

APM Bulletin | May 2025

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Welcome from the APM President, Dr Suzanne Kite

Assisted Dying Bill update

<u>European Palliative Care Day, take part in the 'Preventable Psychological Harm in cancer care' research survey, and much more!</u>

FAMCARE 2025 registration - now open!

Calling members who are looking to further support the work of the APM. Find out about our vacancies here.

What have our committees been up to recently? Click here to find out...

Say hello to our new committee members!

e-ELCA shout out for reviewers!

Save the date - click here to view upcoming events which will contribute to your CPD.



Busy times! Clinically, the long Easter Bank Holiday weekend felt even busier than usual, and I do hope you all found time to rest and reset. Politically, the profile of palliative care has never been higher, with ongoing opportunities for the APM to contribute in many ways.

You will be aware of the 16 April Supreme Court ruling where judges rules on the legal definition of 'sex' in the Equality Act in UK law. It's really important to say clearly that the APM is an inclusive organisation, working together for the benefit of all of our members to create a safe and supportive environment for everyone. Myself, fellow Officers and committee members are committed to engaging with an addressing concerns arising from the ruling, and the implications of the ruling as they evolve. Please do contact us and stay in touch to ensure that we all continue to receive the respect and understanding we deserve.

Please see a statement of solidarity by the APM Race Equity Committee here (please visit the Race Equity Committee sub-page)

I've really valued and been inspired by many conversations with you as APM members over my first month as President. Thank you again to all of you who responded to our APM membership survey. We will be sharing the results of the survey with members next week. There is much to celebrate, and also much work that we need to do. Working with the Council and committees your priorities will inform our work and the next APM strategy 2025-27.

Congratulations to Professor Fliss Murtagh for delivering the RCP London 2025 Samuel Gee lecture on 14 April on 'Less Medicine and more care: the role of palliative care in the NHS'. You can view the recording of Fliss' lecture here. This was the first of two excellent opportunities I have had this month to learn about work from the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Policy Research Unit (PRU) in palliative and end of life care. With Professor Katherine Sleeman as Director and Professor Fliss Murtagh as co-Director, the PRU was set up in January 2024 with funding for 3 years to support policy makers to improve care, and reduce inequalities, for children and adults affected by life-limiting illnesses, and their families and carers, including into bereavement. The second opportunity was at an in-person Ambitions

for Palliative and End of Life Care event in London, where Fliss and Dr Gemma Clarke presented an evidence briefing on costs and cost-effectiveness of adult palliative and end of life care: care-evidence-briefing-summary.pdf. It's exciting stuff for anyone involved in service strategy and development, with 3 powerful policy recommendations concerning SPC in hospitals; generalist-and specialist-integrated neighbourhood teams, and OOH provision.

Elsewhere in England, Palliative care people and organisations have been busy submitting evidence to inform the 10 year Health Plan for England, due to be published in June. One major way that the APM is feeding in to this is via The Independent Commission on Palliative Care and End of Life Care (Evidence Schedule | Commission on Palliative and End-of-Life Care) set up by MP Rachel Maskell. The Commission is coming to the end of its evidence sessions, and Dr Sarah Cox is one of the Commissioners. The APM has submitted comprehensive written evidence. We understand that an interim report is being written on the basis of the evidence heard and over 600 pieces of written evidence received. We will update you with further developments as they are released. The APM has also submitted evidence to 'Shaping the national cancer plan'. Evidence will be uploaded to the APM website in due course.

May sees the return of Assisted Dying Bills to the Scotland and England Parliaments. Please see below for an update.

Included in this Bulletin are details of a new Specialist Cancer Pain Network MDT being trialled in the North West and South West London Cancer Alliance. In order to share details of new services relevant to APM members in specific places we have set up a 'Resource Noticeboard' under the Communications tab on the website. If you have items that you would like to share with other members on the noticeboard then please send through to the office for review, approval, and posting for a set time period.

Happy Bank Holiday weekend!

Dr Suzanne Kite

APM President

Assisted Dying Bill

This month we anticipate that in Scotland the Stage 1 report on AD for TIA (Scotland) Bill (published 30 April) will be debated in Scottish Parliament on 13th May, with a vote to progress, and the amendments to the Leadbeater Bill will be debated in Westminster on 16th May. Voting will be the same day or more likely thereafter in June.

Thank you to the APM Race Equity Committee Chair Qamar Abbas and Co-Chair Bhajneek Grewal for presenting evidence to MPs in Westminster 23 April.

The APM are continuing to respond to developments, and have developed updated resources to support us to do this:

- APM position document on Conscientious Objection which much be upheld for Individuals and Organistations in any Assisted Dying framework.
- 21 Questions for MPs

The APM encourage all APM members to reach out to their MPs offering the opportunity to discuss the respective Bills and to help them understand palliative care provision relevant to their constituencies and more widely. With some local elections ongoing they are super busy and they may find the opportunity for discussion particularly helpful.

Other Items





Advancing Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion Across Europe

Palliative care is a fundamental human right. It is both a moral obligation and an ethical imperative for health systems, requiring urgent attention to ensure equitable and inclusive access for all individuals in need. Regardless of age, background, diagnosis, or stage of illness, every person has the right to receive compassionate, holistic care that alleviates suffering.

Palliative care is not solely concerned with end-of-life support; it is relevant across the entire life course, from perinatal care to care in advanced old age. It addresses the complex physical, psychosocial, and spiritual needs of people living with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions. Delivered by multidisciplinary teams, palliative care seeks to enhance quality of life, promote wellbeing, and support those affected, including families and carers, throughout illness and beyond bereavement.

European Palliative Care Day provides a critical opportunity to raise awareness, mobilise action, and advocate for equitable access to palliative care across all communities in Europe. It is a call to recognise the disparities that currently exist and to work collaboratively to close these gaps.

Despite clear evidence of growing need, access to palliative care remains highly variable across the continent. Significant disparities persist in the availability, quality, and integration of palliative care within national health systems. In many countries, palliative care is not embedded in health policy, essential medicines remain inaccessible (particularly opioids required for effective pain relief) and healthcare professionals receive insufficient training in palliative approaches. These systemic inequalities contribute to avoidable suffering and disproportionately affect individuals and communities already experiencing social, economic, and health-related disadvantage.

Ensuring that palliative care is equitably accessible is integral to the realisation of universal health coverage, as endorsed by the World Health Organization in its resolution WHA 67.19. It requires a coordinated, cross-sectoral response, grounded in principles of social justice, health equity, and respect for diversity.

For information on how you and your team can get involved in European Palliative Care Day 2025, please click here.



FAMCARE 2025

REGISTRATION OPEN!

FAMCARE is an annual audit run by the APM, consisting of a survey sent to recently bereaved relatives.

Participating services are either a hospital based palliative care team, a hospice inpatient unit or a home care team specialising in providing end of life care.

Don't miss out, register today!



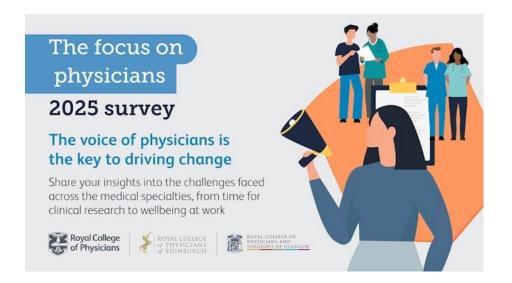
Registrations for FAMCARE 2025 are now open. For further information and to sign up please contact the Secretariat at office@compleat-online.co.uk



For any RCP members - there is an RCP drop in session to disucss the RCP response to TIA committee next Tuesday 5 - 6pm - details of how to join are below:

We are planning a drop-in session at 5pm on 6 May for members to provide feedback on the Terminall Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill. Since the bill's introduction, we have convened a short-term working group to consider its implications, maintaining our neutral position on assisted dying while engaging with the legislative process. We submitted high-level evidence earlier this year and continue to represent the breadth of views within the profession as the bill progresses.

To join the drop-in, please email policy@rcp.ac.uk



The voice of physicians must be front and centre in #NHS reform. Together with the Royal College of Physicians Edinburgh and the Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Glasgow we have launched the Focus on Physicians Survey.

Are there consultant vacancies in your department impacting patient care? Do you have time in your job plan to do research? What would make the biggest difference to your wellbeing at work?

Share your insights into the specific challenges facing physicians across the medical specialities through our new Focus on Physicians survey.

Please click here to access the survey

Closing date Monday 2nd June 2025.



2025 National Clinical Impact Awards

The National Clinical Impact Awards (NCIAs) are an awards scheme in England and Wales that recognise and retain dedicated clinicians who demonstrate national impact in the provision and improvement of patient care, going above and beyond their roles.

Applications open on Tuesday 1 April. For further information, or to apply please <u>click here</u>.

The deadline for applications is Monday 12 May (5pm).





RM Partners Specialist Cancer Pain Network MDT

(Launched 10 February 2025)

Pain is a common and challenging symptom of advanced cancer.

For patients whose pain does not respond to standard medications, interventional procedures can provide relief. However, access to these advanced interventions has historically been limited due to a lack of awareness and unclear referral pathways.

To address this, RM Partners North West and South West London Cancer Alliance has launched the **Specialist Cancer Pain Pathway** to improve access to advanced pain management techniques, in line with recommendations from the Faculty of Pain Medicine.

This innovative project has brought together a multidisciplinary team, including specialists in palliative care, pain medicine, and functional neurosurgery. Working collaboratively across RM Partners geography, this team reviews referrals quickly and efficiently and determines the best interventional options for each patient.

Dr. Gurpreet Gupta, Consultant in Palliative Medicine St Luke's Hospice, Harrow and a member of the MDT said:

"This collaborative project represents a significant shift in how advanced pain management techniques are offered to cancer patients in north west and south west London. There has for too long been an inequity in access to these interventions. This streamlining has resulted in faster reviews and decisions for this cohort of patients."

For further information on how to refer patients, please email Dr Matt Brown matthew.brown@rmh.nhs.uk

RCP Next Generation Survey

The RCP has successfully campaigned for a <u>long-term approach to workforce</u> planning, the <u>expansion of medical school and postgraduate training places</u> and a <u>review of postgraduate medical training</u>.

The RCP are now pushing for <u>urgent action on competition ratios for specialty</u> <u>training</u> and putting <u>resident doctors at the heart of the conversation</u> about the 10-Year Health Plan.

The RCP next generation campaign is an important part of our response to the difficulties of the past 18 months. With questions designed *by* **resident doctors** *for* **resident doctors**, we want to know what people think about applying to medical training, supervision and feedback, the working environment, and the future of medicine as a career.

Our next gen survey is here.

The survey will close on **5 May** and the findings will inform their submission to the <u>NHS postgraduate medical training review</u> (the <u>call for evidence</u> is open until **20 May**).



The Association of Palliative Medicine and the Federation of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the UK are seeking to appoint a member of the Palliative Medicine SCE Board.

The successful applicant will assist the Chair and Medical Secretary in the running of the SCE to ensure that all academic objectives and standards set by the General Medical Council are met; attend annual meetings of the Board to set examination papers; review candidate performance in the most recent diet; assist with the development of the SCE; act on the advice of the MRCP(UK) Management and Policy Board and Examining Boards on policy and academic matters relating to the Examinations; and support MRCP(UK) Central Office on the delivery of the Examinations.

For further information, please click here.

The deadline for applications is Monday 5th May



Job Opportunity - Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice

Phyllis Tuckwell is looking to appoint a Consultant in Palliative Medicine to work as part of an established team of consultants in a modern technology-enabled teaching hospice. The job comprises of a minimum of 6 and a maximum 10 Programmed Activities (PAs). Direct clinical care (DCC) will be delivered predominantly on the Inpatient unit initially alongside an experienced consultant. In time there will be the opportunity to become more involved with community-based work as part of the Hospice at Home (H@H) team depending on experience and confidence. The post will also include supporting professional activities (SPA) time dedicated to service development and delivery of educational activities to the organisation's multidisciplinary team and external colleagues.

For further information click here.

Palliative Digest - April 2025

Patrick Edmonds from the Academy Library and Information Service shares a monthly bulletin containing the latest articles published, along with details of resources available to support practice. This will be very useful for many members, therefore we would like to direct you to the <u>April 2025 update</u>. <u>Please note</u>, you will need an <u>Open Athens account to access these resources</u>.





We have a number of vacancies open across several APM Committees, including the APM Council.

If you would like to get involved in the APM and support the work of the committees, please visit the <u>website</u> for further information:



APM Juniors Committee Update

Over the past months our committee has strived to provide the learning and opportunities essential to support the development of medical students and prespecialty doctors with an interest in palliative care.

In November was our annual APM Juniors conference. The theme of this year's conference was 'Universal Palliative Care: Compassion for Everyone, Everywhere'. With this came a wide variety of talks, covering topics including careers in palliative medicine, caring for people with learning disabilities, and inequalities in palliative care. A huge thank you to all the speakers for supporting the event and sharing their wisdom with the attendees.

As a committee, we're constantly considering how best to communicate with our members. Our monthly newsletter provides members with a summary of the work being undertaken by our committee and by the wider APM. Within this also sits our monthly blog, providing members with an opportunity to share their experiences within palliative medicine. We're always keen for more submissions, so please do get in touch if you have a piece of writing you'd like to share.

Alongside communications with our current members, we're regularly taking steps to broaden the reach of the APM. Included within this approach is our medical school representative scheme. This scheme aims to recruit a medical student representative from every medical school to help spread awareness of the APM and the educational opportunities it offers. If you're a medical student who would be interested in taking part in this scheme, please do get in touch.

In addition to developing new resources, we're eager to ensure that previously developed resources remain accessible and are regularly utilised. On the APM website you'll find our 'Palliative Care for FY1s' resource page which contains webinars and resources aimed at medical students and foundation doctors. We also have a wide range of previous webinars, covering topics such as palliative care in non-malignant diseases, and communication skills, which remain accessible through

our <u>committee resource page</u>. We encourage everyone to share information about these resources with colleagues who may benefit from the learning.

We're always keen to hear from members about your experiences of pursuing a career in palliative medicine, and how we can best support you in this journey. If there are additional opportunities that we can provide to support your professional development, please do get in touch with me and let me know via angus.grant1@nhs.net

Dr Angus Grant

APM Juniors Chair

APM SAS and Hospice Doctors Committee

The Committee

Dr Katie Jerram; Joint Chair

Dr Paul Selway; Joint Chair (sabbatical for 3 months from March 2025)

Dr Beth Williams

Dr Mary Ann Mahadevan

Dr Rebecca Maiti

Dr Beth Goundry

Dr Jim Burtonwood

Ex-officio: Dr Esraa Sulaivany, Dr Helen Bonwick

COMMITTEE WORK

Support for SAS and Hospice Doctors – answering email and telephone enquiries, relating to Portfolio pathway applications, Specialist progression and contract issues. Since the last Board report, we have received six contacts (two not yet APM members), in comparison to four in the whole of the previous year. We suspect the increase in contact is related to both the raised profile of SAS within the APM, for which we are grateful to the Board, Committees and Compleat (web page update); and to the curriculum change. Now that the deadline for the use of the old curriculum has passed, it is unlikely that the Portfolio pathway will be feasible, and more SAS doctors are likely to consider the route to Specialist as a result. In the next year we anticipate fewer Portfolio pathway and more Specialist Grade progression queries as a result.

Education - We had good feedback (and income) from our November study day and have organised the next in collaboration with the Education Committee. The theme is 'Specialist Palliative Care', and we have chosen to focus on hot topics using entirely

SAS presenters. We are looking forward to hosting our first lunchtime webinar on SAS issues.

Career Development - Considerable debate was generated as a result of a GMC presentation around the Portfolio pathway at our November study day, and an ad hoc Specialist progression presentation which followed. There was a considerable spike in Portfolio pathway applications in 2024 which is likely due to the curriculum change deadline, and is causing delays in processing applications (deadline 24th October 2024, first contact with GMC advisor taking around 12 weeks). There remain local blocks and variability to Specialist progression which we hope to address with our work to produce a Development Framework for progression to Specialist. The target of completion of this is year end.

Committee Membership – two of our most established members have moved to an ex-officio role, and we are advertising for two new committee members. Since three of the remaining committee are going through to Portfolio pathway, and previous practice has been for those completing CESR to leave the committee, there is a risk of a sudden and significant reduction in committee numbers. We have therefore decided to allow committee members to remain in post for a period of up to one year post acceptance on to the Specialist Register. We hope that this will maintain a balance between having a committee composed of SAS doctors and the benefits of having those experienced in the Portfolio process on the committee to share learning. Given the curriculum change, it is unlikely that a similar situation will arise in the future.

Aims and objectives:

- Supporting SAS and Hospice doctors
- 2. Organising an annual study day
- 3. Promoting career development and progression of SAS and Hospice doctors including to Specialist grade.

Dr Katie Jerram and Dr Paul Selway

Joint Chairs of the SAS and Hospice Doctors Committee.

Abe Guz Fellowship

We are pleased to announce the release of Abe Guz Breathlessness Resources onto the APM website for members to access. Funded by the generous family of Professor Abe Guz - for whom research into breathlessness was so important, the APM created a fellowship role to source, coordinate and collate best practice on breathlessness to enable better care and to enable further research into breathlessness management.

The resources contains collated, up-to-date, information and links to further resources on the theory, assessment and management of breathlessness in patients with life-limiting conditions. Explore the resource here.

If you have access to resources that you think may be of interest to improve the resource, please contact sebastian.vanderlinden@nhs.net





Funded by the generous family of Professor Abe Guz – for whom research into breathlessness was so important, the APM created a fellowship role to source, coordinate and collate best practice on breathlessness to enable better care and to enable further research into breathlessness management.

A summary of the palliative management of breathlessness is free to view by all below – for a more in-depth exploration of breathlessness, APM members can access resources by logging into their member account within the APM website. Once logged in, you will see additional pages appear under the Abe Guz Fellowship heading in the top navigation menu.

If you are not a member of the APM, consider becoming a member to access this and other educational resources!

Find out more about our membership here





Hello and a Happy (belated) Easter from e-ELCA!

A shout out for volunteers for reviewing some sessions this year!

It is so important that our content is up to date! Don't forget you can use this in your portfolio and you will be credited on the first page of the session. Trainees also find this a helpful exercise to do. It involves going through the session and suggesting any edits or changes and we do the rest.

Sessions needed at the moment:

MANAGING EXCESSIVE RESPIRATORY SECRETIONS

MANAGEMENT OF BLEEDING

and several COMMUNICATION SKILLS sessions

If any of these catch your eye, or there is an topic that you are interested in, please email me - sarah.hanrott@nhs.net

Thank you!

Sarah Hanrott

Clinical Lead for e-ELCA'

New Committee Members



Hi, I'm Sophia. I'm the new education and training rep.

A bit about me.. I'm an ST4 dual trainee working in Northwest London. Outside of work, I love to swim and travel. I'm also currently attempting to learn a 2nd language!

Dr Sophia Ellis

Education and Training Rep

APM Trainees Committee



I'm Olajumoke, and I am excited to join the APM Race Equity Committee!

I'm a Lead Specialist Palliative Care Nurse at Newham Hospital in East London, with nearly 20 years of nursing experience. I am deeply committed to promoting equity, inclusion, and culturally sensitive care and I look forward to contributing to the committee's ongoing work.

Olajumoke Isaiah

Committee Member

APM Race Equity Committee



After a meandering career path through anaesthetics, medical education and general practice, I finally realised palliative medicine was where my passion lay. By this point, family circumstances and life in general meant retraining through specialty training was never an option. Fortunately, the SAS career path was there for me; I'm now a specialist doctor and hospice medical lead at St Michael's Hospice, Hereford. I'm keen to advocate locally for the next generation of SAS and hospice doctors; through the creation of new specialist development posts in our organisation, SAS doctor

supervision and management, I've developed insights into the opportunities and challenges faced by SAS doctors looking to progress their career.

Hospice and SAS doctors make up the backbone of the palliative medicine workforce and bring a wealth of talent and breadth of experience to the profession. I am passionate about helping other SAS and hospice doctors explore their full potential, celebrating their vital contribution and addressing the obstacles to career progression.

My other professional interests include the provision of palliative care in secure environments such as prisons, the use of topical medications and using my primary care skills to manage chronic conditions within a palliative care setting. In my spare time I have been heavily involved in the RNLI and love walking, gardening and camping. What little free time left is dedicated to my family and the dog!

Jim Burtonwood

Committee Member

APM SAS and Hospice Doctors Committee





Trauma Informed Care

Date: 16 June 2025

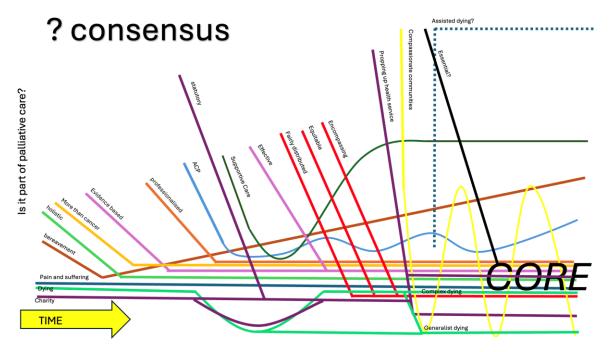
Format: Face to Face

Cost: £250

This face-to-face course is designed to equip you with the knowledge and practical skills needed to fully support patients, including those with a history of trauma, in end-of-life care settings

Book Course





If you are wondering what on earth this diagram means please come to the monthly Clinical ECHO on the 14th May at 3:30 to 5:00

What a corker this month with many guest speakers looking at big system thinking along with the usual Max, Kate and Matt

To register <u>click here</u> (you will need to be registered in order to attend.

The Podcast is also available at all good podcast stores!









Advanced Communication Skills for staff in Critical Care

Date: 12 - 13 May 2025

Format: Online

Cost: £725

Book Course



Teaching the Teachers

Date: 15 - 16 May 2025

Format: Face to Face

Cost: £395

Rooted in practical application, this course will equip you with essential skills such as planning, delivery, and evaluation, while deepening your understanding of contemporary theories of learning. Tailored to meet the needs of today's educators, the course covers topics like online facilitation, neurodiverse learning needs, and strategies for teaching small and large groups effectively

Book Course



Oxford Advanced Pain & Symptom Management Course

Date: Newcastle 5-6 June or Oxford 3-4 July

Format: Online or Face to Face

The course delivers high standards of professional knowledge, is educationally sound allowing staff time for discussion and supports staff in setting continuing educational goals for the year following the course. This course is amongst the UK's leading courses for palliative care nurses, pharmacists and doctors.

Book Course





Training the Teachers 2025,

Palliative Care Unit, University of Liverpool

A 3 day course on modern and effective ways of teaching in Palliative and End-of-Life Care, exploring a range of teaching methods and delivery skills and looking at how the KOLB model can be adapted to enhance Palliative Care teaching. Suitable for healthcare professionals with more than two years experience of working in palliative and end of life care who are expected to provide education as part of their role. More information here.

DATE: 23-25 June

VENUE: Leonardo Hotel Liverpool

COST: £760

To book please click here.

Or contact course administrator Alison Holcroft: Alison.Holcroft@liverpool.ac.uk for enquiries and to arrange booking via invoice.



Registration for the 19th World Congress of the European Association for Palliative Care is now open. APM Members are eligible for the EAPC members congress rate. If you wish to register for the congress at the lower EAPC member rate, then you will need to enter this code during the registration process:

Discount code: 55APMGBBC

For further information about the Congress and to register, please click here.



International Collaborative for Best Care for the Dying Person

Tenth Annual International Conference, 19-20 November 2025

Royal College of Physicians North (The Spine), Liverpool

Registration is now open for this international conference, endorsed by the APM and with discounted registration fees for members.

The programme will be of interest to consultants, trainees of all grades, specialist nurses and allied health professionals, and will feature presentations and workshops from world-leading clinicians and researchers. For further information including full programme and abstract submission details,

visit www.bestcareforthedying.org/annual-conference or contact admin@bestcareforthedying.org

APM Testimonials

Can you help us?

What do you love about being an APM member? We would be very grateful if you could send your written testimonials to the <u>Secretariat office</u>.

You may like to tell us why you decided to join the APM, how long you've been a member or what it's like to be part of the APM community!



Thanks for Subscribing!

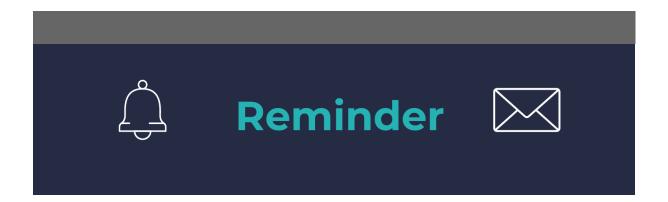


Did you know as an APM full member you have free access to *Palliative Medicine* - the world's highest ranked journal on palliative care, as part of your APM member benefits?

To get access, login to your account on the <u>APM website</u> and go to our new 'Education Resources' area.

There are three ways to keep up to date with the latest research in *Palliative Medicine*

- 1. <u>Follow them on X</u> for daily updates on the latest papers, news and discussion.
- 2. Listen to their <u>podcast series</u> for introductions to research papers from the authors themselves.
- 3. Visit their <u>special collections page</u> for themed collections on dementia, end of life care, sedation, bereavement and much more!



It has come to our attention that some communication emails from the APM being sent via Dotmailer are not reaching APM members. One reason may be that they are being blocked by IT Departments.

Please ensure that you inform your IT Department to "Safelist" the following email address:

Association for Palliative Medicine communications@apmonline.org.uk

Click here for "how to white list emails"

Please ensure that the APM are notified of any changes to your email address.

Advertise via the APM

<u>Click here</u> for more information and a price list

Please quote your APM membership number for a **20% discount**