

Sapna is a Solicitor, qualified in both England and Scotland, with extensive experience of advising HEI's and research funders on legal, commercial and compliance issues arising from research and innovation activity.

Sapna has recently established her own consultancy company and alongside her project commitments holds non-executive roles as a Development Board member for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in Science and Health, Deputy Chair of the Association of Research Managers and Administrators and is a Committee Member for the UKRI Research Organisation Consultation Group. In her professional career, she has held prior roles as Head of Research Contracts at the University of Nottingham (2013-19), Legal Counsel for Versus Arthritis (2019-21) and Senior Legal Counsel at LifeArc (2021-22). She is passionate about patient centric healthcare and the pursuit of health equity.

Sapna has advised on significant transactions and partnerships such as the funding of early-stage spin out of developing therapeutic antibodies, the rapid development and launch of COVID-19 AI chatbot and the establishment of a Biomedical Research Centre. She has also led projects on improving patient engagement and involvement, developing an impact led strategy and reviewing policies and practice to drive more equitable outcomes. She brings experience of engaging directly with communities to canvas their views. As Chair of the ARMA EDI Advisory Group, she has engaged with individuals from underrepresented groups to understand the barriers they face and the opportunities to make positive structural changes, for instance through the recent consultation exercise on the UKRI EDI draft policy. She has both successfully implemented structural and cultural change within organisations and advocated for policy level change with key sector stakeholders.