Areas explored include recognising cultural and religious celebrations, enhancing member engagement and considering mechanisms to better understand members' experiences and accessibility needs in the future.

Strengthening Professional Networks

Developing and maintaining strong relationships with PNs and CIGs has remained a priority throughout the year.

Engagement has continued with organisations including ARMA, APPN, NSN, PPA, PRS, MSK Paediatrics and SOMM. Collaborative discussions have focused on shared educational opportunities, webinars, professional development pathways, knowledge exchange and strategic partnership working.

Work has also continued in partnership with PPA to support members of its Executive Committee in progressing towards full MACP membership. Following the successful webinar delivered in 2025, there has been increased interest in the MACP Portfolio Route, including engagement from non-PPA members. Building on this success, MACP and PPA are currently exploring opportunities to deliver a further collaborative webinar in early 2027, aimed at promoting membership pathways and supporting professional development.

A range of guidance documents and promotional materials were also developed in collaboration with SOMM to support graduates progressing towards full MACP membership. Joint communications and resources have been aligned across both organisations to provide greater clarity regarding membership pathways, facilitate career progression, and support ongoing professional development.

Preparation for the CSP Conference 2026 in PN session is well-prepared. PN arrangements have been finalised, promotional materials and activities are in place, and a dedicated one-to-one meeting with the CSP senior leadership team has been secured. This presents an important opportunity to raise

the profile of MACP, strengthen professional relationships and discuss future collaborative opportunities across the profession.

Contribution to MACP Strategy

The work undertaken this year has directly supported MACP's strategic objectives by:

- Strengthening collaboration across the MSK sector.
- Embedding EDI principles into education, patient resources and member engagement activities.
- Supporting inclusive professional development and career pathways.
- Enhancing accessibility, health literacy and patient-centred practice.
- Increasing MACP's visibility and influence through partnership working and PNs.

Key priorities for the coming year (2026-2027) include:

- Completion and publication of the Easy Read Cervical Myelopathy Patient Information Leaflet.
- Delivery of the CSP Conference 2026 Professional Network session.
- Delivery of a collaborative EDI webinar with APPN, NSN and CSP in early 2027.
- Continued development of partnerships with PNs and CIGs, to support inclusive professional development, enhance career pathways, and increase engagement with early and mid-career MSK physiotherapists
- Further exploration of member experience, belonging and accessibility within MACP.
- Ongoing integration of EDI principles across all MACP activities and resources.

Conclusion

The past year has seen meaningful progress in developing MACP's Professional Network and EDI agenda. Through strong partnerships, collaborative educational initiatives, accessible patient resources and engagement with professional networks, MACP has continued to promote a more inclusive, connected and supportive MSK community. These foundations position the organisation well to continue advancing EDI, accessibility and professional collaboration in the years ahead.

Sharon Chan-Braddock, Professional Network & EDI Officer

