



Catch up on the latest activities and priorities from the SAM President. The President's Update highlights 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: September 2026

Back to business – conference season, SAMGlasgow and a busy autumn ahead

September has certainly felt like a return to business after the summer, with preparations for **SAMGlasgow and our AGM** well under way. Alongside this, there has been a great deal happening nationally – from important work on the future role of Acute Medicine and AMUs, to research, governance, hospital planning and collaboration with colleagues across the UK and Ireland.

Directors' meeting and AGM preparations

After the summer break, our Directors' meeting focused heavily on preparations for the AGM and ensuring everything is ready for October.

A terrific amount of work has gone into the new SAM website, led by **Ragit Varia, SAM President-Elect**, while **Rowan Gossedge, SAM Digital Lead**, is doing a fantastic job developing the new Education Hub. Our updated **definition of Acute Medicine** is now taking centre stage on the new-look website – again, huge thanks to Ragit.

There has also been considerable work behind the scenes on SAM's governance. We have finalised updated documents covering **travel expenses, Fellowship, international collaboration and elections**, which will now go to Council.

Some of the larger pieces of work are also progressing. **GPAMS**, an outstanding piece of work led by **Nick Smallwood and colleagues**, and the President secondment agreement are coming to Council. Our Articles are undergoing their most substantial review to date, with important proposed changes including provision for backfill of President time and the introduction of online voting.

Working with our surgical colleagues

I had a really positive meeting with the **Vice-President of the Royal College of Surgeons** and **Hilary Williams from the RCP**.

The meeting followed conversations with SAM members who have expressed frustration that patients with conditions requiring surgical input can sometimes default to medical teams. It was encouraging to find that we shared the same core principles about getting patients to the right team and the right place for their care.

We are now putting these principles into writing and I hope to be able to share more soon. This is particularly timely given related work now taking place within NHS England.

NHS England: Urgent Clinical Care Clinical Decision-Making Framework

SAM has been invited to contribute to **Tranche 2 of NHS England's Urgent Clinical Care Clinical Decision-Making Framework**, which will explore, among other areas, patient suitability for admission to an AMU.

Cat Atkin, SAM Research Lead; Anika Wijewardane, SAM England Representative; and I are working together on SAM's contribution and have already submitted our first pieces of evidence.

This is an important area for Acute Medicine and one in which SAM is a major stakeholder, so we are making sure our voice is heard. If our work with the Royal College of Surgeons can be agreed quickly, this could also provide valuable evidence to inform the framework.

National Audit Office

You may remember that I have had several meetings with the **National Audit Office** over recent months as part of its work examining patient flow through hospitals.

Its report has now been published and includes references to the Society for Acute Medicine. There is a link at the end of this update.

James Lind Alliance

Cat Atkin and I also caught up on our work with the **James Lind Alliance**, which is progressing well.

We now have our adviser in place and will shortly begin recruiting the team that will help develop the surveys that will ultimately inform SAM's research priorities and strategy.

We will shortly be inviting expressions of interest from SAM members who would like to be involved, so please look out for further information.

New Hospital Meeting

Ragit Varia and I met with Rahul from the **New Hospital Programme** to discuss concerns that the purpose and function of the AMU have not been adequately reflected within some hospital planning.

These concerns were acknowledged and there was agreement that this needs urgent review. We have been asked to set out clearly the **function of Acute Medicine and the AMU**, with the aim of developing a statement that can also be agreed with RCEM and the RCP.

In the meantime, if you are aware of a Trust experiencing difficulties with this locally, **please get in touch with SAM**. Once our statement is finalised, we hope it will provide something useful for members to share locally, while also allowing us to raise recurring issues nationally with the New Hospital Programme.

Acute Medicine in Ireland

I was delighted to be invited to Ireland to speak about **“Acute Medicine – the UK journey”**.

It was a brilliant meeting – accompanied, of course, by fantastic Irish hospitality! More importantly, there was a real enthusiasm for collaboration. Colleagues in Ireland are keen to expand Acute Medicine and develop a training curriculum, and it was great to be able to share our experience and resources. There is clearly considerable potential for us to learn from one another as Acute Medicine continues to develop.



Shrewsbury Acute Medicine Conference



I was also invited to speak at the **inaugural Shrewsbury Acute Medicine Conference**. It was a real pleasure to meet the team and discuss our national vision for Acute Medicine and, crucially, how we translate that vision into practice.

The question-and-answer session was particularly illuminating. There was enormous enthusiasm for getting Acute Medicine right at the front door, with appropriate patient selection and good flow.

There was also lots of interest in **pragmatism as one of our “super skills”**, and in recognising patients who may be in the last year of life – an area that generated particular interest among trainees.

The Final Frame

Our work looking at palliative and end-of-life care also led to an invitation to a fascinating event at the **Royal Society of Arts in London**.

The event was hosted by Radio 4's **John Wilson** (*This Cultural Life, Front Row*) and Oscar-winning director **Kevin Macdonald**, followed by a discussion led by **Professor Hugh Montgomery** on *The Final Frame*.

The initiative encourages people to talk openly about what they would like the end of their life to look like. It was a thought-provoking discussion and another valuable opportunity to talk about Acute Medicine – not only with healthcare professionals, but with members of the public and journalists too.

More information is available from [The Final Frame](#).



Worth reading

A few recently published reports and resources may also be of interest to SAM members:

RCP – supporting clinical academic careers

[RCP view on supporting clinical academic careers](#)

National Audit Office – managing the flow of patients through hospitals from A&E

[Read the National Audit Office report](#)

Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman – Conversations that matter most: improving communication in end-of-life care

[Read more - Conversations that matter most: improving communication in end of life care](#)

And finally – SAMGlasgow

Of course, October means **SAMGlasgow**. A huge amount of work has gone into this year's conference and I am really looking forward to welcoming everyone to Glasgow.

It promises to be a fantastic couple of days of education, discussion and networking – and, importantly, an opportunity for our Acute Medicine community to come together.

See you in Glasgow!