

# **sam** NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026

## Contents

**2**      **Welcome from Dr Neil Patel, SAM Secretary**

**3**      **Upcoming conferences and webinars**

**4**      **SAMCardiff & SAMGlasgow**

**5**      **SAM President's News**

**6**      **Other News**

- GIRFT's UEC Data Dashboards
- Focused Echo Learning Materials
- Decompensated Cirrhosis Survey

**7**      • **Introducing New SAM England Representative**

• **Royal College of Physicians of Ireland Winter Meeting**

**8**      • **Getting the Best from Acute Medicine Online Session**

• **SDEC Acute Oncology Pathways**

• **SAM Social Media**

## WELCOME, DR NEIL PATEL



As we step into 2026, I want to take a moment to say **thank you to everyone** working in Acute Medicine. This winter has been tough, and the dedication and resilience shown by teams across the country has been **truly inspiring**.

I know many of you are juggling relentless pressures from norovirus outbreaks and high flu activity, on top of already stretched services. Day-to-day challenges with patient flow, bed availability, and staffing are all too real — and yet, you continue to deliver **safe, compassionate care** to some of the sickest patients in the NHS. That unwavering commitment is what makes our specialty so remarkable.

As a Society, we remain focused on **supporting you through education**, connection and advocacy. Learning doesn't stop; it just adapts. **We continue to grow our educational offer**, including "**CPD as you Wee!**" snapshots — short, practical updates. Alongside this, our programme of **evening webinars, podcasts and bite-sized learning** continues at pace, making it easier to stay connected and up to date, no matter how busy your day is.

Our **next webinar will focus on Frailty** - Acute illness in people who live with frailty; what the golden 72 hours means for the care team by Professor Kenneth Rockwood, a topic that sits at the heart of acute care and I hope you can join us.

The **SAM-FPM Joint Conference is on the 6th February 2026** and is followed by our **Spring Conference in Cardiff** at the end of April. Abstract submission for the Cardiff conference is now open until the end of the day on 1st March 2026. Don't forget the **President's fully funded places**. Details on all of this in this edition of the newsletter.

SAM is committed to **strengthening the identity of Acute Medicine** as a specialty and championing its central role in **hospital efficiency, patient flow and quality of care**. For example, Acute Medicine teams are critical to helping organisations meet the NHS First 72 Hours standards, ensuring patients receive the right care, in the right place, at the right time. SAM will continue to **advocate nationally** for the recognition, resources and workforce needed to deliver the vision of the specialty.

Despite the challenges, the Acute Medicine community remains **supportive, resilient and forward-looking**.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter, and please feel free to feedback or get in touch at [administrator@acutemedicine.org.uk](mailto:administrator@acutemedicine.org.uk) or to myself [secretary@acutemedicine.org.uk](mailto:secretary@acutemedicine.org.uk)

**Neil Patel**  
Secretary, The Society for Acute Medicine



UPCOMING  
CONFERENCES &  
WEBINARS

**SAM & FPM Joint Conference | The Acute Medical Take: Tackling Difficult Cases**

**Royal College of Physicians, London | 6 February 2026**

For the first time, the **Society for Acute Medicine (SAM)** and the **Fellowship of Postgraduate Medicine (FPM)** have joined forces for a one-day, high-impact event at the Royal College of Physicians, London. This unique conference brings together leading experts to explore some of the toughest challenges faced on the acute medical take. A few spaces still available - [register now!](#)

**Programme Highlights**

- **Cardiology:** Cardiovascular emergencies in pregnancy, acute hypertension, ACS updates
- **Neurology:** Head injury pathways, headache diagnosis, encephalitis guidance
- **Respiratory:** Pleural disease, type 2 respiratory failure, innovations in sleep medicine
- **Toxicology:** Substance misuse, paracetamol poisoning, alcohol withdrawal

**Why attend?**

- **Expert updates** from national and international leaders — including Professors Cathy Nelson-Piercy, Tom Solomon, Paul Dargan, Sir Peter Barnes, and other experts
- **Practical, case-based teaching** to sharpen front-line decision-making
- **Multidisciplinary sessions** linking acute medicine, specialty expertise, and guidelines

**Educational Evening | Innovation and Excellence in the Care of People Living with Frailty**

**Wednesday 28 January 2026 | 7.30-9.00pm | 2 CPD credits**

**Presentation 1: Acute Illness in People who Live with Frailty;  
What the Golden 72 Hours Means for the Care Team**

*Professor Kenneth Rockwood, Canada*

**Presentation 2: Recent Developments within the New Frailty  
Unit at DGRI**

*Dr Amy Conley and Drew Crooks, Dumfries & Galloway*



[Click here to register for the webinar.](#)

SAMCARDIFF &  
SAMGLASGOWsamcardiff  
Together Stronger: AIMing Higher

SAMCardiff | Together Stronger: AIMing Higher

Cardiff Holland House Hotel | 30 April - 1 May 2026

[Register now](#) for **The Society for Acute Medicine's Spring Conference in Cardiff 2026**. The programme theme is "*Together Stronger: AIMing Higher*" and both virtual and in-person attendance are available to book. All sessions will be made available for attendees to watch on demand for 4 months following the conference. We expect in-person places at this conference to sell out so **please book early to avoid disappointment!**

**12 External CPD Points** will be applied for with the Federation of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom.

**SAMCardiff Abstract Submission now open | Deadline: 2359hrs on Sunday 1 March 2026**

Abstract authors are invited to submit for display at SAMCardiff in the online ePoster showcase and as a full sized poster at the event. A selection of the best abstracts may also be invited to take part in an oral presentation on the main conference programme.

**Abstract Results: 19 March 2026**

[View the Call for Abstracts for more information](#) | [Submit your abstract here](#)

**Are you interested in POCUS? Do you have a game-changing case? Do you want the opportunity to present it in Cardiff?!**

SAMCardiff includes our annual POCUS cases lightning session, where we are aiming to showcase the utility of point of care ultrasound within Acute Medicine. If you have an **anonymised** case (with good quality images) that you'd like to present, consider applying now!

**Submission Deadline: 2359hrs on 1 March 2026 | Results issued: 19 March 2026**

[Click here for more information](#)

**SAVE THE DATE for SAMGlasgow**

Glasgow | 8-9 October 2026

**SAM's 20th International Conference** will take place in Glasgow on 8-9 October 2026. Registration and Abstract Submission will open in June 2026.

## SAM PRESIDENT'S NEWS



### President's Fully Funded Places

#### President's Fully Funded Conference Places: Supporting Access to SAMCardiff 2026

SAM is committed to supporting the development of the entire acute medicine workforce. As part of this, we're offering **President's Fully Funded Places** to help members who face financial barriers and lack access to study budgets. Open to **nurses, AHPs, ACPs, doctors in training, and undergraduate members**, these awards cover **full conference fees and a contribution to travel and accommodation costs**. Applicants must be SAM members with an **accepted abstract**, and all applications will be judged anonymously.

This initiative is part of SAM's commitment to developing the whole acute medicine workforce and supporting professional growth across the MDT.

[Click here for further details including application process.](#) **Deadline for applications is 29 March 2026.**

### SAM President's Visit to Stormont

On the 8<sup>th</sup> January, Dr Price (SAM President) and Dr Trimble (SAM Northern Ireland Representative) visited Stormont along with two local Acute Physicians (Dr Campbell and Dr Kumar), to **discuss acute medicine in Northern Ireland** with Jim Wilkinson, Deputy Secretary from the Department of Health. This was followed by a visit to one of the local hospitals. It was good to be discussing **important issues such as workforce, SDEC and how Acute medicine should work**. It was also heartening that they had our recently published documents in front of them.



### Radio 4 Today Programme Interview

Dr Price was recently on the Today programme discussing the impact of **crowded emergency departments** and people **approaching end of life**. [Catch up on the interview here](#) (time of 2:46:20) and [read the linked SAM article here](#).

### President's December Update

Catch up on the latest activities and priorities from **SAM President, Dr Vicky Price**. [View the December Update here.](#)

A photograph showing two women in profile, facing each other and engaged in conversation. They are standing in front of a display board with several charts and documents. The woman on the left has blonde hair, and the woman on the right has dark hair. The background is slightly blurred, focusing attention on the two women.

## OTHER NEWS

### Make the Most of GIRFT's UEC Data Dashboards

**Step-by-step guidance** on how to make the most of **GIRFT's UEC data dashboards** is now available on the GIRFT website.

The guidance - [Empowering UEC services with GIRFT metrics](#) - offers detailed descriptions and information on how to effectively use GIRFT's [SEDT](#), [SAMIT](#) and [SAMIT 75+](#) tools, which support UEC colleagues to develop a deep understanding of their service, identifying where gaps exist and understanding why problems might be happening.

### BSE Level 1 Focused Echo Learning Materials – Free 30 Cases

The **BSE have launched a new tool** to help support clinicians learning focused echo, especially where access to Supervision is proving difficult. **The library of 150 cases** provides an opportunity to review imaging, a chance to interpret the studies and then real time feedback on image interpretation and reporting according to the BSE Level 1 dataset. **The first 30 cases are free**, and then there is the chance to purchase access to the remaining 120 cases. For any clinicians learning focused echo who may be interested in this tool, please see the press release [here](#), and access the learning materials [here](#).

Please note the Society have not been involved in the development of this resource but are supportive of Acute Medical clinicians learning focused echocardiography where relevant to their role.

### Assessment and Management of Decompensated Cirrhosis: Barriers and Enablers Survey

Acute admissions to NHS hospitals due to liver disease have **increased by over 50%** in the last decade and carry a high mortality. We are trying to understand how we can make it easier for healthcare professionals at the front door to assess and manage patients with decompensated cirrhosis.

This survey will take **under 5 minutes to complete**, and we would be so grateful if you could fill in to tell us your experiences of assessing these patients.

[Click here to complete the survey.](#)

The logo for AIM 25 consists of the letters 'AIM' in a large, white, 3D block font, followed by the number '25' in a similar style. The letters are decorated with small green circular accents. The background is dark with some architectural elements.

## OTHER NEWS

### Introducing Anika Wijewardae, SAM England Representative

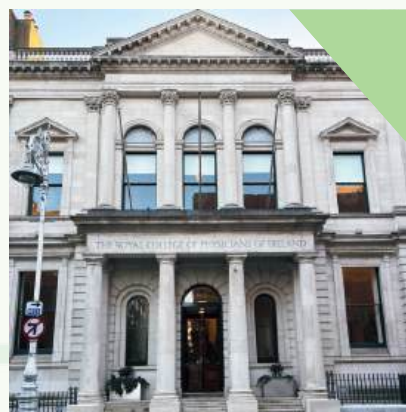
**Anika is a Consultant Acute Physician** at Frimley Health Foundation Trust in Surrey. She is driven by a **strong commitment to elevating Acute Medicine and strengthening its identity within the NHS**. As Deputy Chief of Service for Acute Medicine and hospital GIRFT Lead for Acute Medicine, she has led major service transformation programmes, including the reset of the Acute Medical Unit and medical SDEC at Frimley Park Hospital, work that **strengthened the AMU**



**multidisciplinary model**, improved patient flow and outcomes, and helped restore a clear sense of purpose and pride within the specialty. Her work now informs regional and national improvement programmes. Anika has also contributed to national training and development co-authoring the current Acute Internal Medicine curriculum and SAM recommendations on the function and design of Acute Medical Units. A former SAM Trainee Representative and takeAIM Fellow, she remains committed to supporting colleagues and strengthening the professional identity of Acute Medicine.

### Royal College of Physicians of Ireland Winter Meeting




On 19<sup>th</sup> December, Dr Michael Trimble, SAM Northern Ireland Representative; Darshan Kumar; and Eleanor Campbell, **spoke at the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland's Winter Meeting**. The College wished to focus on Acute Medicine as, whilst they have consultant posts in acute medicine, there is no training programme at present. Also speaking was Rachel Sutherland who has moved from Scotland to take up a consultant/clinical director post in Kerry.



## OTHER NEWS

### Getting the Best from Acute Medicine – AMU and Medical SDEC as Enablers of Flow

Dr Anika Wijewardane, SAM England rep, is hosting a session on **getting the best from an Acute Medicine Service**, as part of the GIRFT UEC Further Faster Programme. The session will run on MS Teams – details below.

 Date: **Tuesday 27th January 2026**  
 Time: **12:00–13:00 pm**  
 **Online** (MS Teams)

[Join the meeting](#)

**Meeting ID:** 328 817 883 132 8  
**Passcode:** 3e76FK7G

This session will spotlight practical experiences from Frimley — sharing insights on setting up an AMU or Medical SDEC for **sustainable improvement in care**. There will be an opportunity for questions and discussion at the end.

#### Agenda

- Introduction
- How to set up and get the best from an AMU/medical SDEC
- A real-world example in sustainable change: Frimley case study
- Improving care - right patient, right place championing
- Q&A

### SDEC Acute Oncology Pathways

SAM is collaborating with **UKAOS, UKONS, NHSElect** on SDEC Acute Oncology Pathways. The First Pathway on Unsuspected PE in Oncology Patients has been published – [this can be viewed here](#).

### Follow us on Social Media

**Follow us on social media** to keep up to date with our regular news updates, podcasts, webinars, guidelines, and case studies. **Click on the icons below:**

