



Catch up on the latest activities and priorities from the SAM President. These updates showcase how SAM continues to champion the specialty of Acute Medicine, strengthen partnerships with key organisations, support the next generation of acute physicians, and drive forward important work across research, workforce planning, education, and clinical practice.

SAM President's Update: June 2026

Main focus: End of conference season and surviving the heat!

Directors' Meeting

The Directors continue to meet monthly to oversee the Society's strategic priorities. This month's discussions focused on the ongoing work around GPAMs, particularly the time allocated per patient on ward rounds and the wider implications for workforce planning.

We also reviewed SAM's involvement in the design of new hospital developments and agreed to arrange a dedicated meeting to ensure Acute Medicine is represented appropriately in future planning.

At the time of the meeting, Council elections were underway, and we look forward to welcoming our newly elected Council members. We also discussed the UK Government's emerging use of the term "hospitalists". This is an area SAM will monitor closely, as it has the potential to create confusion around the role and identity of Acute Medicine.

Finally, we agreed that the Standard Operating Procedures for SAM subgroups should be updated, a piece of work that Neil Patel has kindly agreed to lead. The Society's Enhanced Care guidance is also due for review, with Nick Smallwood leading the update.

Visit to Downing Street

As part of SAM's ongoing work to improve end-of-life care, I was invited to attend a cross-party meeting at Downing Street to discuss the future of hospice care. Despite the rather wet weather, it was a fantastic experience and an excellent opportunity to contribute to some genuinely collaborative discussions on this important topic.

Sadly, the one person I didn't get to meet was Larry, the famous Downing Street cat!



FPM Dinner

Nick Murch (Past-President SAM) and I were delighted to attend the annual Fellowship of Postgraduate Medicine (FPM) dinner. It was an excellent opportunity to meet members of the FPM Council, strengthen our longstanding relationship, and continue developing the close collaboration between our organisations, which brings significant benefits to SAM and its members.

RCN / Medical Colleges Update

Although SAM is not a member of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (AoMRC), we were pleased to be invited to a joint meeting with the Royal College of Nursing. The main focus of the discussion was the future medical workforce and the challenges facing workforce planning across the UK. The Academy will be leading further work in this area, and it is important that SAM continues to contribute to these discussions and ensure the voice of Acute Medicine is heard.

QI / Research / Education Council Meeting

Each June, Council holds a dedicated meeting to review the work of SAM's four main committees: Education, Quality Improvement, Research, and Wellbeing. This provides an opportunity to hear about the progress being made across each committee, discuss future priorities, and recognise the significant time and commitment that committee members give to advancing the work of the Society.

RSM

I was delighted to speak at the Royal Society of Medicine conference on collaboration between Acute Medicine and Emergency Medicine. It was an excellent meeting and a real opportunity to bring colleagues from both specialties together to discuss the challenges we face and, more importantly, the solutions.

One of the key themes was Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC) and its role in avoiding unnecessary hospital admissions. The discussion generated a great deal of interest and, while there was plenty of debate, there was also a strong consensus on the direction of travel. Since the conference, I've had several follow-up conversations with colleagues who have requested copies of the presentation to share within their own organisations as they review and develop their local SDEC services.



72 hour reports session

I attended a meeting reviewing the metrics and data included within the 72-hour standard reporting framework. These discussions are important in ensuring that the right measures are used to reflect the work and impact of Acute Medicine. As ever, Ragit Varia brought an exceptional level of insight to the discussion, expertly interpreting the data and ensuring that the perspective of Acute Medicine was clearly represented throughout.

RCPE Conference

SAM was honoured to deliver the keynote lecture at the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh conference, focusing on the current state and future direction of Acute Medicine in 2026. It was an excellent programme, showcasing the breadth and quality of work taking place across the specialty. It was particularly pleasing to see our takeAIM Fellow, Nicole Heggarty, playing a key role as one of the conference organisers, and Ailie Young delivering an excellent session on caring for pregnant patients on the AMU.

RCP MSB

The Royal College of Physicians regularly convenes meetings of leaders from across the medical specialties, chaired by Hilary Williams. These meetings provide an excellent forum to discuss issues affecting physicians, share best practice, and influence national priorities.

The agenda is shaped by the specialties themselves, so if there are topics you would like to see discussed, please let me know. We also have the opportunity to invite subject experts to contribute to these meetings where appropriate.

TakeAIM

As always, takeAIM delivered another highly successful conference in Edinburgh. Unfortunately, due to an unexpected emergency, I had to contribute remotely from home rather than being there in person, which definitely left me with a serious case of FOMO!



Huge congratulations to the entire team for delivering such an outstanding event. The feedback has been exceptional and is thoroughly well deserved. Special thanks to everyone who contributed to making the conference such a success.

Flourish on the frontline

The Wellbeing Committee is really flourishing (pun intended!) under Emma Rowlandson's expert leadership, with an exciting range of initiatives and projects underway.

Details of the upcoming wellbeing competition will be circulated shortly, so keep an eye out. There are also more podcasts in development and—if the Committee gets its way—you might even find a massage chair waiting for you at the next SAM conference!

What's out there – articles /standards released

- Huge hats off to the ecoSAM team – their hot weather guidance has been used extensively throughout the latest heatwave – please continue to share
<https://www.acutemedicine.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/SAM-Hot-Weather-Health-Plan-2025.pdf>
- We contributed to the RCP response to the GMC reform – thanks to those that contributed. Here is the final document.
<https://www.rcp.ac.uk/news-and-media/news-and-opinion/rcp-responds-to-dhsc-consultation-on-reforming-the-gmc-legislative-framework/>
- Lots of thanks for the EEMAC v SDEC doc – thanks Ragit
<https://www.acutemedicine.org.uk/blog/2026/05/29/sam-position-statement-clarifying-the-difference-between-eemac-and-medical-sdec/>