

# SAM NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026

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## WELCOME FROM TRAINEE REPRESENTATIVES



Welcome to the March edition of the SAM newsletter. We're your current SAM Trainee representatives. Ailie is based in Edinburgh and Zack is based in Surrey.

It's an exciting time to be a trainee in Acute Medicine and a really exciting time to be a member of SAM.

**[SAM Cardiff](#) is coming up on 30th April – 1st May.** We've got an excellent trainee session planned for the conference, exploring how to combine AIM training with Stroke and ICM, how to organise an OOPER and what a special interest might look like in the consultant job plan. We're also running our **very first "Trainee Voice" session**, which will give you an opportunity to discuss the issues that matter most.

For resident doctors considering a career Acute Medicine, this year's **[takeAIM conference](#)** is taking place in **Edinburgh on 15th June**. This is a great opportunity to learn more about what training in Acute Medicine is like, and how the application process works. It's aimed at everyone from medical students to IMT3s.

In February, SAM sponsored Acute Medicine trainees Jude Fleming and Jamie Phillips to attend the European Federation of Internal Medicine (EFIM) Winter School in Bari, Italy. You can read more about their experience in the newsletter.

As your trainee reps, we are working hard to make **Acute Medicine training work for trainees**. With ARCP season approaching, you might look to review our **[combined decision aid](#)**, which details exactly what you need to have accomplished to pass each year of higher specialty training. For doctors approaching the end of training, check out **[our recent webinar](#)** on the transition from trainee to consultant. The webinar covered the consultant recruitment process, writing a business case and careers in medical leadership.

On a more frustrating note, we are aware of resident doctors who have not been successful in getting interviews for in this year's ST4 recruitment round. SAM is committed to making this process as fair, transparent and robust as possible. You can read more about the work we're doing **[here](#)**.

As ever, we'd really like to hear from trainees about **what SAM can do for you**. If you have a suggestion, a question or just an opinion, don't hesitate to reach out to us. You can do this via the website or via the trainee email **[trainerep@acutemedicine.org.uk](mailto:trainerep@acutemedicine.org.uk)**.

**We look forward to seeing many of you in Cardiff next month.**

**Ailie Young & Zack Ferguson**

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### SAMCardiff | Together Stronger: AIMing Higher / Gyda'n Gilydd: Anelu'n Uwch

Cardiff Holland House Hotel | 30 April - 1 May 2026

**IN PERSON PLACES ARE NOW SOLD OUT** for The Society for Acute Medicine's Spring Conference in Cardiff 2026.

**Virtual places are still available but book soon as late payment fees apply from 16 April.**

The programme theme is "*Together Stronger: AIMing Higher*" and all sessions will be made available for attendees to watch on demand for 4 months following the conference.

12 External CPD Points are applied for with the Federation of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom.

[REGISTER FOR VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE](#)

### takeAIM

Royal College of Physicians Edinburgh | 15 June 2026

[Register now](#) for **takeAIM**, a conference designed for Medical Students, Foundation Doctors, IMTs and ACCS Trainees. The conference will provide **career information** for those who are considering a career in Acute Internal Medicine, and will focus on **delivering relevant clinical and practical updates** and workshops on pertinent acute medical topics.

Abstract submission now open. [Submit online here.](#) **Deadline: 2359hrs on 5 May 2026.**

### SAVE THE DATE for SAMGlasgow

Glasgow | 8-9 October 2026

**SAM's 20th International Conference** will take place in Glasgow on 8-9 October 2026. Registration and Abstract Submission will open in June 2026.

## STATEMENT FROM THE SAM DIRECTORS



### Statement from the SAM Directors following the UK COVID-19 Inquiry

#### **To all members of the Society for Acute Medicine,**

On behalf of the Society for Acute Medicine (SAM), we write to express our sincere gratitude and respect for your extraordinary efforts throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

The recent publication of the findings of the UK COVID-19 Inquiry provides an important moment for national reflection. For many working in Acute Medicine, the findings reflect the reality we experienced: a period characterised by immense systemic pressure, evolving clinical uncertainty, and relentless workload, often compounded by shortages of personal protective equipment and a system operating close to its limits. While the Inquiry identifies critical areas for improvement in national preparedness, it also highlights the exceptional professionalism and commitment demonstrated by healthcare staff.

Acute Medicine played a central role in the pandemic response. You were frequently the first point of contact for patients, adapting rapidly to changing clinical pathways and caring for those most severely unwell, many of whom, sadly, did not survive.

The Inquiry underscores that the resilience of our healthcare system was underpinned by the resilience of its workforce. We recognise that this resilience came at a cost, and we thank you for the dedication, professionalism, and personal sacrifices you made.

The Society will continue to advocate for a future in which Acute Medicine is supported by robust staffing, sustainable working conditions, and the resources needed to protect both patients and staff.

The pandemic was a defining period for our specialty. We are immensely proud to represent such a committed and courageous membership.

**With our sincere thanks and best wishes,**

**The Society for Acute Medicine Directors**

The Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry has now published its first [Narrative Record covering the health and social care sector](#). More information about the Narrative Record and an Executive Summary are available on the Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry website: [covid19inquiry.scot](https://covid19inquiry.scot)

## OTHER NEWS

### Call for Participants in Educational Research

The AIMHigher research group is recruiting participants for a project **exploring learning on AMU**.

What makes a great AMU placement for an early career doctor? How do these early experiences shape professional identity? How can we design placements to inspire the acute physicians of tomorrow?

We would like to speak to doctors who have worked on AMU at the Foundation or Core (IMT / ACCS) level in the last ten years. Our aim is to **generate insights that will benefit doctors** working on AMUs across the UK. The project has been approved by the UCL Ethics Committee (Ethics ID 977).

Further information is available [here](#). **If you would like to participate**, please email [AIMHigherResearch@gmail.com](mailto:AIMHigherResearch@gmail.com)

### SAM Palliative Care SIG

As of 2026, there is a **SAM Special Interest Group (SIG) for Palliative Care**. The group is looking for interested SAM members from across the acute medicine MDT to join the group.

We will be working closely with RCP and NHSE to shape and improve end of life care, especially in acute settings. **If you are interested, please get in touch** with the group's chair Dr Ashling Lillis [ashling.lillis@nhs.net](mailto:ashling.lillis@nhs.net).

### Acute Medicine Nursing Forum

**8 April 2026 | 1900hrs | MS Teams**

The next nursing forum will run on the **8th April 2026 at 19:00 on Teams**. This is open to **any nurse working within acute medicine** (you do not need to be a SAM member to attend) who wishes to network with like-minded professionals. If you wish to attend, please email [nurserep@acutemedicine.org.uk](mailto:nurserep@acutemedicine.org.uk).



## OTHER NEWS

### ACP Update from Elaine Clark, SAM ACP Representative

I hope everyone has survived yet another high pressure winter period. Day in and out we are hearing of all the incredible work you are doing under immensely difficult circumstances.

**BMA Survey:** Some of you may be aware of some online comments about Advanced Practice in the NHS. Please do try to ignore negative comments online and remember the integral role we all play. All members of the MDT are valuable, and the delivery of service cannot work without it.

**SAM Cardiff:** I hope to see many of you at SAMCardiff. In person places are sold out but you can still join virtually. [Register Here](#)

**Celebrating Success:** Sue Dean (ACP and SAM member) has just had a paper accepted by the International Journal for Advancing Practice on the relationship between managerial support and ACP wellbeing –

*The relationship between line manager support and Advanced Clinical Practitioners' wellbeing: a national mixed methods study. International Journal of Advancing Practice. Dean, S., Ariyaratne, M., Chouliara, N., & Blake, H. (in press).*

### Take Part in The 'OPTILOC' Project

**Focus groups for healthcare professionals to design an optimised, AI-supported TLOC pathway.**

Transient loss of consciousness (TLOC) is common, but care often inconsistent. Early diagnosis can be challenging, and referrals to the wrong specialists can lead to inappropriate treatment. These issues, along with other inefficiencies, waste resources and worsen patient experience. The OPTILOC project –led by Prof. Markus Reuber –seeks to make things better.

You can take part if you work as a cardiologist, neurologist, emergency or acute medicine doctor or nurse, paramedic, epilepsy nurse, GP, or manager in a TLOC relevant area. Participants will take part in a one-off online workshop lasting 60-90 minutes.

How to take part: further information [can be found on the flyer here.](#)

**Contact: Steph Meysner at [mmeysner@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:mmeysner@liverpool.ac.uk) or telephone on 0151 794 2000.**

## OTHER NEWS

### Report on Attendance at EFIM Winter School

In February, SAM sponsored Jude Fleming (ST6, Glasgow) and Jamie Phillips (ST7, Mersey) to attend the **European Federation of Internal Medicine (EFIM) Winter School 2026** in Bari, Italy. Here's Jude and Jamie's report on their time in Bari.

Around 40 trainees from 20 countries gathered for a five-day programme of lectures, workshops, and discussions spanning core internal medicine, ethics, and the growing role of AI.

Given the wide variation in experience, teaching focused on fundamentals, with sessions on MASLD and infection management serving as useful refreshers. Ethical debates on escalation, end-of-life care, and resource allocation were lively (occasionally very lively), highlighting how “obvious” practice is often just locally normal—and not universally right.

A recurring challenge was explaining the role of the Acute Medic. Despite our best efforts it felt like describing a platypus: everyone was certain it belonged elsewhere – settling somewhere between ED and GIM. Small wins included someone confidently suggesting a patient go “straight to AMU”.

Social events, from a pasta-making competition to a Carnival night, offered a chance to connect more informally. While the link between orecchiette craftsmanship and acute decision-making remains unproven, morale was high and conversation flowing.

The week reinforced that UK AIM training is robust and adaptable, while also underlining the importance of defining Acute Medicine's identity—and its value to systems that don't yet have it. SAM has recently rejoined EFIM, and it will be interesting to see how we influence practice and further cement our identity going forward.



[Visit the SAM website EFIM page for more information](#)