



NEWSLETTER

October 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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Dr M Holland

PRESIDENT ELECT
Dr Nick Scriven

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

The Society for Acute Medicine

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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:

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.



TakeAIM Bristol

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Bristol takeAIM Conference

Saturday 26th November 2016

What is it?

The takeAIM conference is a one day event, specifically designed for Foundation Doctors, Core Medical and ACCS Trainees. The aim of the conference is to deliver relevant and useful clinical updates on top acute medical topics, as well as provide career information for those who are considering a career in Acute Internal Medicine.

What's in it for you?

- A full day of interactive, relevant and interesting educational sessions related to Acute Internal Medicine.
- Useful updates for your day-to-day practice on the acute medical unit.
- A chance to find out about the vast career opportunities available in AIM, including specialist skills and less than full time training.
- Sessions that will provide you with top tips on how to apply for Higher Specialty Training. Your chance to enter our poster competition!
- A certificate of attendance for your e-Portfolio.

What will be covered?

- Neurology on the AMU
- Psychiatry on the AMU
- AIM - What's it all about?
- Dealing with Abnormal Electrolytes
- Acute Liver Disease
- Delirium on the AMU
- Interactive smaller group masterclasses
 - ECG Interpretation
 - Radiology at the Front Door
 - Clinical Prioritisation & Problem Solving

So, please encourage trainees to attend.



Trainees & Courses

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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

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



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

The Society for Acute Medicine

October 2016

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

The National Quality Assurance Information System (NQAIS) for Medicine is an essential electronic tool to capture data on medical patients to deliver further efficiencies with the implementation of the National Acute Medicine Programme. It was developed by Dr Howard Johnson, Health Intelligence Unit, HSE and his colleagues with input from the programme. Adoption of the NQAIS tool for capturing data on medical patients was identified by the Acute Medicine Programme as a priority for 2016. NQAIS Medicine is being rolled out gradually this year to the various Acute Medicine sites in Ireland. It is envisaged that it will be fully operational in all of the sites by mid-2017.

By implementing NQAIS Medicine, it will provide significant benefits to Acute Medicine in Ireland:

- *Mathematical modelling / simulation of acute medical patient flow in ED and AMAU/MAU in challenged hospitals.*
- *Empower hospital management and clinical leadership:*
 - *By championing objective data driven decision making*
 - *Reviewing data and identifying areas that require investigation*
 - *Initiating root cause analyses*
 - *Initiating improvements and managed corrective actions*
 - *Monitoring quality improvement cycles*
- *Recommending that Activity Based Funding cross all care interfaces, ensure that costs/regards are fairly apportioned between GPs/Community and Hospitals.*
- *Co-operation, interdisciplinary working and accurate, timely data to:*
 - *Increase the throughput of acute medical patients through the AMAU/MAU by diverting them from overcrowded EDs to alleviate trolley waits*
 - *Improve patient flow to and from primary, secondary and tertiary care*
 - *Identify and remove delay, duplication, risk and cost*
 - *Improved working relationship with Hospital Groups by building confidence and cooperation between GPs and hospitals, and hospital group.*

Further reduction of length of stay (LoS) of medical patients of 0.02 days would result in efficiency costs of €800,000 in the service. Reduction of LoS of 0.1 days would save a marginal rate of €200 per day equivalent to €4m per annum.



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New Appointment:

The team would like to thank Ms Eilish Croke, outgoing Programme Manager, for her hard work on the Acute Medicine Team for the past 5 years. Eilish had huge involvement in the introduction of NQAIS medicine, the National Early Warning Score, the National Clinical Effectiveness Committee and the Clinical Handover Guidelines. We are delighted to welcome the newly appointed Programme Manager, Ms Clare Harney, to the Acute Medicine Team. Clare has been working in the health industry for the past few years so she will be a great asset to the team.



@AMNIG1#acutemednursing



SAMBA Report 2016 & Winter Pressures

The Society for Acute Medicine

October 2016

This year we published our first SAMBA Report, available at:

<http://www.acutemedicine.org.uk/resources/document-library/sam-benchmarking-audit-annual-report-2016/>.

I am grateful to everyone who contributed data and especially those members of the SAMBA group who worked tirelessly throughout August to get the report ready. Clearly it is unfair to single out a specific person for praise, but sometimes life isn't fair, so a big special thank you to Dr Chris Subbe.

Winter Pressures

Earlier this year, SAM said that in acute care we now live in an eternal winter, a phrase now regularly used in the media. Recent data for the NHS in England shows that the performance in August is similar to winter months.

This winter we will again face unprecedented challenges. We need colleagues to tell us their experiences. **We will of course treat all your comments confidentially.** The only information provided to the public is the 4 hour emergency access target. However, we know that pressures manifest in many ways, invariably to the detriment of patient care. Please let us know how the winter feels for you.

Over the last year we have consistently spelt out the pressures we face. We know that better social care would free up beds, but more importantly provide better care for older patients. This part of our message is being heard and on 19th October 2016 we were quoted in the House of Commons <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-37702137>. Of course, being heard is one thing, what we now need is action.



Media

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From Matt Watts, SAM Media and Communication Lead:

As we touched on recently at conference, our profile and influence in the media continues to grow and we have documented a selection of highlights over the last year for you to view via the website at the following link:

<http://www.acutemedicine.org.uk/news/sam-media-spotlight/>.

In early September, we released a statement on [NHS performance data](#) which was covered by The Guardian and BBC News.

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/sep/08/nhs-perpetual-winter-waiting-list-record-bed-blocking>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-37307853>

On the first day at Edinburgh, we released details of the SAMBA report to the media along with some accompanying comments in a [press release](#) and recorded an interview with Sky News which was broadcast to coincide with the launch.

<http://news.sky.com/story/hospitals-could-reach-breaking-point-by-winter-10574947>

This resulted in subsequent coverage by media including The Guardian, The Times, Daily Mirror, The Herald (front page), The Courier, Pulse Today, BBC News, the Daily Mail, Heart FM, Talk Radio, BBC Radio 4, BBC Radio 2 and BBC Radio 5 Live. The story featured on 65 national radio stations in total.

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/sep/12/nhs-facing-pockets-of-meltdown-this-winter>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/nhs-set-for-meltdown-this-winter-senior-doctor-warns-chht9hhmk>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/millions-patients-could-unsafe-hospitals-8818672>

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14738429.Pressure_grows_on_NHS_as_winter_looms_warn_senior_medics/

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/politics/scottish-politics/285223/hd-44pt-black-heading-in-here-370-words-2/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-37341464>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3785137/Doctor-warns-pockets-meltdown-facing-NHS-winter.html>



Media

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Earlier this month, we issued a statement regarding NHS England's [performance data for August](#). These comments featured in a number of national newspaper articles and resulted in a short interview broadcast on BBC News at Ten. The statement was covered by The Daily Telegraph, the Daily Mail, The Guardian, the Daily Express, BBC News Online, The Sun and The Independent.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/10/13/ae-summer-waiting-times-worse-than-most-winters-new-data-shows/>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-3836100/NHS-crisis-year-round-E-targets-missed-hospitals-facing-winter-pressures-summer.html>

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/oct/13/nhs-areas-will-implode-winter-expert-mark-holland-warns>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/720846/NHS-warning-closure-performance-appointments>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-37634687>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/nhs-health-service-cuts-spending-labour-theresa-may-treasury-philip-hammond-autumn-statement-simon-a7362556.html>

It was also referred to during Prime Minister's Questions in the House of Commons by Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn and covered by BBC News (from 2:20 onwards).

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-37702137>

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



Mark Holland,

President, the Society for Acute Medicine