



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 – October 2025

Dear SAM Members,

Each month I'll share a short update highlighting key discussions and developments from SAM Council and our wider collaborations. These updates will be posted on the SAM website, so they don't fill your inbox, but keep you informed about what's happening across the society.

This Month's Focus: Promoting the Identity of Acute Medicine

Our central theme this month has been strengthening the identity of Acute Medicine — and specifically understanding how perceptions of the specialty are affecting trainees and recruitment.

Representation and Collaboration

RCP London Council

I attended my first Royal College of Physicians (RCP) Council meeting (virtually). While the discussions are confidential, I'm pleased that Acute Medicine now has a clear voice alongside other specialties and is represented in strategic conversations.

Meeting with Dr Hilary Williams, RCP Clinical Vice President

- Raised the issue of surgical patients being transferred to medical teams — a frequent frustration for many members.
 - SAM will draft a position statement on this to share with the RCP.
- Discussed the identity of Acute Medicine, including the distinctions between GIM and AIM, and shared information on new consultant appointments.

Meeting with the Intensive Care Society (ICS)

- The ICS is keen to collaborate with SAM, particularly around the FAMUS model, enhanced care, and international relations.
- We agreed to explore joint opportunities for conferences and podcasts.
- I raised the issue of lack of respect experienced by our registrars, and the ICS is supportive of helping to promote Acute Medicine positively within their communications and trainee networks.

NHSE and National Leaders Roundtable

I joined a virtual meeting with leaders from NHSE, RCEM, RCGP, JRCALC, and others to discuss winter planning.

- COVID appears to have peaked early, which may help relieve winter pressures, though flu activity is rising.
- We pressed for early funding and approval for additional winter services — particularly as Christmas rotas are already set and the 4-day break will be challenging.
- We also highlighted the need for accurate recording of corridor care and waiting areas, to ensure patient experience is properly captured and reported.

RCEM Collaboration

We continue to have an excellent relationship with RCEM. I recently met with their policy and communications teams, and we've agreed to share embargoed press releases to allow coordinated and timely responses. We're also exploring joint work on staff wellbeing, earlier palliative care identification, and potential research collaborations.

News and Publications

- **RCP Resident Doctors' Survey** – includes contributions from our trainee representatives.
 - **SDEC Futures Platform** – many are raising concerns about SDEC being used as an ED overflow area; we will continue to raise this with NHSE and the Department of Health.
 - **Status Epilepticus Guidelines** – SAM's input is acknowledged; thank you to Michael Trimble.
 - [Read here](#)
 - **RCP Corridor Care Guidance** – [Read here](#)
 - **RCP Job Planning Resource** – [Read here](#)
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Trainee Experience

The SAM trainee survey has drawn national attention — with Professor Sheona Macleod and Professor Sir Chris Whitty both taking note of the reported “disrespect” towards trainees and the specialty. Many thanks to Latif Rahman, Ailie Young, and Zach Ferguson for raising and leading this vital work.

Press Coverage

- SAM Manchester conference highlights and SAMBA data received strong coverage in *The Independent* and *The Telegraph*.
 - I also gave an interview to *The Independent* about the pressures facing staff ahead of winter.
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Ongoing Projects

Ten-Year Workforce Plan

We are contributing to the RCP's upcoming workforce document. Early analysis from Nick Scriven shows a decline in applications to Acute Medicine posts since the pandemic, with fewer unique applicants than available posts. This has prompted wider conversations around specialty identity and recruitment. One idea is to collect personal stories from current trainees about what inspired them to choose Acute Medicine — to help shape future campaigns and outreach.

'Lunch on the AMU' Project

We're exploring a national snapshot audit looking at which patients are eating dinner in bed — a simple but meaningful measure of mobility and independence, linking to the “pyjama paralysis” agenda.

Palliative Care Subgroup

Led by Ash Lillis. There's been great interest already, with details of the first meeting coming soon. Please get in touch if you'd like to be involved.

Regional Site Visit Pilot

We'll soon begin a pilot across several key regions in the four nations. These will be informal, collaborative visits — an opportunity to share learning and showcase good practice, not formal inspections. Findings will be shared at future SAM conferences.

CPD as you Wee

Now live — thank you to Zac Ferguson, Steffi McLusas, and Rowan Gossedge for leading this. Details are available [on the SAM website](#) and social media channels.

ESIM Winter School

We've had an excellent response from trainees, and applications are now being reviewed. Members have shared very positive feedback about the networking opportunities with colleagues across Europe.

Iceland Collaboration

Following SAMManchester, we were delighted to welcome colleagues from Iceland who are now developing Acute Medicine locally. They have invited SAM representatives to speak at their national conference.

Social Media

Our online presence continues to grow rapidly — thanks to Rowan's work. Please follow and share SAM's posts, webinars, and podcasts to help spread awareness and strengthen our community.

Consultants' WhatsApp Group

We're considering a pilot group for AMU leads to share weekly updates and real-time insights — similar to successful models used in Emergency Medicine.

Governance and President Pay

Following the AGM, we are commissioning a further legal review of SAM's Articles and a supplementary document outlining the President's pay arrangements. This also gives us the opportunity to review and strengthen our governance framework.

Data and Research

We're in discussions with independent data analysts exploring how best to examine urgent and emergency care datasets. We're also preparing a James Lind Alliance business case to help define SAM's research priorities going forward.

Clinical Collaborations

- We are working with the Royal College of Psychiatrists on draft guidance around psychiatric emergencies.
- We are also collaborating with the UK Acute Oncology Society on new guidance, beginning with the management of *patients with unsuspected pulmonary embolism*.

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

