



# NEWSLETTER

## October 2023

Including.....

- Advance notice of SAMBelfast dates
- Question writers needed
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- Message from our Pharmacy Rep Ekta
- Educational evenings
- Podcasts
- Letter from Chris Whitty
- Climate change
- And Finally, a word from our New President!

**Remember:** If you have anything you wish to share with SAM members, please let us know by emailing [administrator@acutemedicine.org.uk](mailto:administrator@acutemedicine.org.uk)

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## **SAMBelfast**

After the great success of SAMGlasgow, we are now headed to SAM Belfast!

Registrations will open in December, but book your leave early – it will be 2&3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024.

For those who attended SAM Glasgow, don't forget you can catch up with all the sessions on demand for the next 4 months.

## **Question writers needed – message from RCP**

We are currently recruiting Question Writers for MRCP(UK) and would like to kindly request your assistance with this task. Questions Writers provide invaluable contributions towards various MRCP(UK) examinations and in turn to the success of the three royal colleges.

*The Federation of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the UK is seeking Question Writers in a variety of specialties to write questions for our MRCP(UK) Part 1 and Part 2 Written Examinations as well as our Specialty Certificate Examinations. This is a valuable opportunity to contribute to the assessment of medical knowledge and play a vital role in shaping the future generation of physicians. Upon the completion of a half day online training course, volunteers would then participate in an annual two-day hybrid Question Writing meeting at the University of Warwick in Coventry offering excellent networking opportunities, external CPD and paid expenses.*

*If you are interested in becoming a Question writer, please find further information (including eligibility and how to apply) at*

<https://www.mrcpuk.org/get-involved-examiners/question-writers>

Please do reach out if you require further details or would like a quick call to discuss possible opportunities to promote such vacancies. Many thanks in advance for your assistance with this item.


Best wishes,

**Renée King · Communications and engagement coordinator** she/her

**Federation of the Royal Colleges of the Physicians of the United Kingdom**

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## Research Survey

Research is absolutely vital for Acute medicine and we are a specialty with massive amounts of opportunities. One of SAM's top priorities is to really increase the amount and quality of research we produce and also encourage members who are interested to get involved and support them.

Our new Research lead Dr Sapey is doing a lot of work around this. To support us make this work, we'd really appreciate you filling in our survey about your experience and interest, no matter how small!

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FJLNFQP>

Do take a look at our updated website Research page too for more information:

<https://www.acutemedicine.org.uk/research-new/>

## QI course

### **Acute Medics as Improvers – QI in SDEC**

Take the opportunity now to book onto this QI course – accredited for 13 CPD points!

Day 1: Wednesday 15 February 2024

Day 2: Wednesday 28 March 2024

Cost: £325 + VAT per place

Virtual via MS Teams

### **Event Overview**


This bespoke QI programme is delivered over 2 full days and supports attendees to learn core quality improvement skills by applying the theory to real life examples relating to improvements in *Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC)*.

Each attendee is expected to deliver a QI project to support the application of learning. All completed projects will be housed in an online showcase on Learning Toolbox.

This event will feature:

- Understanding the principles of QI
- Identifying opportunities for improvement
- Building a case for change and planning improvement
- Working with stakeholders to effect change
- Deploying measurement for improvement

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- Exploring creative change ideas
- Testing and implementing change ideas

### **Who is this event for?**

The Society for Acute Medicine is working in partnership with Aqua to provide this entry level programme suitable for Consultants, Junior Doctors, Advanced Clinical Practitioners (including advanced nursing, physiotherapy, paramedic, pharmacy & OT practitioners), Physician Associates and Allied Health Professionals in Acute medicine.

<https://www.acutemedicine.org.uk/sam-events/acute-medics-as-improvers/>

### **Message from our Pharmacist Ekta:**

Please be aware of this information regarding SodiumValproate;

Children born to women who take valproate during pregnancy are at significant risk of birth defects and persistent developmental disorders. As such, it is vital that women and girls are dispensed valproate safely.

### **Supplying valproate safely**


Pharmacy professionals have a key role in supplying valproate safely. Valproate must not be used in any woman or girl able to have children unless there is a pregnancy prevention programme (PPP) in place.

New rules came into force on 11 October 2023 which require manufacturer's original full pack dispensing of valproate-containing medicines. This is to ensure that patients always receive information about the harms of valproate during pregnancy.

Further information is available on the MHRA website and in the MHRA guidance on full pack dispensing of valproate-containing medicines

### **What you need to know**

- Unless there are exceptional circumstances, valproate-containing medicines must always be dispensed in the manufacturer's original full pack.
- Pharmacists must either round up or down so that the patient receives their supply in the manufacturer's original full pack and ensure that they receive an amount that is as close as possible to that prescribed.
- Valproate-containing medicines must not subsequently be re-packaged into plain dispensing packaging.



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### **Exceptional circumstances**

The manufacturer's original full pack does not have to be supplied where:

1. A risk assessment is in place that refers to the need for the patient to be sold or supplied valproate-containing medicines in different packaging from its manufacturer's original full outer packaging (for example, in a monitored dosage system) and
2. Assuming that the product is authorised, there are processes in place to make sure that the patient receives the patient information leaflet. That is not the case for unauthorised medicines, unless they are only unauthorised as a result of an assembly process.

### **Educational evenings**

As you hopefully all know we are continuing to offer a series of webinars throughout the year. These will all have CPD accreditation. These are developed by our fabulous SAM Council representatives who each take turns in organizing them. This is so that we as a Society are making sure we offer relevant teaching sessions to the whole of the membership.

Here is a plan for what is coming up...

**October 25<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm-9pm**

*Point of Care Ultrasound and Echo in Acute Medicine: Current scope and challenges and Future Possibilities*

[Head to the SAM website to book](#), see further announcements about upcoming webinars and also to listen to previous webinars:

<https://www.acutemedicine.org.uk/learning-hub/sam-webinars/>

### **Podcast – survey monkey**

Happy birthday to us!! The Podcasts have been going for a year. There is a load of recorded content after a summer break so they'll be coming out thick and fast for next few months!

We all love recording these but we want to develop and improve, please help us by giving constructive feedback on this survey

- <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/X359F9B>



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### Letter from Chris Whitty

RE: Smoking measures

As you know, smoking is a major cause of preventable death, disability and ill health resulting in 64,000 deaths a year in England. This is true across all medical specialities. Over 80% of smokers started before the age of 20. Smoking has a major impact on both hospital use and care, especially acute medical presentations. It greatly increases the risk of complications, longer hospital stays, admission to intensive care and emergency re-admission to hospital. Yesterday the Government announced plans to create the first smokefree generation. Children who turned or are turning 14 this year or younger will never be legally sold tobacco products, effectively raise the age of sale by one year each year for this generation. More details can be found in the Command Paper published here: [Stopping the start: our new plan to create a smokefree generation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) In addition to stopping people starting, there will be more support to help current smokers quit. Local stop smoking services will have their allocated funding more than doubled and there will be additional funds for awareness campaigns to encourage people to quit. There will also be a consultation on new regulations to reduce the appeal and availability of vapes to children. These measures, if approved by Parliament, would be a major step forward for public health, significantly improve the clinical outcomes of patients and reduce the pressures on the health and social care system from smoking related illness. I hope the Society for Acute Medicine and your members will contribute to the public debate.

The Government Command Paper setting out further details can be found here: [Stopping the start: our new plan to create a smokefree generation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

### Climate change group

SAM now have an established group looking at climate change and the effect of healthcare. We are currently writing a position statement and are keen to get anyone interested to join the group to share ideas and best practice. Do get in touch if you'd like to be involved – it will not be an onerous commitment! [secretary@acutemedicine.org.uk](mailto:secretary@acutemedicine.org.uk)

### And finally – A word from the president

I have the honour of serving as President of the Society for Acute Medicine for the next two years (2023-2025) and I look to further the positive messaging and influence from the society, building upon the excellent work of my predecessors including immediate past president Tim Cooksley.



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Today, the healthcare system faces many challenges, including seemingly endless winter pressures and a workforce crisis that needs addressing in the near future in order to protect the NHS. I think we all know that without Acute Medicine teams picking up a large proportion of the Acute work, creating flow in an increasingly congested system and innovating at the front door, we would be in a far worse situation than we find ourselves currently.

We need to continue to elevate the status of all those who work in Acute medicine, amplify our voices, and gain even more influence with those in positions of power. I look forward taking on the challenge.

Nick Much.