



NEWSLETTER

June 2017

Including.....

- **SAM Birmingham – September 11th and 12th 2017**
 - Call for abstracts
- **SAMBA17 – 15 June 2017**
- **Acute Medicine Awareness Day – 21 June 2017**
 - Win free places at SAM Birmingham
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 - Sponsorship for overseas graduates
- **Nottinghamshire Good News Story**

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

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Dr Nick Scriven

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SAM Birmingham – September 11-12 2017

The Society for Acute Medicine

June 2017

11th International Scientific Conference

Teamwork –Challenging Times: Challenging Decisions

International Convention Centre, Birmingham

Now open for abstracts

<http://www.acutemedicine.org.uk/events/sambirmingham/>

12 CPD Points Applied For

Ambitious and Comprehensive

Our 11th Annual international conference entitled, **Teamwork – Challenging Times: Challenging Decisions**, will take place on the **11-12 September** at the International Conference Centre, Birmingham. The conference offers an entirely independent comprehensive programme, based on the most recent research and developments in acute medicine. All healthcare professionals working in acute and general medicine, from doctors in training to senior consultants, academics, nurses, AHPs and pharmacists, should register to attend.

As always, SAM members are eligible for the early bird reduced rate by registering before June 30th.

For full programme information and to register: <https://www.eventsforce.net/sambirmingham2017>.

We will again run our popular **SCE Revision Course** and a certificated **Ultrasound Course** (limited to 20 places) on the day preceding the conference, Sunday 10th September. Both of these courses are at the ICC.

We invite all members to **submit an abstract** for oral or poster presentation. Entries will be shortlisted and the best abstracts will be offered an oral presentation. Following the success in 2016 of the '**wee shorty's**', we will also be offering 15 submitters within the Service Organisation and Design category the opportunity to present. The '**wee shorty's**' are designed to encourage people from all backgrounds, often new to public speaking, to present. In Edinburgh, we saw colleagues from a wide range of backgrounds presenting their work.

The deadline for abstract submission is 23:59 GMT on the July 9th 2017; please encourage members of your team to submit an abstract.

We hope to see as many of our members in Birmingham as possible and appreciate your support of our annual conference enormously.



SAMBA17 – 15 June 2017

The Society for Acute Medicine

June 2017

Thursday June 15th 2017 '*Against the Clock – Time for Patients*'.

Just to remind everyone, our 6th annual benchmark audit, SAMBA2017, will take place on **Thursday June 15th 2017**. This year we are calling the audit '**Against the Clock – Time for Patients**'.

The SAMBA Academy met on Saturday February 18th 2017. Reviewing feedback from last year's participants, and based on the data we collected in 2016, it is apparent that admission and assessment processes in Acute Medicine are becoming increasingly diverse. This year we will collect data at all the points on the patient admission journey to provide you with a more detailed report that reflects the work you do. This should allow us to be more inclusive for patients seen in the Emergency Department or Ambulatory Emergency Care Unit.

SAM will again be investing in updated electronic data collection, which will hopefully eliminate blank responses. We are also commissioning report writing software to get reports out to you earlier and in greater detail. Therefore, we are hoping to make data collection as easy as it has ever been but at the same time using the data for even greater benefit.

Registration is now open! Visit <http://samba.acutemedicine.org.uk>

We very much hope that this year we can get 100 units to take part. Our 2016 SAMBA report was welcomed by many partner organisations and has helped increase the profile and standing of the Society. These are difficult times but also exciting times. Please join us, the bigger our voice, the bigger our influence.

Please register as soon as possible and return the approval forms from your local audit department and local Caldicott Guardian.



6th Society for Acute Medicine Acute Medicine Awareness Day & EGM Outcome

The Society for Acute Medicine

June 2017

Wednesday 21st June 2017

In 2016, over 30 units officially registered with SAM for AMAD. Whilst we have set a specific day, we know that it may be more convenient for you to run AMAD on a different day of the week starting June 19th, an arrangement that is fine by us!

As always, we have commissioned goodies for units who register with SAM for AMAD. This year we have got some ridiculously huge badges. Many of you think that SAM officers spend their time attending to important matters when really, we are on the internet commissioning fun stuff.

As in previous years there is a prize for the unit with the best AMAD event. **The competition is not open to consultants;** the rest of the team can apply. If a non-medic wins they can combine the prize with our non-medic discount and take three non-medics to a SAM conference, for the price of one! Entries must reach us at administrator@acutemedicine.org.uk by 5pm on July 6th 2017, including at least one photograph and a maximum of 500 words describing your event.

New for this year we are running another prize, **anyone can enter but if a doctor wins the prize must be given to a non-medic on your team.** Again, the prize can be upgraded for the 3 for 1 offer at a SAM conference. Entries must reach us at administrator@acutemedicine.org.uk by 5pm on June 23rd 2017. To win this prize we simply need a photo of you on June 21st 2017 holding a copy of the SAM logo on a piece of A4 sized paper. **The best or most exotic venue will win.** The SAM logo can be copied from our website. We will leave it to you to prove the date! Judges decision will be final.

For both competitions, we will publish your entries in a future newsletter. The prize will include entry to the SAM conference but not travel, accommodation or the conference dinner.

Extraordinary General Meeting

At SAM Cardiff we held an EGM to approve proposals around restructuring SAM Council and our committee structure. I am pleased to say we will now be running a number of elections this summer and seeking interest from members to join us in undertaking the work of the Society. Dr Hannah Skene, SAM Secretary, is busy rewriting job descriptions and will contact you all again later this month. Elections will be held in July, with results available from the middle of August.



Media & SAM Facebook

The Society for Acute Medicine

June 2017

Since April we have maintained a steady involvement in media activity, including in the run up to the general election.

We issued a statement on NHS performance data for February which was issued to media and posted up on our website and social media accounts.

<http://www.acutemedicine.org.uk/news/sam-president-says-fight-for-better-care-must-go-on/>

Guardian health correspondent Denis Campbell requested our perspective on rota gaps and we supplied a comment which featured in this article:

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/apr/14/desperate-hospitals-beg-doctors-to-take-on-extra-shifts-at-95-an-hour>

Following the development of the SAM members' survey, we wrote and issued a press release on the results as well as publishing online and via social media:

<http://www.acutemedicine.org.uk/news/doctors-working-in-acute-medicine-have-painted-a-worrying-picture-of-the-nhs/>

Although impact media-wise was low, the results were covered by the National Health Executive:

<http://www.nationalhealthexecutive.com/Health-Care-News/medics-warn-of-workforce-crisis-as-94-report-staffing-issues->

Following discussion with BBC News health reporter Hugh Pym, we were asked to comment on the delay in the release of NHS performance data as a result of purdah prior to the general election.

In a comment, we said: "The general election and purdah appear to be putting a number of important NHS decisions on hold I would argue that it is only right and just that important data pertaining to the NHS in England is published."

This was covered by BBC News, BBC Radio 4, the I newspaper, the Daily Mirror, The Independent, Yahoo News and many regional BBC radio stations.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-39976701>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/nhs-trust-deficit-figures-purdah-rule-general-election-2017-after-a7744086.html>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/politics/tories-accused-blocking-damning-figures-10459108>

<https://inews.co.uk/essentials/news/health/nhs-hospitals-trusts-deficit-general-election/>

We commented in The Guardian following analysis of six and nine month waits for treatment carried out by the Royal College of Surgeons:



Media & SAM Facebook

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<https://amp.theguardian.com/society/2017/jun/01/a-grim-reality-concern-over-longer-waits-for-nhs-operations>

Most recently, in Guardian article published today (Thursday, 8 June), we commented on the newspaper's investigation into staff shortages in NHS hospitals:

<https://amp.theguardian.com/society/2017/jun/07/revealed-scale-of-hospital-staff-shortages-in-top-tory-areas-may-hunt>

As a result of the general election, NHS performance data for April will be published tomorrow (9 June) and we will issue a statement if we feel it is appropriate.

SAM Facebook

I am pleased to say we have updated the page which can be found at:

<https://m.facebook.com/SocietyforAcuteMedicine/?ref=bookmarks>



SAM Survey

The Society for Acute Medicine

June 2017

At the end of April we conducted a short online survey looking at the pressures we currently face in acute medicine. The free text comments will inform us about the types of questions we need to ask in future surveys. The results of the current survey are summarised below.

Q1 Are you experiencing regular problems providing a full quota of medical staffing to your acute medical unit? n=111

YES	93.7%
NO	6.3%

Q2 If you answered YES to Question 1, are the problems: n=104

Weekday daytime working hours	77.9%
Weekday out-of-hour	85.6%
Weekends	83.7%

Q3 If you answered YES to Question 1, at which grade are your medical staffing problems? n=104

FY 1	27.9%
FY 2	53.8%
CMT or ACCS	77.9%
Non-career grade juniors	25.0%
Specialist Registrar	77.9%
Consultant	44.2%

Q4 Do you regularly employ locum agency doctors? n=90

Trainee Doctors (All Grades)	91.1%
Consultants	60.0%

Q5 Do your substantive medical staff work extra shifts to maintain staffing levels on your acute medical unit? n=110

YES	85.5%
NO	14.5%

Q6 Does your acute medical unit employ a full complement of nursing staff? n=111

YES	31.5%
NO	68.5%

Q7 CONSULTANTS ONLY: Have consultants ever been asked to work overnight because of staffing shortages? n=94

YES	63.8%
NO	36.2%

Q8 Does your hospital regularly have additional capacity beds open? n=109

YES	84.4%	92
NO	15.6%	17



SAM Survey

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Q9 If you answered YES to Question 8, who looks after them? N=93

AMU Team	17.2%
Locum doctors	31.2%
Medical specialties	51.6%

Q10 Are the areas designated for ambulatory care in your unit used inappropriately to provide a bed for patients overnight? N=110

YES	46.4%	51
NO	53.6%	59

Q11 Have you EVER experienced the situation where your acute medical unit has accommodated patients beyond the number of designated beds on the unit, either with extra beds or trolleys? n=111

YES	56.8%	63
NO	43.2%	48

Q12 CONSULTANTS ONLY: Are patients ever moved from your ward without being seen by a consultant? n=90

YES	66.7%	60
NO	33.3%	30

Q13 CONSULTANTS ONLY: Do consultants get contacted for overnight bed management issues? n=91

YES	57.1%	52
NO	42.9%	39

Q14 CONSULTANTS ONLY: If you work an early shift do you regularly have acute medical patients in the emergency department awaiting a bed in your acute medical unit? n=93

YES	92.5%	86
NO	7.5%	7

Q15 Please tell us about other issues that regularly impact on your service and impede your ability to provide the quality of service you aspire to deliver? n=62

The two main themes were patient flow / bed capacity and staffing. Support for acute medicine by specialities and support services was also an issue, as was support from non-clinical managers. People commented on culture and not feeling valued.

Q16 What has been the most challenging problem you faced this winter that impeded your ability to provide the quality of service you aspire to deliver? n=76

The themes were like question 15 but with less emphasis on feeling undervalued. As well as flow, the volume of patients we see was frequently mentioned. Not providing a good experience for patients, when delivering care in overcrowded areas, was also a concern.



The Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh

The Society for Acute Medicine

June 2017

Sponsorship of Overseas Graduates

The Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (RCPE) are seeking applications from international (non-EU) medical graduates for Acute Medicine training posts in the UK. Through the College's Medical Training Initiative, doctors can experience up to 24-months training in the NHS. The RCPE sponsors GMC registration and will facilitate the Tier 5 Visa application for trainees. Applicants should have MRCP(UK), a minimum current IELTS test score of 7.5 (with at least 7.0 in all areas) and have worked in a clinical practice setting for three of the past five years, including the last 12-months. Full details are available at <http://www.rcpe.ac.uk/international/medical-training-initiative>

Interested applicants should send a CV to [Ninette Premdas](#) at RCPE.

Nottinghamshire Good News Story Update

I have previously mentioned that following a SAM media campaign, we were contacted by Michelle Turton from Mansfield District Council. Michelle and her colleagues are part of The Better Together – ASSIST (Advocacy, Sustainment, Supporting Independence, Safeguarding Team) Hospital Discharge Scheme. This project has helped to discharge patients from hospital, saving the NHS more than £1.371 million a year. **The project was shortlisted for NICE's Shared Learning Awards 2017 and I am delighted to say that they won.** A citation from SAM was used as evidence to support the project and from our perspective I am equally delighted that SAM's voice is valued by colleagues in external organisations.

Michelle and her team are joining us at SAM Birmingham to present their work. Clearly, it is important that we build as many partnerships as possible, but it is perhaps even more important to work collaboratively with colleagues outside our immediate circle of traditional healthcare allies.

Many thanks for now,



Mark Holland

President, the Society for Acute Medicine