



# NEWSLETTER

## September 2022

Including.....

SAM Manchester- take2!

Podcast

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Membership details update

Trainee Update

**Remember:** If you have anything you wish to share with SAM members, please let us know by e-mailing [administrator@acutemedicine.org.uk](mailto:administrator@acutemedicine.org.uk)

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**As you will all be aware, the SAM conference that was scheduled to take place in September has been rearranged to take place in November after the funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II took place on 19<sup>th</sup> September.**

We have managed to secure the same venue and hotel and wherever possible we are keeping the same speakers and plenary sessions. As you can imagine, rearranging this at short notice has been a real challenge and we are incredibly grateful to the brilliant local hosts, and our conference team Eventage. We'd also like to thank our speakers for their flexibility and also all those who had booked onto the conference for their patience and understanding.

Anyone who has registered for the September conference will automatically get transferred to the new dates. If these are not convenient then please let the Eventage team know. We are able to take new registrations too (see link below)

We are delighted to be hosting our 16th International conference on 28-29 November 2022 at Manchester Central. The conference will be a hybrid event with **both in-person and virtual attendance available**. Many have missed the networking, social interaction & opportunity to collaborate with like minded colleagues in acute medicine so this is your chance to 'get back in the room.' We have all missed the chats that happen in the coffee breaks, queues and with speakers after their talks. That's what adds huge value - not to mention the welcoming atmosphere which every SAM conference provides.

You can also attend **virtually (online)** as for some we recognise this works better.

The programme is full of excellent speakers and topics that will make the conference a great success. Our independent programme continues to be based on the most recent research and development in acute medicine. Copy and paste the link below to see the programme;

**<https://www.eventsforce.net/eventage/frontend/reg/tAgendaWebsite.csp?pageID=101414&eventID=198&mode=>**



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In-person delegates can also access the virtual platform thereby ensuring they can watch any sessions they miss at the live event. Sessions will be available to all delegates (in-person and virtual) for 3 months following the event.

**Nurses/AHPs/Pharmacists/PAs qualify for the 3 for 2 offer - pay for only 2 places for 3 people to attend. Contact [samconference@eventage.co.uk](mailto:samconference@eventage.co.uk)**

Here is the link to register;

**[https://www.eventsforce.net/eventage/frontend/reg/thome.csp?pageID=101429&eventID=198&CSPCHD=001001000000IVANjp9fr9TOyeEnblL\\_TEFwqhArETvCClExTu](https://www.eventsforce.net/eventage/frontend/reg/thome.csp?pageID=101429&eventID=198&CSPCHD=001001000000IVANjp9fr9TOyeEnblL_TEFwqhArETvCClExTu)**

### Podcast



After 2 years in the planning we are finally releasing our podcasts! The plan will be to release these weekly up to SAM Manchester and then monthly thereafter. There is a brief introduction episode and then the next 4 will be the team taking it in turns to discuss a case that changed their practice. The show notes for each episode will be available on the website and we are planning to covering a range of different clinical scenarios, national guidelines and topics relevant to acute medicine.

So here is the link to listen to the podcasts (uploading to apple takes a little while longer but we have started the process and they will be on there shortly)

<https://spotifyanchor-web.app.link/e/zLEmfz15ytb>

We are all new to this, so please feel free to contact us and suggest topics you'd like to see or ways we can make them more relevant at [secretary@acutemedicine.org.uk](mailto:secretary@acutemedicine.org.uk)



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### **Education Evenings**

Following the success of the PA teaching evenings the education team are setting up monthly education evenings from January. These sessions will be an hour long and be clinical education sessions. They will be free for all SAM members. Our PA, AHP, ACP, pharmacy, nursing and trainee reps will all be taking a role in organising speakers and hosting these events which aim to provide updates and education for all members of the society. We will publish the dates and topics nearer the time.

As always if you want to get involved in any of our committees do get in touch at [administrator@acutemedicine.org.uk](mailto:administrator@acutemedicine.org.uk)

### **Membership update**

You should all have received an email about upcoming fee increase and updating our membership details. Most people have updated this but there are a considerable group (mainly consultants) who haven't. Please can you update your details if you haven't and also please be aware, unless you do update this you will no longer receive a paper copy of the journal, as you need to opt in to receive this.

### **An update from Kelham and Courteney (SAM Trainee Representatives)**

Dear Trainees,

Every year we undertake the Trainee Survey to gather your opinions on training across the UK. Part of our role as Society for Acute Medicine trainee representatives is to collate this information and aim to resolve issues via the Acute Medicine Special Advisory Committee (SAC) and Joint Speciality Committee (JSC) - where TPDs and central education bodies and representatives meet. Below is a summary of this years results, how they compare to previous years and comments.

There was a suggestion of fatigue in this years survey response with notably fewer responses than in 2021 (78 compared to 132) and more neutral responses across many of the questions. All deaneries except Northern Ireland and NW Mersey had at least 1 response and all grades of higher trainees were represented including those OOP.

Almost half of responders were satisfied or very satisfied with their training (49%) which is slightly lower than previous years (56% in 2021) but as alluded to earlier more trainees responded indifferently so there were also fewer dissatisfied responses than in previous years (24% compared to 36% in 2021).

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Trainees favourite elements of AIM training were the variety of workload and speciality exposure as well as practical procedures and specialist skills. This is a recurring theme from previous years. Some also commented they particularly enjoyed working in a HDU setting and the ability to dual CCT. As per previous years trainees least enjoyable aspects of AIM training remain the rota gaps and lack of respect from other colleagues. The after effects of the pandemic and introduction of category 3 LTFT will have certainly impacted rotas and the proportion of AIM trainees reporting they are expected to cover more GIM gaps than other specialty trainees has continued to steadily rise year on year (58%, 52% in 2021). Patient flow challenges and heavy workload also received more responses this year recognising the continuing 'winter-like' pressures that the NHS has seen.

A moderate proportion of trainees (36%) continue to report difficulty signing-off practical procedures with pleural procedures being the most challenging as in previous years. Approx 20% also reported difficulty achieving ambulatory care numbers. As this is a new question we will monitor this trend in future years. Despite the survey being completed before the curriculum transition a number of trainees commented about difficulty achieving USS competencies. We are aware that many deaneries have been working hard to prepare for this new curriculum requirement and expect that trainees should have been informed by now of how their deanery will support them. If you have not we would advise you to contact your TPD to find out more about plans for local provision of USS training.

Despite many training opportunities being more accessible due to online streaming 32% of respondents reported difficulty achieving AIM teaching hours and only 55% said they had access to 10 or more regional AIM training days which is advised in the curriculum guide. This is similar to previous years.

54% of respondents said they were able to take their half day a week for their specialist skill. This number is unchanged from previous years with many stating their supervisors were supportive but workload or workforce issues were the inhibiting factor as well as a few who were unaware of their entitlement to this. We hope that with the transition to a whole day a week of non-clinical time with the incoming curriculum may help ring fence this time and prevent trainees from getting 'stuck' on the shop floor.

83% of respondents had an education supervisor who worked as an AIM physician as recommended.

Questions about whether the new curriculum was more relevant and achievable trended toward positive with only 4% feeling it was less relevant and 14% feeling it was less achievable although the majority neither agreed nor disagreed. There was a large split in responses regarding whether trainees had received sufficient information about the curriculum transition (33% agreed, 33% disagreed and 33% responded neutrally) which may represent different levels of communication in different regions. We would recommend trainees watch the session we held with Ben Chadwick (SAC chair) which is available on the SAM website Learning Hub and ask your TPD regarding local provisions. At the time of surveying in July/August just over half of respondents were expecting to transition.

Despite the challenges of the last few years and training going through a period of considerable upheaval the percentage of trainees that would recommend AIM as a career choice remains reassuringly high at 82%, albeit



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a little lower than previous years (92% in 2021). We strongly hope that the changes to training arriving with the new curriculum will have an overall positive effect and especially address some of the challenges that this survey highlights annually.

A small number of very specific issues raised in the survey were followed up with individual trainees and TPDs for each region will receive deanery specific feedback. If anyone would like to raise any further issues or discuss the survey findings please feel free to contact us at [trainerep@acutemedicine.org.uk](mailto:trainerep@acutemedicine.org.uk).

Lastly we will be saying thank you and goodbye to Kelham in November as trainee representative as he hands over the reins to Gordon McKinnon, whom many of you will recognise from his time as a takeAIM fellow. Kelham is kindly continuing service to SAM as the SAM Education subcommittee lead.

Wishing you all the best for this training year.