



## SAM Newsletter January 2016

Including.....

- SAM Honorary Fellowship 2016
- Planning for Tomorrow, Today!
- Acute Medicine Awareness Day 2016
- SAMBA Academy
- SAM and Trainee Contracts
- SAM Conferences
  - Belfast – May 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> 2016
  - Edinburgh – September 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> 2016
    - ‘A Wee Shorty’
- Research Committee
- Adolescents and Young People
- Spread the Word of Acute Medicine
  - SAM noticeboard
  - SAM unit directory

If you have anything you wish to share with members please let me know by e-mailing [administrator@acutemedicine.org.uk](mailto:administrator@acutemedicine.org.uk).

### **SAM Honorary Fellowship 2016**

A belated happy New Year to all our members. At the January SAM Council meeting we reviewed the nominations for SAM’s Honorary Fellowship. We are grateful to all members who took the time to make nominations. It is quite clear that many colleagues have made a significant contribution to the development of our specialty and after considering all the nominations we felt that this year we should recognise the contributions of two colleagues:

- Dr Alistair Dorward; and
- Liz Deutsch (nee Lees).

Both Alistair and Liz are joining us in Edinburgh to receive their awards on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September at our joint conference with the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.

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## **Planning for Tomorrow, Today!**

Our winter initiative was well received, showing the Society and acute medicine in a very positive light. I think it is important that we are at the forefront in developing services for acutely unwell older people. Wearing our generalist hat, we understand the dynamics of patient flow better than anyone and our voice must be heard in providing safe patient-centred solutions to our over-crowded hospitals.

The messages I am hearing about this winter are mixed. There appear to be peaks in activity, but so far not the universal and sustained pressure of one year ago. The four hour emergency access target is now reported monthly and so it is possible that the media's attention is less focused.

We are keen to hear your experiences this winter. In Planning for Tomorrow, Today!, we outlined a number of measures which provide a better picture of acute medicine activity than the four hour emergency access target. We are being asked by the media how we are coping and we can best do this by hearing your stories. Ultimately, we all want to make things better; our strategy to influence national policy will be greatly enhanced by articulating the challenges.

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

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/624553/NHS-scraps-winter-operations-Jeremy-Hunt-bed-blockers-shortage-crisis>

<http://www.express.co.uk/life-style/health/626289/Full-MoTs-New-approach-frailty-units-cuts-hospital-NHS>

## **Acute Medicine Awareness Day 2016**

This year we are holding the Acute Medicine Awareness Day in June. We already have SAMBA (Society for Acute Medicine Benchmark Audit) planned for June and hopefully another [TakeAIM](#) meeting. Running three leading events in close proximity gives us a better opportunity to maximise our impact.

## **SAMBA Academy**

Dr Chris Subbe and Dr Tim Cooksley are running a SAMBA Academy workshop at the Christie Hospital on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019. The workshop is free to attend and has been allocated 4 non-clinical CPD points. For further details please contact Chris at [csubbe@hotmail.com](mailto:csubbe@hotmail.com)

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SAMBA 2016 will again be in June, provisionally the week starting Monday 20<sup>th</sup>. We will decide the final date at SAMBA Academy.

### **SAM and Trainee Contracts**

As I have previously mentioned, 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. This position remains unchanged. Our Society is dedicated to providing the very best care for patients, and to achieve this we need the very best staff. We already face significant problems in recruiting to medical and nursing posts and so any further threat to our workforce must be challenged.

At the time of writing this Newsletter, the second day of action has been postponed. If there is further action, I feel reassured that we can maintain a safe service based on our response to the first strike on 12th January 2016.

### **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 and to see the programme). Our local organiser is Dr Michael Trimble, supported by our Immediate Past President Dr Alistair Douglas. The nursing and multiprofessional programme will be focused on caring for our sickest patients 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*

Abstracts are now invited for our 10<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Meeting which we are hosting jointly with the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. The link below takes you to the conference website, including the draft programme and registration details.

We have introduced a new format for presentations this year, as well as retaining our traditional posters and oral presentations. We are calling the new format 'A Wee Shorty'. The short presentations will only be for authors submitting to the Service Organisation and Design section. Our aim is for authors to showcase a service development which has been shown to benefit patient care. A time limit of 5 minutes will be strictly adhered to with a further one minute for questions. We will choose 16 presentations. Short, concise and

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focused presentations are becoming increasingly popular. We want young presenters and colleagues from a non-medical background to present in this session. The presenting author cannot be a consultant, although consultants can be co-authors.

<http://www.pastpresentfuture2016.org/home>

## Research Committee

*NIHR (National Institute for Health Research)*

The growing importance of Acute Medicine has been recognised by the NIHR Accident and Injuries CLRN (Comprehensive Local Research Network). They have agreed to consider acute medicine as a priority for studies to be included on the research portfolio. Louella Vaughan has been co-opted as a member.

*NIHR clinical academic careers case study videos available*

The NIHR Trainees Coordinating Centre (TCC) has a series of short case study videos from NIHR Trainees about their clinical academic careers. NIHR provides training and career development awards, ranging from undergraduate level through to opportunities for established investigators and research leaders. Find out more...

## *Flu Survey*

We have been asked by Dr Tristan Clark, Associate Professor and 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>

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### *Getting Started with Research in Your AMU*

Richard Body and Matthew de Costa's talk at the Research Session on how to embed research in AMUs was rated as one of the best at SAM Manchester. 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 in 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 Body has agreed to come to our 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. Please contact us if you feel we can help.

### **Adolescents and Young People**

I have already focused on SAM's contribution to the care of older people. SAM members are also leading the way in younger people. Dr Lorraine Albon and Dr Louella Vaughan have contributed to the Royal College of Physicians of London Toolkit as well as writing an excellent paper for Clinical Medicine.

<http://www.clinmed.rcpjournal.org/content/14/6/618.long>

<https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/guidelines-policy/acute-care-toolkit-13-acute-care-adolescents-and-young-adults>

### **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:

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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 and 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 email to a colleague who is not a SAM member, especially a non-medical colleague.**

Mark Holland

President, The Society for Acute Medicine

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