



# NEWSLETTER

December 2015

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Spread the word of Acute Medicine

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# Planning Tomorrow, Today!

The Society for Acute Medicine

December 2015

Telling SAM your Winter's Tale

<http://www.acutemedicine.org.uk/news/society-for-acute-medicine-plan-for-tomorrow-today/>

The winter of 2014/2015 was very challenging. The number of patients we cared for was both unprecedented and relentless. The volume of activity was not healthy for patients or staff. However, the stoical nature of our teams meant that on the surface we appeared to cope. To make things better we need to articulate a clear picture of the problem and more importantly, how we can make things better. To plan for tomorrow today, we need to describe the problem.

We suggest two simple initiatives:

- **Measuring capacity, to address the question 'Are we full?'**
- **Focus on services for older people.**

We want to know what the winter is like at your hospital. It is very easy to simply say 'things are bad'. However, when we go to meetings with the NHS Confederation or our opinion is sought by the media, we need to describe what life is like for our members. Caring for older people is a priority for SAM and we want to hear about the service developments.

# Acute Medicine Awareness Day 2015

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## Acute Medicine Awareness Day

Thank you to everyone who took part this year; 25 hospitals joined in. For those who still need convincing of the benefits of the Awareness Day, here some examples:

**Countess of Chester Hospital** – *'The cake stall was very popular and sold out twice over (after an emergency trip to Costco for more cakes) raising just short of £700 towards the family room fund.'*



**Stoke Mandeville Hospital (pictured)** – *'This was the first time Stoke Mandeville Hospital participated in this national event. For us even, it was a double celebration as this month marks the first anniversary since opening of the Acute Care Hub in the hospital.....It was a very special day for all of us. It brought up the spirit and the feeling that our work is recognised and appreciated.....As a fund raising activity we had cakes on display and have raised £214. The money will go towards buying a portable ultrasound machine for the unit.'*

**Ipswich Hospital** – *'Patients, visitors and staff also got the opportunity to have their blood pressure measured and had a quick discussion with the team about any concerns ( the blood pressure measuring resulted in a friendly chat amongst staff members to see which group had the lowest blood pressure).....The stand was very successful and got lots interest from patients/visitors and staff. It was tweeted by our press office on the day and was in the local newspaper on the 24/11/15'.*

At a local level the Awareness day is clearly making a difference. Whilst this is not a competition, on a personal note I would prefer the cakes as there is no way I am going to win a lowest blood pressure competition.



# Take AIM Conference 2015

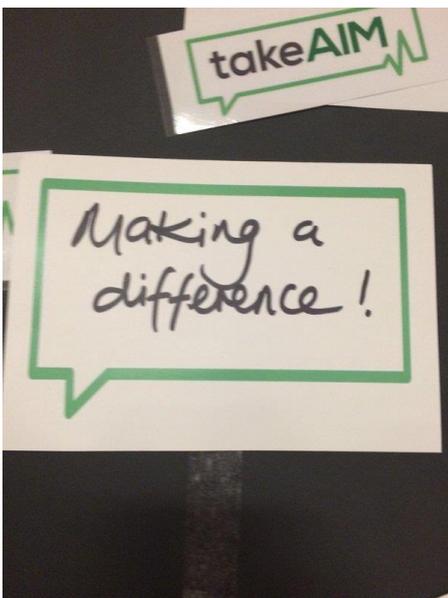
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## Take AIM Conference

The Take AIM conference on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2015 was a great success. 143 young delegates were inspired by the passion we have for Acute Medicine. Of the people I spoke to, everyone was enthused by Acute Medicine and where doubts were expressed the focus was on contracts and working conditions. This highlights the need for SAM to continue our support for all colleagues to achieve a proper work-life balance, in well-resourced units.

<http://www.acutemedicine.org.uk/sam-conferences/takeaim-conference-14-november-2015/>.





# SAM and Trainee Contracts

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## **SAM and Trainee Contracts**

SAM took a very clear stance in supporting trainee doctors in their fight for a contract that provides a proper work-life balance and due recognition for their dedication to patients. We argued that if we did not achieve this then we will fail to recruit the consultants of tomorrow. We are pleased that the strike has been postponed and negotiations are resuming, as meaningful dialogue is clearly the best way forward.

As a relatively small organisation, I feel our voice was heard in this debate and our support was appreciated by many trainees. We await the outcome of negotiations between the BMA and NHS Employers. However, we wish to assure our members that we remain committed to patient care as our number one priority and if that means unconditional support for our members in challenging unfair working conditions, we will again be vocal. SAM will continue to support all colleagues in the coming months and years to allow us to develop the best possible teams in our units



# SAM Conferences

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## SAM Conferences

*SAM Belfast 2016 – May 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> 2016*

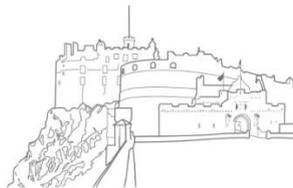


The call for abstracts and registration for SAM Belfast is now open (follow the link below to register now and to see the programme). Our local organiser Dr Michael Trimble is supported by our Immediate Past President Dr Alistair Douglas, as well as Jan Christian and her team. The nursing and multi professional programme will very acute-care focused as we will again be joined by NORF (the National Outreach Forum for critical care).

<http://www.acutemedicine.org.uk/sam-conferences/conferences/society-for-acute-medicine-spring-meeting-2016/>

*SAM Edinburgh 2016 – September 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> 2016*

**Royal College of  
Physicians of Edinburgh**  
Educating doctors, improving care.



We are now well advanced in planning the programme for our 10<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Meeting, where we are joining forces with the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. The theme of the meeting will be 'Past, Present and Future'.

# SAM Berlin, ESIM Scholarship and SAM Honorary Fellowship

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## **SAM Berlin**

On 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> November 2015 we were the guests of Dr. med. Martin Möckel and Dr. med. Julia Searle at the Charité meets UK Conference. Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin is one of Europe's leading teaching hospitals. We were asked to describe acute medical care in the UK, and as always our ideas were well received, but more importantly we also learnt a lot from our German colleagues. Of course, there was some free time but with SAM at our heart, no opportunity was wasted to spread the word.

## **Winners of EFIM School Scholarship (European Federation of Internal Medicine)**

We are pleased to announce that EFIM School Scholarships have been awarded to Dr Tehmeena Khan and Dr Shuaib Quraishi. Tahmeena and Shuaib will represent SAM at EFIM schools in 2016. Both trainees submitted brilliant applications. In return they will both share their experiences with us in a future newsletter.

## **SAM Honorary Fellowship**

We will discuss the applications at our Council Meeting in January 2016 and inform you of the outcome in the February 2016 newsletter.





# SAMBA Academy & Research Committee

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## **SAMBA Academy**

Dr Chris Subbe and Dr Timothy Cooksley are running a SAMBA (Society for Acute Medicine Benchmark Audit) workshop at the Christie Hospital in Manchester on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019. The workshop is free to attend with 30 places available (4 CPD points applied for). The workshop is relevant to all members of the multi professional team, including hospital managers. SAMBA devotees and novices are welcome to this friendly gathering where the future implementation and content of SAMBA will be discussed. SAMBA is our national audit and in the presentations I have been asked to deliver for SAM, it always provides a wealth of useful data.

For further details please contact Chris at [samba15uk@gmail.com](mailto:samba15uk@gmail.com) or SAM at [administrator@acutemedicine.org.uk](mailto:administrator@acutemedicine.org.uk)

## **Research Committee**

We have been asked by Dr Tristan Clark, Associate Professor & Honorary Consultant in Infectious Diseases at University of Southampton and University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust to publicise an online survey regarding oseltamivir. In his covering letter Dr Clark says:

*As you will be aware there is ongoing controversy regarding the efficacy of the neuraminidase inhibitors oseltamivir (Tamiflu) and zanamivir (Relenza), for the treatment of influenza. In addition there have been no contemporary studies examining the prescribing practices of these drugs within the UK. To try and address the evidence gap in this important topic we are seeking to explore current prescribing practice and attitudes among UK physicians who frequently assess and manage cases of suspected influenza in adults. Our ethically approved and peer-reviewed study uses clinical scenarios to assess participants' prescribing practises.*

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YK2ZTZ3>



# Research Committee

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## *Getting Started with Research in Your AMU*

Dr Richard Body and Dr Matthew de Costa's talk at the Research Session on how to embed research in AMUs was rated as one of the best at SAManchester. This supports the findings of the RCP's recent survey on research

(published in *RCP Commentary*, October 2015), which found that many doctors want to be involved in research, but do not have the time or funding. Richard and Matt underlined that becoming a recruitment site for CLRN portfolio studies can be the first crucial step is gaining funding and support for research. A full list of the relevant studies can be found at:

<http://public.ukcrn.org.uk/search/Portfolio.aspx?Level1=20&Status=34>.

Richard has agreed to come to Edinburgh Conference and run a workshop based on his experiences of building a successful research department from scratch.

## *Getting Published*

The abstract and poster adjudicators are always struck by the high quality of work presented at SAM conferences. Although eminently publishable, very few articles find their way to peer review and publication, especially in Acute Medicine, SAM's journal. We are keen to work with members who may need some support or advice to take their poster to the next level. Contact us at SAM if you feel we can help, at [administrator@acutemedicine.org.uk](mailto:administrator@acutemedicine.org.uk).

## **Just Say Sepsis**

I was asked to speak and responded on SAM's behalf at the launch of NCEPOD's most recent report '*Just Say Sepsis! A review of the process of care received by patients with sepsis*'. I recommend that everyone read the report, especially as 51% of patients with sepsis are cared for by acute internal medicine physicians.



# Spread the word about Acute Medicine

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## Spread the Word of Acute Medicine

Finally, we still need to expand our non-medical membership. Therefore could I please ask for your help with three simple things:

1. Please ensure that your unit's details are uploaded on our website's unit directory. The directory is a resource for all of us to share the way we deliver our service.
2. Please try to develop a SAM noticeboard on your unit. In our unit the noticeboard has a variety of SAM related things, including posters presented at meetings.
3. **Please pass this e-mail to a colleague who is not a SAM member, especially a non-medical colleague.**



Mark Holland

President, The Society for Acute Medicine