



NEWSLETTER

March 2024

Including...

- SAMBelfast
- TakeAIM Summer Conference
- Council Member Updates
- Council Rep Updates
- Vacancies & Courses
- And Finally...

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 N Murch

PRESIDENT ELECT
Dr V Price

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Dr T Cooksley

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Dr M Wheble

SAMBelfast



The Society for Acute Medicine's Spring 2024 Conference will take place on 2-3 May 2024 at the Europa Hotel, Belfast.

The programme theme is "The Thinking Acute Clinician."

You can register for SAM Belfast either in-person or virtually.

[More information and registration here](#)

SAM Educational Evening May 2024

The next SAM Educational Evening will be at the end of May.

Topic: Renal/Acute Kidney Injury

Final Date is to be finalised.

TakeAIM Summer Conference - Newcastle

Newcastle!

Are you ready for a career in Acute Medicine?

Find out at our takeAIM
conference this summer!

Saturday 1st June 2024
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Newcastle

A one day event aimed at Foundation Doctors, IMT Doctors and Medical Students interested in a career in Acute Medicine.

Talks on topics including:

- A day in the life of an Acute Medic
- Point of Care Ultrasound on the Acute take
- Specialist skill development in AIM

Masterclasses in:

- Point of Care Ultrasound
- Acute Medicine applications

**Don't forget to
take part in our
poster competition too!**

Tickets £80 (£35 for Medical students)

Book now at <https://www.eventsforce.net/eventage/238/home>

Poster submission deadline 30th April 2024



[Register here for the takeAIM Conference 2024](#)

The 25in25 initiative – saving 10,000 lives every year

The British Society for Heart Failure presented at our February Educational Evening on the 25in25 initiative:

Heart failure (HF) presents a significant public and population health challenge. As malignant as cancer, HF is often overlooked and misunderstood. With prevalence predicted to double by 2040, we need to act now.

The British Society for Heart Failure-led 25in25 initiative aims to address this by reducing mortality from heart failure by 25% in the next 25 years, translating to over 10,000 lives saved annually. Uniquely, the BSH convened a Summit in March 2023 with 48 (now ~60) healthcare organisations intersecting with HF care, who signed the 25in25 declaration committing to collaborate, including the Society for Acute Medicine, and devised a road map for implementation.

Using a community-based, quality improvement approach, data is to be collected from 5 domains; prevalence, risk, diagnosis, treatment, and patient empowerment (including mental health and wellbeing), to change the trajectory of heart failure at grassroots level. An AI enabled dashboard to extract data from General Practice records is being developed and tested in 7 pilot implementation sites across the UK and Jersey through 2024 with national rollout in 2025. QI measures, such as risk assessments and targeted interventions, aim to identify undetected cases of HF and provide timely treatment.

The 25in25 initiative will, importantly for SAM members, reduce hospitalisations, improve outcomes and, ultimately, avoidable deaths for those with HF.

More Details:

<https://www.bsh.org.uk/25in25>

Update from ACP Rep (Elaine Clark)

We hope all ACPs in Acute Medicine are registered for SAM Belfast. Be great to see a big turnout there and represent our ever-growing speciality.

SDEC and Diagnostics

As SDEC units up and down the country are gaining momentum we have had several enquiries around ACP and non-medical referrers requesting diagnostic imaging.

IR(ME)R allows for staff members belonging to other professions to request certain imaging examinations.

What is IR(ME)R?

IR(ME)R stands for: Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposures) Regulations.

The regulations became law in 2000 with minor amendments made in 2006 and updated in 2018.

IR(ME)R is enacted under the Health and Safety Act and is therefore part of criminal law. This means that if you were prosecuted under IR(ME)R you may not only be fined, but you could also be imprisoned.

The employer is the organisation with legal responsibility for the work being carried out. In legal terms it is the legal person who, in the case of an NHS Board, is the Board's Chief Executive.

In order to become a non-medical referrer, you are required to undertake specific training to ensure understanding of the role and the risks of exposing a patient to ionising radiation.

Most NMRs are advanced practitioners who can refer for a limited number of examinations within their area of specialised practice.

In all cases entitlement must be given by the Operational IR(ME)R Lead who is the Clinical Director for Radiology.

If you are currently requesting without formal training or a letter of entitlement, please speak to your X-ray department about formalising and achieving these requirements.

NHS Patient Safety: Implementation of first phase of Martha's Rule

We have announced that the first phase of the introduction of Martha's Rule will be implemented in the NHS from April 2024. Once fully implemented, patients, families, carers, and staff will have round-the-clock access to a rapid review from a separate care team if they are worried about a person's condition.

The implementation of Martha's Rule in the NHS will take a phased approach, beginning with at least 100 adult and paediatric acute provider sites who already offer a 24/7 critical care outreach capability. We will soon ask for expressions of interest to be part of the first phase of the programme. This first phase will take place during 2024/25 and will focus on supporting participating provider sites to devise and agree a standardised approach to all three elements of Martha's Rule, ahead of scale up to the remaining sites in England in the following years.

Criteria for participation will be set out in an expression of interest document and will include the requirement that the provider sites taking part in the first phase have an existing 24/7 critical care outreach infrastructure. The document will also outline the support offer from NHS England; this will include additional funding for project resources, and access to specialist implementation support and expertise from the Health Innovation Network's Patient Safety Collaboratives.

Martha's Rule will build on the lessons, learning and evaluation of NHS England's Worry and Concern Improvement Collaborative which involves seven regional pilots and began in 2023. They have been testing and implementing methods for patients, families, and carers to escalate their concerns about deterioration and to input their views about their illness into the health record. The final learning session of the national improvement collaborative to share successes and achievements is scheduled for April 25th.

Find out more on our [Martha's Rule webpage](#).

Vacancy: Chair of the Acute Medicine Specialty Certificate Examining Board

The Society for Acute Medicine and the Federation of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the UK are seeking to appoint a new Chair for the Acute Medicine SCE Board.

The successful applicant will have overall responsibility for the SCE Board to ensure that all the academic objectives are met; for ensuring that the SCE meets the standards set by the GMC; for the selection, appointment and training of board members and the monitoring of their performance and for the on-going development of the SCE in the context of the decisions taken by the SCE.

Steering Group and the MRCP(UK) Management Board. They will be a member of the Acute Medicine SCE Standard Setting Group.

A full list of the post's responsibilities is set out in: The Responsibilities and Duties of the Chair of a Specialty Certificate Examining Board, which can be found on the MRCPUK Website, along with a copy of the remits and responsibilities of the relevant boards and groups.

Applications for the post, including a CV and one-page covering letter outlining your suitability for the post should be submitted to policy.officer@mrcpuk.org by Monday 29 March 2024.

All applications will be considered by the Chair of the Acute Medicine Examining Board.

The next meeting of the Board will take place on 23rd & 24th April 2024 at the Royal College of Physicians of London and the successful applicant will be expected to attend.

And Finally...

The recent winter illnesses including influenza, RSV and Covid (amongst others) necessitating the use of PPE, alongside the ITV programme 'Breathtaking' will have been uncomfortable for many of us working in Acute medicine. I've at least been able to direct friends and family outside of healthcare to it as 'what we do'.

The script, clearly written by and edited by practising healthcare staff who were involved in managing patients at the front door, interweaves televised speeches and significant events to give an authentic documentary feel. Very polished performances by the actors, many of whom are also doctors, give the public an idea of what we went through. I know it will be too soon and too triggering for some to watch but thank you all for what you've done and continue to do under difficult circumstances.

Hopefully, with time, we can all reflect and look to a brighter future, even if it feels summers are getting shorter each year. I look forward to seeing you all in Belfast in the Spring.

Nick Murch
President, Society for Acute Medicine