



NEWSLETTER

August 2017

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 - Including AGM
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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

PRESIDENT
Dr M Holland

PRESIDENT ELECT
Dr Nick Scriven

SECRETARY
Dr H Skene

TREASURER
Dr S Crossland

ADMINISTRATOR
S Donaldson



SAM Birmingham – September 11-12 2017

The Society for Acute Medicine

August 2017

Teamwork –Challenging Times: Challenging Decisions

11th International Scientific Conference at International Convention Centre, Birmingham

<https://www.eventsforce.net/sambirmingham2017>

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, physician associates and pharmacists, should register to attend.

We are working in challenging times. Amongst the specialist medical societies, SAM has taken the lead in challenging and holding to account decision makers and people in positions of power for the pressures we face in delivering frontline care. Once again, it is only at a SAM conference where all your acute medicine development needs will be catered for under one roof:

- **A state of the art clinical programme, relevant to the challenges you face in your day-to-day work**
- **Organising and delivering care in challenging times**
- **Leaders from across the healthcare spectrum**
- **Masterclasses**
- **Programme for the multiprofessional team, including opportunities for those new to presenting through our ‘Wee Shortys’ session**
- **Annual General Meeting**
- **Networking with friends and colleagues who face the same challenges as you**

Over the last 18 months SAM has developed, in terms of both reputation and infrastructure. Much of this behind the scenes work was undertaken to provide all our members with an opportunity to stand-up, challenge the healthcare system and above all, improve the care for patients.

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.

I have had the pleasure of working with Christine Lawson in reviewing the abstracts you submitted. The ‘Wee Shortys’ session is close to my heart and there are some fantastic projects being presented.

Remember, **YOUR SOCIETY, YOUR CONFERENCE**. I have tried to make SAM more democratic and accountable and I hope to see you in Birmingham to judge our progress for yourselves.



SAM Elections

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Results

Thank you to everyone who took the time to vote. Greater thanks still to those people who stood for election. My mission has been to make SAM more representative and accountable, hence I am very pleased that we have now filled all our elected posts. In alphabetical order:

Dr Daniel Beckett	Scotland Representative
Dr Sue Crossland	President Elect
Sarah Henry	Advanced Clinical Practitioner / Nursing Representative
Dr Chris Hodcroft	Wales Representative
Dr Tehmeena Khan	Trainee Representative
Dr Nick Smallwood	New Consultant Representative
Dr Andrew Walden	England Representative
Dr Ian Wallace	Northern Ireland Representative
Sarah Vigor	Physician Associate Representative

The observant amongst you will notice that Dr Crossland, our Treasurer, is now President Elect. Therefore, we will be conducting an election for Treasurer later this year.

Of course, new people joining means trusted colleagues are saying cheerio for now. A big thank you from SAM Council to everyone for their hard work and dedication.

Jan Christian	Nurse Representative
Dr Vincent Connolly	Non-Trainee Medical Representative
Dr Alistair Douglas	Immediate Past President
Dr Roger Duckitt	Non-Trainee Medical Representative
Dr Sanjay Krishnamoorthy	Trainee Representative

Lastly a special mention for Dr Simon Fletcher, co-opted to represent intensive care medicine. 'Fletch' was an original SAM Council member, and so for his many years of service we say an extra big thank you. His position will be filled (not replaced I hasten to add) by Dr Andrew Gratrix.

More Posts.....

As well as an election for treasurer later this year, we will also be asking people to **apply** for positions on SAM committees, including:

- Quality and Innovation
- Ordinary Consultant Member to sit on the Training and Education Committee
- Two acute medicine practitioners with an interest in research to join Research Committee
- International researcher to join research committee

Dr Hannah Skene will e-mail full details soon.



New takeAIM Fellows & Get it Right First Time

The Society for Acute Medicine

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New takeAIM Fellows

We have appointed 4 new **takeAIM** fellows and wish them the very best of luck:

Anika Wijewardane

Ola Abbas

Ratna Aumeer

Elizabeth Dodds

I especially thank our outgoing fellows for doing a brilliant job. Thanks to their efforts, we have seen an increase in applications for Acute Internal Medicine training posts, as well as a successful bid for on-going funding from Health Education England. I sincerely hope the team will continue to work closely with SAM; I predict that at least one of the following six people will one day write the monthly newsletter for you all:

Zoe Jones

Adrian Kennedy

Charlie Masterton-Smith

Paarul Prinja

Lynsey Threlfall

Joe Wheeler

Get It Right First Time

GIRFT is an important NHS Improvement project looking at how we can consistently deliver best quality care and at the same time, in the most efficient way. Interviews took place in June and Dr Mike Jones has been appointed as the Acute and General Medicine Lead commencing 1 November 2017. Our congratulations to Mike.



NHS Improvement & SAMBA 17

The Society for Acute Medicine

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NHS Improvement

I am sure everyone remembers last winter. I am pleased to say that over the last few months we have been working with NHS Improvement and a number of other colleagues to look at how we can make things better. I attach two links which should be of interest. The second, 'good-practice-guide-focus-on-improving-patient-flow', is a document that we helped develop. As you will see, there is no magic formula and the ideas are not new. However, the fact that clinical stakeholders worked collaboratively with NHS Improvement was an important step forward. There is also clear recognition by NHS Improvement that the problem of flow is not just the domain of Acute Medicine and Emergency Medicine, it is owned by everyone in the healthcare system.

I know many of you will be concerned that the processes described will be interpreted as targets. NHS Improvement see this work as being constructive and iterative, in trying to make things better. So far, we feel reassured that this process has a more holistic focus than simply trying to solve the 4-hour emergency access ('trolley') target. We thought it was important to work with NHS Improvement, but rest assured, our primary focus is, and will remain, supporting our members and the care they provide for our patients.

I imagine this winter will be as difficult as the last, but I hope we have started the enabling work to try and make things better.

I am pleased to say that the CEO of NHS Improvement, Dr Jim Mackey, is speaking at SAM Birmingham.

<https://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/developing-trusted-assessment-schemes-essential-elements/>

<https://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/good-practice-guide-focus-on-improving-patient-flow/>

SAMBA17

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

Thank you to everyone who submitted SAMBA (Society for Acute Medicine Benchmark Audit) data this year. Dr Chris Subbe is very excited that this year appears to have been a great success. We are hoping to get our SAMBA17 Report published on 11 September at SAMBirmingham, as well as presentations from the SAMBA team. Chris and the SAMBA team are also working hard to get your unit reports ready.

As I mentioned in the last Newsletter, we have been working hard on the IT governance side of SAMBA and to process your data we must have the agreement of both your local audit department and local Caldicott Guardian. I know this creates more work for you but the rules are very clear and we cannot cut corners I'm afraid. Again, apologies for being a pest but if you have not yet got the two forms back to us, please do so as soon as possible.

Contact SAM at administrator@acutemedicine.org.uk or Chris at samba@acutemedicine.org.uk.



Medical Care & FAMUS

The Society for Acute Medicine

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Medical Care

Medical Care is a valuable resource from the Royal College of Physicians, designed for clinicians and managers working in the NHS. The resource provides support for:

Designing services – this includes a short description of the specialty and the patient population, and a summary of the workforce needs to support service provision

Developing physicians – which includes information on the education, training and continuing professional development, workforce and job planning for physicians

Improving quality and medical leadership – By exploring the latest ideas on how to develop physicians and teams.

The sections related to Acute Internal Medicine were written by SAM. The next time you are asked ‘what is acute medicine’, or your managers want to know to help develop acute medical services, simply direct the inquisitor to

<http://www.rcpmedicalcare.org.uk/>

FAMUS

Ultrasound at the Front Door

From Dr Nick Smallwood:

*In March 2017, the Society for Acute Medicine delivered ‘Ultrasound at the Front Door’ at Medicine 2017, the Royal College of Physicians annual conference, in Manchester. It was the first practical workshop of its kind at the RCP conference and saw approximately 120 delegates of all grades and specialties learn the basics of echocardiography and bedside ultrasound, based on SAM’s **FAMUS** curriculum. The event was oversubscribed and initial feedback was hugely positive; we hope it raised the profile of both SAM and the specialty of acute medicine, as well as bedside ultrasound as a concept.*

A video of the event produced by the RCP can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aXWXoP-PPas>. It is hoped that SAM will continue to work with the RCP to deliver ultrasound teaching at their flagship conference and beyond, as interest in point of care ultrasound continues to increase amongst physicians.



HiSLAC

The Society for Acute Medicine

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SAM has been asked to pass on the following message from Professor Julian Bion.

Expert Case Record Reviewers needed for High-intensity Specialist Led Acute Care (HiSLAC) project

<https://www.hislac.org/>

Funded by the NIHR-HS&DR Programme

<https://www.journalslibrary.nihr.ac.uk/programmes/hsdr/1212817/#/>

We are offering consultants and senior registrars in adult acute medical specialities the opportunity to participate in the HiSLAC project as expert case record reviewers.

HiSLAC is funded by the NIHR to evaluate 7-day services with a particular focus on consultant staffing of acute hospitals. The project is endorsed by the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, the NHS Confederation, and NHS England.

One of the key aims of the project is to evaluate quality of care of adult patients admitted to hospital at weekends and on weekdays, using retrospective case record review. We would like the reviews to be undertaken by consultants and senior registrars (ST5 and above) in acute medical specialities.

Twenty hospitals are each providing us with 200 digitised case records of the first seven days of a patient's stay in hospital. The aim of the case record review is to determine whether or not there were errors in care during the first seven days following emergency admission (most admissions will be much shorter than this). If one or more errors are detected, the reviewer will provide a brief description, classify the error, determine whether or not it caused an adverse event, and determine preventability, before providing a global judgment on quality of care received by the patient.

The reviews will need to be performed between January and July 2018. Each reviewer would undertake a review of 60 anonymised case records online. We do not expect each review to take longer than two hours. The work can be done from home via a link to our secure server. There is a payment of £10 per completed record (£600 for 60 reviews), and we will arrange for CPD points to be offered through the Royal Colleges. All reviewers will be named as collaborators in eventual publications.

Reviewers will need to attend a half-day training session in late autumn, at least one of which will be in London. Travelling expenses will be covered. Permission must be obtained from the employing Trust, either as study leave or professional leave.

For further information please contact the Chief Investigator, Professor Julian Bion, at: J.F.Bion@bham.ac.uk. Please include 'HiSLAC Case Record Review' in the subject line.



6th Society for Acute Medicine Acute Medicine Awareness Day

The Society for Acute Medicine

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Wednesday 21st June 2017

I am pleased to say that we the winners of our AMAD competitions were:

[Sarah Dale, AMU Matron, and Team, Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust](#)

[Vicki Brindle, Practice Educator, and AMU Team, Royal Blackburn Hospital](#)

The prize for getting out the SAM logo in an 'odd place' picture competition went to:

[Clair Watson, Clinical Matron, Blackpool Victoria Hospital](#)

Each unit wins a place at a SAM conference for a non-medical in their team, including the chance to turn a 3 for 2 deal in to a 3 for 1 deal. As was agreed in the rules, the winners' competition entries are published below.

[Sarah Dale, AMU Matron, and Team, Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust \(Press Release\)](#)

Staff from AMU at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital showcased how they work to get patients fighting fit again during this year's Acute Medicine Awareness Day on 21st June.

The national event organised by the Society for Acute Medicine, aims to raise awareness of Acute Medicine as a specialty and all that it offers to patients and staff.

Most hospitals in the UK have an Acute Medical Unit (AMU) providing high quality, multi-professional care for patients admitted to hospital as emergencies. Acute Medical Units (AMUs) staff are often the first point of contact for patients admitted to hospital and they provide early treatment for a wide variety of conditions, including lung and heart problems, infections such as sepsis, acute kidney problems and dehydration, as well as more complex conditions for example falls, affecting older people,

In support of the campaign, the RD&E's Acute Medical Unit (AMU) opened their doors to the public to show off the services that they provide. Throughout the day, they offered people tours of the unit, with opportunities to take a look around ambulatory care and Medical Triage Unit (MTU), and a chance to meet with staff to ask questions about what they do. To promote their work to care for patients, they asked people to share selfies on Twitter throughout the day, using #AMUcan.

The team also organised a cake sale and a grand raffle, which raised £2000 for the UK Sepsis Trust as it is a condition often seen on the unit.

In addition, the team organised a showdown between some of their regular patients, members of The Royal Marines, and staff from the Exeter Chiefs, who battled it out in Oasis in the Exercise Bike Challenge to help fundraise for Sepsis UK. In the end, it was the Royal Marines who emerged victorious, cycling 74.18 miles in two hours.

AMU Matron, Sarah Dale, said: "We felt that this was a great opportunity to explain to the public and RD&E staff about the work that we do here on AMU. As a specialty, we often deal with the immediate and early treatment of patients when they are first admitted to hospital and so today has been an excellent occasion to show how we care for patients on the unit and the treatments we can provide to help get them well again."

6th Society for Acute Medicine Acute Medicine Awareness Day

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Royal Devon and Exeter Team (left)

Vicki Brindle, Practice Educator, and Team, Royal Blackburn Hospital

Hello Sarah,

I am emailing you to let you know what a great day we had here at Royal Blackburn Hospital. Preparations began weeks before AMAD17 as we began deciding what we wanted to do and how we were going to promote the unit. We decided that we wanted to make it a fun and enjoyable day, to draw in the crowds and then provide a relaxed atmosphere where we could provide information and raise awareness.

In order to achieve this we decided to hold a tea party and cake sale, as well as hosting a raffle. The room where we hold the event would also feature lots of information relating to our work in acute medicine. We started to contact local business' and staff also donated prizes for the raffle. We ended up with some brilliant prizes including teeth whitening sessions, spa vouchers, champagne, beauty treatments, wine, beauty gift packs and tickets to local trampoline parks to name just a few.

We also contacted our trust communications team and spread the word via social media and as message of the day on the trust intranet. We have our own Twitter account for the unit which we used to spread awareness of the day, as well as the trusts Twitter and Facebook pages.

As you can see from the attached pictures we tried to create a fun and friendly atmosphere with decorations such as balloons & bunting. Visitors were directed from the main entrance of the hospital to AMUA where the event was held. We had prominent displays on the corridors to draw people into the event. We were very pleased with our display board which highlighted not only the work we do in Acute Medicine but also how our unit has evolved over time. We started out in 1993 as one of only two Medical Assessment Units (MAU) in the country!! Since then we have evolved into a 84 bedded unit split over two clinical areas AMUA & AMUB, both based on the acute Royal Blackburn site. The information we displayed detailed how the unit works on a daily basis, the different members of the MDT, how many patients we see, what are the types of presentations we deal with as well as testimonies from staff and patients on their experiences of acute medicine. We also showed how we are looking to the future, and plans we have to ensure that we continue to strive to improve. We also wanted to raise the profile of Acute Medicine as a speciality in its own right by highlighting the improvements made to clinical flow and the patient's experience.

6th Society for Acute Medicine Acute Medicine Awareness Day

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We were very proud of how staff engaged with the day, and even had a patient win a prize in the raffle! Overall the day was a great success, we raised money for our unit which will be spent on enhancing the patient's experience, and we felt that we really managed to get across how passionate and dedicated our staff are to the work we do in Acute Medicine.

We hope that everyone else taking part in AMAD17 had as much fun as we did!

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Blackpool Victoria Hospital (picture below)





Media

The Society for Acute Medicine

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Media

SAM endeavours to serve all its members. Recently, there were stories where we took the opportunity to support everyone with comments around pay and workforce gaps. My personal favourite was having a rant on LBC about staff funding their own education.

During July we issued the following press release relating to the NHS pay cap and pressures on frontline services which was published online and through our social media channels:

<http://www.acutemedicine.org.uk/news/top-doctor-calls-on-government-to-stop-disincentivising-nhs-staff/>

Later in the month, we issued similar comments following data released by NHS Digital and NHS England which showed more than 86,000 NHS posts were vacant between January 2017 and March 2017. Our statement was reported widely in the national media and featured on the BBC News Channel and LBC Radio. It was also published on our website and social media feeds:

<http://www.acutemedicine.org.uk/news/recruitment-data-shows-neglect-from-the-government-sam-president/>

Here are a selection of the news items which featured our statement:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-40715955>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-4728124/NHS-job-vacancies-rocketed-30-2-years.html>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/politics/nhs-vacancies-reach-record-high-10868447>

<https://inews.co.uk/essentials/news/health/nhs-latest-vacancy-figures-statistics/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/jul/25/soaring-nhs-vacancies-prompt-warnings-of-understaffing-nursing>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/nhs-staff-vacancies-rise-10-per-cent-2017-86000-nurses-midwives-doctors-recruitment-crisis-brexit-a7858961.html>

<http://www.itv.com/news/2017-07-25/chronic-shortage-of-staff-in-nhs-as-vacant-posts-climb-to-86-000/>

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/4094962/nhs-staffing-in-desperate-situation-86000-full-time-jobs-vacant/>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/832788/NHS-job-adverts-midwives-nurses-three-applicants>

<http://news.sky.com/story/nhs-england-has-more-than-30000-unfilled-jobs-10961076>

In addition, we commented in The Guardian regarding the sale of NHS professionals following a request from the Labour Party for the National Audit Office to hold an inquiry into the move. This was published on our website and social media feeds.

<http://www.acutemedicine.org.uk/news/threat-to-nhs-professionals-sad-and-alarming-sam-president/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/jul/27/labour-demands-inquiry-into-privatisation-of-nhs-owned-recruiter>



SAM Facebook

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SAM Facebook

Remember, we now have Facebook page:

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

Many thanks for now,



Mark Holland

President, the Society for Acute Medicine