



Catch up on the latest activities and priorities from the SAM President. This update highlights 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 – November 2025

Dear SAM Members,

Welcome to my short update highlighting key discussions and developments from SAM Council and our wider collaborations. **This Month's Focus: Championing Acute Medicine & Strengthening Our Data and Research**

We continue to promote the identity and value of Acute Medicine, with growing work to improve data capture, research activity, and small-grant opportunities.

A special thanks to Ragit Varia, President-Elect of SAM, whose expertise has been invaluable. He is working collaboratively with NHSE to ensure that the work we deliver is recognised and consistently recorded as AMU activity, regardless of where the patient is physically located.

Representation and Collaboration:

Meetings with NHSE & department of Health

SAM is invited to several different meetings with both the Department of Health and NHSE. While the details remain confidential, we emphasise several key points on behalf of Acute Medicine:

- SDEC is fundamentally an **admission-avoidance service**.
- The **back door remains a bigger problem than the front door**.
- Many AMUs are **blocked and under-utilised**.
- Gamification is becoming a **significant concern**.
- Boarding increases LOS and creates inefficiencies for boarded patients and those stuck on AMU.
- To deliver on current expectations we need **more workforce and more support services**; any expanded remit must be matched with additional resources.
- Concerns about the forthcoming/current winter pressure
- Increasing bypassing of AMUs and the impact of boarding.
- The effect of financial pressures leading to “efficiency savings,” such as ward closures, which in reality reduce efficiency and add further strain on UEC.

RCP Meeting

While most content of these meetings is confidential, here are the items already in the public domain:

- Voting rights will be widened following a recent vote.
- **NextGen campaign** continues supporting resident doctors (*link below in “What's Out There” section*).
- The **National Medical Training Review diagnostic phase** has been completed and is online (*Chris Whitty / Steve Powis (link below in “What's Out There” section)*).
- The **King's Fund review**: over 90% of recommendations have been completed.
- At the RCP AGM 2025 there was a call for clarity on how the RCP engages with countries with poor human-rights records while ensuring fairness for members and staying true to its mission.

Medical Specialties Board (MSB) – RCP London

This joint meeting of senior leaders across all medical specialties is always valuable. This month's highlights:

- Winter pressures (presented by me where I painted a picture of what the experience of medical patients attending urgent and emergency care really looks like).
 - Sustainability: fantastic to see our **SAM Hero**, pharmacist and EcoSAM member **Minna Eii**, present. SAM is ahead of the curve in this space and I felt very proud.
 - Updates on flu and vaccine planning.
-

Wellbeing Subcommittee

We held the first meeting of the new Wellbeing Subcommittee, and it was a highly productive start:

- Drafting Terms of Reference and strategy.
- Exploring ways to embed wellbeing into future conferences.
- Developing plans for a SAM wellbeing podcast.
- Progressing a mentoring scheme, with feedback to be gathered from AWESAM attendees.

This group is **open to all**, so please share with colleagues who may be interested. There is real scope to develop resources and drive positive change—more voices are welcome.

ECOSAM & the RCP Green Toolkit

Our EcoSAM group has been working with the RCP to advise on updates to the **RCP Green Toolkit**. (*link below in "What's Out There" section*)

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow (RCPSG)

At the end of October, Claire Gordon, Michael Trimble and I were delighted to deliver a SAM-badged plenary at the RCPSG Medicine 24 conference. It was a fantastic meeting and a pleasure to connect with colleagues north of the border. Thanks to **David Wilkin**, Acute Physician, for organising such a strong programme. We have agreed to host a joint SAM–RCPSG plenary at **SAM Glasgow**, further raising Acute Medicine's profile ahead of our conference there.

Meeting with the National Audit Office

It was excellent to see Acute Medicine included in the National Audit Office's engagement plans. I met with their team to discuss current pressures and priorities.

(NAO link: <https://www.nao.org.uk/>)

What's out there – articles /standards released

Launch of small grants!

<https://www.acutemedicine.org.uk/blog/2025/11/12/sam-research-grants-and-research-development-support/>

*RCP NextGen project

<https://www.rcp.ac.uk/policy-and-campaigns/supporting-the-physicians-of-the-future-with-our-nextgenphysicians-campaign/>

** Medical Training Review

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/the-medical-training-review-phase-1-diagnostic-report/>

The Federation of the Royal colleges released their report into the error that led to incorrect written exam results being published affecting 222 candidates who were told they'd passed when they'd failed and 61 told the other way around. This was due to a human error not manually removing a dummy score.

<https://www.thefederation.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/The%20McLachlan%20Report%20November%202025.pdf>

RCP response to 10 year plan (SAM inputted into this)

<https://www.rcp.ac.uk/policy-and-campaigns/policy-documents/rcp-response-to-the-government-s-consultation-on-the-10-year-workforce-plan/>

'Risking Life and Limb' - A review of the quality of care provided to adults with acute limb ischaemia.

NCEPOD report

RCP Green toolkit

<https://www.rcp.ac.uk/policy-and-campaigns/our-policy-priorities/climate-and-sustainability/green-physician-toolkit/>

Social media strategy – RCP guidelines. I thought these were very useful and we may want to look at adopting these for SAM.

<https://rcp.ac.uk/media/o30fiwwj/social-media-principles-and-code-of-conduct-2023.pdf>

Finally, thank you, as always, for your ongoing support of the society— and a particular thank you to the incredible SAM Council, whose support, energy and dedication make all this work possible.

I'm always keen to hear from members, so please do get in touch.



Warm regards,

Vicky Price, President, The Society for Acute Medicine

president@acutemedicine.org.uk

www.acutemedicine.org.uk