



Catch up on the latest activities and priorities from the SAM President. These updates highlight how SAM is championing the identity of Acute Medicine, strengthening collaboration with partner organisations, supporting our trainees, and driving forward key projects across research, workforce planning, and clinical practice.

SAM President's Update: April / May 2026

Main focus this month – Conference Season – spreading the word!

Directors' Meeting

The Directors continue to meet monthly to oversee the Society's strategic priorities and ongoing activities. This month has remained particularly busy, with progress made across several key areas, including:

- Formalising the **SAM Honorary Fellowship Award** process to ensure greater consistency, transparency, and recognition of outstanding contributions to Acute Medicine.
- **Website development**, with ongoing enhancements aimed at improving functionality, accessibility, and the overall user experience for members.
- **New build projects**, supporting the Society's future growth and service delivery.
- Continued engagement with **EEMAC** and its evolving initiatives.
- Development and support of The **Acute Medicine Journal**, ensuring it remains a valuable resource for clinicians, researchers, and the wider Acute Medicine community.

EEMAC

There has been considerable discussion on the Clinical Directors WhatsApp group regarding the inappropriate use of EEMAC, including reports of EEMAC data being combined with Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC) activity. In response, SAM has worked to produce a clarification document outlining the intended use of EEMAC. This document has now been shared with both RCEM and the Department of Health

Articles of Association and payment for SAM President

Following SAMManchester 2025, we received significant feedback from members regarding the proposed updates to the Articles of Association, particularly in relation to the potential payment of the President during their term as President.

Since then, the Directors have held a number of meetings with our legal advisers to review the feedback received and ensure that the proposed changes are clear, appropriate, and in the best interests of the Society. We are now close to finalising the revised documentation, which will be circulated to all SAM members in advance of the Annual General Meeting in Glasgow on 8 October 2026.

UEC Model Discharge Pathway

SAM has been actively involved in the development of the UEC Model Discharge Pathway. As the specialty responsible for a significant proportion of discharges following referral for admission—whether from General Practice, community services, or the Emergency Department—Acute Medicine has an important perspective to contribute. Many of these patients are discharged through Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC) pathways or following short inpatient admissions.

There is also substantial evidence demonstrating that delays in multidisciplinary team (MDT) assessment and discharge planning can lead to increased patient harm and longer hospital stays, particularly among frail and vulnerable patients. Ensuring timely access to appropriate discharge support is therefore a key component of delivering high-quality acute care.

SAM is well placed to contribute to this work and ensure that the role of Acute Medicine is recognised within the pathway. Representatives from the Society have attended meetings to date and will continue to engage with the process as it develops.

Site visits

A pilot programme of local site visits is currently being developed, providing an opportunity for Acute Medicine teams to visit neighbouring trusts and share learning in a collaborative and supportive environment. The visits are intended to encourage the exchange of ideas, showcase innovative practice, and strengthen regional networks across the specialty.

The format is deliberately informal and practical, combining a tour of the host service with opportunities for discussion and networking—along with the promise of tea and cake!

The initiative is progressing well, with pilot visits planned in Scotland, Birmingham, Mersey, and Wales. The outcomes and key learning points from these visits will be collated and presented at SAMGlasgow.

Flourish on the frontline

Hopefully lots of you got to visit the wellbeing stand in Cardiff and watch the video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=d3avhqlCfZU&pp=0gcJCVACo7VqN5tD&ra=m>

Share widely!

There is a lot of really good work happening here – and we've launched the wellbeing competition- will shortly be announced on the wellbeing page - watch this space!

Wellbeing Podcast

First of these was released on International Nurses Day - Listen here and share!



SAMCardiff!

SAMCardiff 2026, held on 30 April – 1 May, was a highly successful conference, and I would like to extend my thanks and congratulations to the local organising committee and everyone involved in its delivery. The conference brought together colleagues from across the Acute Medicine community for an excellent programme of education, networking, and professional development.

We have already received a great deal of positive feedback from delegates, speakers, sponsors, and exhibitors, reflecting both the quality of the programme and the welcoming atmosphere of the event. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making SAMCardiff such a success.

RCPE Conference Belfast

I was delighted to be invited to speak at the RCPE conference in Belfast as part of the Presidents' session, alongside the RCPE Vice President. It was a valuable opportunity to represent SAM and highlight the important contribution of Acute Medicine.

The conference had a strong Acute Medicine presence, with Michael Trimble, SAM's Northern Ireland Representative, playing a key role on the organising committee, and Darshan Kumar delivering an excellent presentation on Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC).

The event provided a fantastic day of educational talks, discussion, and networking, as well as an opportunity to continue promoting the role and value of Acute Medicine across Northern Ireland. My thanks go to the organisers for their invitation.

National Audit Office meeting

This was a second meeting held with the national audit office team. They are looking for ideas on what data to collect to represent the state of urgent and emergency care. There was a good discussion about gamification and temporary escalation areas as well as patients in the waiting room.

UEC Strategy Meeting

I recently attended the UEC Strategy Meeting, which is taking forward the work previously undertaken through the NHS England meetings that led to important publications such as the 72-hour Care Document and other key guidance.

It is encouraging to see this work continuing, ensuring that the relationships, expertise, and momentum developed over recent years are not lost. The new forum provides an opportunity to maintain collaboration across the urgent and emergency care system and to continue driving improvements in patient care and service delivery.

It was particularly positive to see the role of Acute Medicine recognised throughout the discussions. SAM's involvement ensures that the perspectives and experiences of Acute Medicine clinicians continue to inform national strategy and future developments.

Presentation at RCP London Medicine 26

Each year, SAM is invited to host a plenary session at the Royal College of Physicians Spring Meeting. This year, following feedback from Ailie Young, we updated the title of the session from *Acute and General Medicine* to *Acute Medicine*, better reflecting the identity and focus of our specialty.

The session was designed around the three key shifts highlighted in the NHS 10-Year Plan. Speakers explored the role of Hospital at Home services and the move from hospital-based to community-based care, the opportunities for Acute Medicine to identify and support vulnerable patients with a focus on prevention, and the challenges of overmedicalisation at the end of life and how we can deliver more patient-centred care.

The session was well received and provided an excellent opportunity to showcase the breadth of Acute Medicine and its contribution to some of the biggest challenges facing healthcare today.

As we begin planning for next year, I would be delighted to hear suggestions for topics and speakers. In particular, it would be wonderful to showcase inspiring Acute Medicine colleagues who may not have spoken at a national conference before, especially resident doctors and those bringing fresh perspectives and innovative ideas to the specialty.

Presentation at Medical Examiners conference

I was pleased to be invited to speak at the Medical Examiners Conference hosted by the Royal College of Pathologists. The presentation built on a similar session delivered at SAM Manchester, providing an opportunity to showcase the role and impact of Acute Medicine at the hospital front door.

The meeting also provided an excellent networking opportunity, resulting in a number of new connections and further raising the profile of Acute Medicine among colleagues from other specialties and professional groups.

Dr Hilary Williams, Clinical Vice President, Royal College of Physicians

I continue to meet monthly with Dr Hilary Williams, who remains a strong supporter of SAM. These meetings provide a valuable opportunity to ensure the voice of Acute Medicine is represented in discussions at the RCP.

A recent focus has been the drive to eradicate corridor care. While this is clearly the right ambition, there are concerns that some local solutions may simply move patients elsewhere without addressing the underlying issues, potentially creating new risks to patient care.

The RCP is keen to hear from members if they are seeing unintended consequences from these changes and would welcome examples that can help inform future discussions and advocacy.

What's out there – articles /standards released

The UK government has launched its [Reforming the General Medical Council legislative framework consultation](#), which will reform the legislation that governs how doctors are regulated. The draft legislation covers all aspects of the GMC's work, including powers and duties for registration, education and training, and fitness to practise. In particular, and following the Leng Review, this consultation seeks views on changing the professional titles of anaesthesia associate and physician associate to physician assistant in anaesthesia and physician assistant in law. This new legislation, once fully in force, will repeal the majority of provisions in the Medical Act 1983 and the entire legislation that currently regulates PAs and AAs. Doctors, PAAs and PAs will all instead be regulated under this new legislation. **The consultation is open until 11.59pm on 23 June 2026.**

The RCP is going to collate a response which we will contribute to, feel free to send me anything, or contribute via the link on the linked page

The RCP has launched a [new report](#) on neighbourhood planned specialist care. The report sets out our vision for how planned specialist care should be embedded within neighbourhood health, and the role physicians should be supported to play if this approach is to deliver better outcomes for patients and reduce fragmentation.

The report responds to the governments [Neighbourhood health framework](#) and highlights where greater clarity and practical enablers will be needed to make neighbourhood working effective in practice.

It draws on engagement with physicians across England, including a recent RCP snapshot survey, which found that:

- 48% of physicians are not very clear, or not clear at all, about how their specialist role will fit within neighbourhood health teams,
- 42% have concerns about the impact of neighbourhood working on their day-to-day clinical practice, particularly around workload and job planning.

<https://www.rcp.ac.uk/policy-and-campaigns/policy-documents/the-rcp-view-on-neighbourhood-health-planned-specialist-care/>

The RCP has launched their 5 year strategy, setting out our commitment to strengthen support for physicians and amplify the voice of the profession.

This strategy marks a significant moment of renewal for the RCP.

Based on extensive engagement with members, fellows, staff and stakeholders, the new 2026–30 strategy reflects a clear message from physicians across the UK and globally: they want a modern royal college and membership body that offers a stronger sense of community and belonging, high-quality education, exams and standards, and a more visible, confident and influential voice that shapes the future of medicine.

<https://www.rcp.ac.uk/116396>

<https://www.rcp.ac.uk/about-us/our-strategy/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nS1CPMICX-E>

The Nuffield Trust has published the NHS workforce in numbers – very useful document!

"[The NHS workforce in numbers](#)", which provides a definitive assessment of staffing numbers in the NHS in England.