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: October 2026

Main focus: Conference season continues, as does the advocacy!

It's been a busy month, starting with SAMGlasgow and continuing with national discussions about the role of Acute Medicine and SDEC. It remains vital that the voice of our specialty is heard.

SAMGlasgow



Hats off to the local hosts – I have just finished listening to the talks and I have to say I really loved all of them. The content had been carefully thought through and the speakers were fantastic. I really felt proud to be part of it.

It has been lovely to hear that the opening talk is being shared to help explain the vision for Acute Medicine. That really chuffed me to bits! Here is the link – it's on the website *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Li34W0koLaw*

Accessing medical notes

If you attended the education session at SAMGlasgow, you may have heard the discussion about accessing medical records. NHS England has published guidance on legitimate access to records, including considerations relating to education and learning: https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/information-governance/guidance/stopping-unlawful-access-to-records/guidance-for-health-and-care-professionals

Questions remain about how the guidance should be applied in routine clinical practice, including checking and filing results. SAM is seeking clarification and will share further information when available.

BSE ECHO

I attended a roundtable with the British Society of Echocardiography in Manchester ahead of their conference. We discussed how to improve access to echocardiography for patients presenting acutely, including training and accreditation. It was a collaborative, patient-centred meeting, and I look forward to sharing any wider outcomes.

The Leng Review – clinical protocol

There are strong and differing views about the PA role, and I recognise how important it is to have respectful, constructive discussion. SAM continues to engage with the national consultation process and to consider the implications for Acute Medicine.

Harveian Oration

It was a huge honour to be invited to this dinner if not a little daunting! The Oration was delivered by Professor Bee Wee 'Palliative medicine: coming of age' – very much a topic close to my heart. The evening was a huge success, and I found myself making many useful connections for SAM.



James Lind Alliance

The SAM & James Lind Alliance PSP: The steering group selection is underway!

Our Priority Setting Partnership (PSP) with the James Lind Alliance has now entered the Steering Group selection phase. The group, comprising clinicians, patients and carers, is expected to be finalised by 9 November 2026 and will oversee the next stages of the project.

Once formed, the Steering Group will immediately begin constructing the framework for our first wide-scale consultation survey. This upcoming survey will allow the entire membership and the wider acute care community to submit the key clinical uncertainties and unanswered questions they want future research to solve. Keep an eye out for further updates and details on how to submit your research gaps on the SAM Research Hub.

ICS Meeting

SAM has been engaging with the Intensive Care Society about access to critical care for acutely unwell medical patients. We are excited about further collaborative work with them on this important issue.

Senior leaders meeting with NHSE/ UEC

I attended a national urgent and emergency care meeting with representatives from several professional organisations. We discussed patient flow, streaming and the importance of ensuring pathways reflect patients' clinical needs. It was encouraging to find substantial shared concern and a willingness to work together.

What's out there – articles /standards released -

7 October 2026 — GIRFT – Effective discharge lounges: A summary guide to patient-centred discharge and better hospital flow
https://gettingitrightfirsttime.co.uk/new-girft-guidance-for-improving-the-flow-of-urgent-and-emergency-care-pathways/

7 October 2026 — GIRFT – Guide to implementing effective length of stay reviews
https://gettingitrightfirsttime.co.uk/new-girft-guidance-for-improving-the-flow-of-urgent-and-emergency-care-pathways/

8 October 2026 — RCP – National Audit of Inpatient Falls (NAIF) annual report 2026
https://www.rcp.ac.uk/122946

14 October 2026 — RCP – Training physicians for the future: A blueprint for reforming postgraduate medical training
https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/our-policy-and-campaigns/policy-documents/training-physicians-for-the-future-a-blueprint-for-reforming-postgraduate-medical-training/

18 October 2026 — DHSC/NHS England – £140 million boost to urgent care to ease winter pressures on NHS (announcement)
https://www.gov.uk/government/news/140-million-boost-to-urgent-care-to-ease-winter-pressures-on-nhs

21 October 2026 — RCP and Macmillan – Clinical consensus statement on acute and supportive oncology
https://www.rcp.ac.uk/media/mokh2cez/acute-and-supportive-oncology-clinical-consensus-statement.pdf