



NEWSLETTER

November 2016

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Remember: If you have anything you wish to share with SAM members, please let us know by e-mailing administrator@acutemedicine.org.uk

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Sustainability and Transformation Plans

The Society for Acute Medicine

November 2016

For those of you who read this newsletter, or worse still, those of you hear me speak, then by now you are aware that I lack both the inclination and finesse to quote William Shakespeare, William Osler or the legion of other great minds from whom I could draw inspiration. Instead this month I suggest that the words of Ferris Bueller have never been more pertinent, 'Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it' (Ferris Bueller's Day Off, 1986).

I doubt that Mr Bueller was thinking of Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs). Some of you may never have heard of STPs, the BMA say a third of us haven't, whilst some of you may still think STP provides a range of products to improve the efficiency of your car. However, many people fear we are looking down the barrel of a gun aimed squarely at the NHS. I will not go into detail here, as the search term 'STP NHS' directs Google to everything you need to know.

In acute medicine, the ramifications of STPs could be vast, potentially life changing. Reconfiguring A&E departments, with hospital closures or downsizing, would see medical takes increase significantly in the hospitals that remain. At a time of unprecedented pressure, can we realistically implement such drastic changes?

By now, you will have guessed my view. The BMA say that 14% of doctors welcome the proposed changes. It is up to every individual to make up their mind about the STP juggernaut. I am informed that December 23rd 2016 is the day when an announcement or decision will be made that will potentially change the NHS for ever. I hope you have supported SAM in our media campaigns over the last year. Be assured that Matt Watts and I will be commenting on SAM's position. My simple request to you is this:

- Familiarise yourself with your local STP
- Inform us as to how your STP will affect you, for better or worse
- If you see STPs as a major threat to the NHS, to the patients we serve, then please speak out.



Extraordinary AGM Thursday 4th May 2017 at 2pm, SAM Cardiff

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This month my appeal for you to contact us is stronger than ever. The leading item, '*Vision, Governance and Structure*' is relevant to every member. As a mature Society, we should use the following criteria as axioms upon which we conduct our work:

- Democratic
- Relevant
- Accountable
- Representative

As we develop '*Vision, Governance and Structure*' and in the lead-up to the extraordinary AGM, I seek your views on how you feel SAM should function.

Vision, Governance and Structure

The time has simply flown since our Edinburgh conference and I apologise for not getting a Newsletter out earlier. Over the next 12 months my main priority is to update the structures and processes by which the Society functions, a project I have termed '*Vision, Structure and Governance*'.

When I joined SAM Council in 2010 we had a robust constitution, which has continued to serve us well. Council was populated by a number of colleagues who were founder members of the Society and leaders in shaping our specialty. In 2010 our internal and external structures were less extensive.

Fast-forward to 2016 and things are very different. By the time we meet in Cardiff in May 2017, there will no longer be a founding member of SAM on Council. Our internal processes are now more extensive, for example:

- SAMBA
- Acute Medicine Awareness Day
- Increased profile of the Research Committee
- Expansion of nurse and allied health professional activities
- TakeAIM, especially the legacy project
- Potential new activities, such as a Quality Improvement Group



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Our external relationships are more developed:

- International partners
- Royal Medical Colleges, for example the Acute Internal Medicine Joint Specialty Committee
- Medical organisations within the UK, for example NICE, NCEPOD and in the near future GIRFT (Get it Right First Time)

For a plethora of reasons, the time is right to consider our structure and how we set our aims and objectives for the future.

One of the most important decisions we need to make is how we provide democratic representation for all our members. When I started as president in September 2015 it was apparent that the vast majority of my time was spent dealing with issues that relevant to England. Having spoken to colleagues from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, it is clear that each Home Country has specific health-related issues that need to be addressed with their devolved Governments. At the AGM in Edinburgh I sought a mandate to explore how we can provide democratic representation for all four Home Nations on SAM Council.

In addition to the points above, I feel our AGMs are often rushed, as we incorporate them in the lunch-hour at the autumn SAM meeting and consequently the attendance is poor, often below the 50 members needed to pass a resolution. Consequently, we need a dedicated AGM and this will take place at SAM Cardiff:

Extraordinary AGM 4th May 2017 at 2pm, Mercure Hotel, Cardiff

I am now writing the Vision, Governance and Structure document which we will discuss at the next Council meeting on Tuesday 29th November 2016. Following the meeting I will send out the final iteration for consultation at the beginning of January 2017.



Future Meetings

The Society for Acute Medicine

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Cardiff 4th-5th May 2017

The local host for Cardiff is Dr Nerys Conway supported by SAM Council. The programme is developing nicely. The logo is now agreed and if you wish to use the logo to advertise SAM Cardiff please feel free to do so.



Birmingham 11th-12th September 2017 – 11th International Scientific Meeting

Dr Nick Scriven, SAM President Elect, has assembled an extensive team, including local acute physicians, for this meeting.

As part of our overall review of how we run SAM, we also plan to look at the programme structure for our meetings. By the time we arrive in Birmingham there will be new features for you to enjoy.



Trainees

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Win a place at EFIM (European Federation of Internal Medicine)

European School of Internal Medicine

SAM is a member of the European Federation of Internal Medicine (EFIM). EFIM holds two week long schools for trainees each year, one in the summer and one in the winter. Each year we sponsor two trainees to attend a meeting. In 2017 we sponsor two trainees to attend the summer school in Ede, The Netherlands.

Our two scholarships are allocated through open competition. Prospective candidates should contact the SAM office for details at administrator@acutemedicine.org.uk



Courses

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Intensive Care Society State of the Art 2016, Excel, London, 5th-7th December 2016

SAM have been invited to run a session at this year's State of the Art meeting. Other sessions at the meeting will be of value to acute physicians <https://soa.ics.ac.uk/>.

Recognising the Acutely Deteriorating Pregnant Woman

1 day programme 09:00-17:00 on 5,6,7,8,9th December 2016

Prices start from £125

Email: simulation@gstt.nhs.uk or Tel: 020 7188 4802

Approved by the Federation of the Royal College of Physicians for CPD credits

8th Plymouth Acute Medicine Conference 6-7 February 2017

I am grateful to Dr Jamie Fulton for inviting SAM to talk at this meeting. The course is reasonably priced and provides some excellent winter CPD.

Meeting Co-ordinator Mrs Chris Bloomer, christine.bloomer@nhs.net

Meeting Organiser Jamie Fulton, jamiefulton@nhs.net



Adolescents and Young Adults

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Dr Lorraine Albon has played a significant role in developing acute care for Adolescents and Young Adults (AYAs), representing SAM at the Royal College of Physicians. In October 2015, the Royal College of Physicians of London published '*Acute care toolkit 13 Acute care for adolescents and young adults*'. The authors are keen for the toolkit to be a working document with tangible outcomes. Lorraine has asked if SAM members can complete the Adolescent & Young Adult Acute Care Survey at <https://www.research.net/r/YAAtoolkit>. The questionnaire is based on the toolkit with the following aims:

1. Seek views from those involved in providing acute care to AYAs
2. Ask whether the recommendations in the toolkit are desirable and achievable
3. Gain an understanding of the perceived barriers in implementing the recommendations
4. Collate evidence of good practice.

Lorraine has also asked for another SAM member to help the Royal College of Physicians young persons' group. Meetings are held 2-3 per year at the College in London, with further contributions via e-mail. The remit of the group is to ensure that AYAs are considered within healthcare. The group contribute to NICE guidance, NCEPOD enquiries, teaching and training. If anyone is interested please contact us at administrator@acutemedicine.org.uk.



International Acute Medicine – Republic of Ireland

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National Acute Medicine Programme in Ireland

From Gemma Leacy, Project Coordinator with the Acute Medicine Programme, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland / Health Service Executive

Acute Medicine Nurses in Ireland Launch Skills and Competencies Publication

Lead by the NAMP Director of Nursing Richard Walsh, AMNIG has recently launched “Setting the Direction: A Development Framework for Nursing Practice Skills and Competencies in Acute Medicine Units and Medical Assessment Units” ISBN 978-1-78602-024-6.

The Minister for Health, Mr Simon Harris, on launching the publication at the annual AMNIG Nursing Symposium in Dublin Castle on September the 5th assured assembled nurses, educators and regulatory bodies of his on-going commitment and support and that of the government to the development of acute medicine nursing and said “The Development Framework to support Nursing Practice Skills and Competencies in Acute Medical Assessment Units and Medical Assessment Units is key to shaping the future design and direction of nursing in Acute Medicine”.

The Acute Medicine Nurse Interest Group (AMNIG) AMNIG was established in 2012 under the aegis of the National Acute Medicine Programme (NAMP) to provide acute medicine nurses with an opportunity to guide, shape and influence the organisation and delivery of care to acutely unwell medical patients across the health service and particularly in acute hospitals. Its primary focus is to develop nursing roles, practices, procedures and guidelines whilst acting as an advisory body to the National programme team. There are currently 520 nurses working in acute medical units (AMAUs / MAUs & AMSSUs) across 32 hospitals. AMNIG members are also requested to participate on National Policy committees such as developing nursing metrics for AMAUs, education programmes and Advancing Nurse Practice.

The framework developed over three years, which will add significantly to the currently limited body of knowledge on acute medicine nursing, includes a skills and competencies directory for nurses at core, specialist and Advanced practice levels. It was co-designed with front line nurses and nurse managers supported by extensive appreciative enquiry and quantitative methods, mapping to the presenting profiles of patients throughout Ireland and consultation with clinicians, nursing policy and regulatory bodies. It makes 20 recommendations for Service Delivery and Service Planning, Continuous Professional Development and for Research.

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The publication, endorsed by the RCPI, Association of Directors of Nursing and Midwifery and Health Service Executive Clinical Strategy and Programmes Office has already entered implementation stages with the Office for the Nursing and Midwifery Services supporting two projects in 2016 i.e. design and provision of education to enhance clinical skills based on a nationwide needs assessment results of which was presented at SAM Edinburgh 2016 and an Expert Advisory Group to provide direction for the development of ANP posts in Acute Medicine across the care continuum.

Copies of the publication may be obtained by emailing richardp.walsh@hse, or gemaleacy@rcpi.ie or by downloading from

http://www.hse.ie/eng/about/Who/ONMSD/news/AMNIG_Symposium_and_Launch.html



Many thanks for now, and remember do let me know your thoughts for all things acute medicine.

Handwritten signature of Mark Holland

Mark Holland

President, the Society for Acute Medicine