

Newsletter 18.11.2025

Dear active and less active members of USIM,

The autumn congress, the Dreiländertreff, and the webinar are now behind us, and we are pleased to report that we have achieved all milestones set out in our roadmap so far. Step by step, we continue to make progress. Below, we would like to provide you with a brief overview of the most important developments over the past months:

Task Force SGUM/SGAIM

Since its launch in March 2025 with an initial roundtable, the SGUM/SGAIM Task Force has been meeting every two weeks. Members include the SGUM board, the POCUS president, representatives of POCUS Component 1 (C1), the SGAIM, and USIM. Together, we aim to support the integration of POCUS C1 into the specialty of General Internal Medicine. Without anticipating the official joint statement of the Task Force, we are pleased to report that the collaboration has been extremely constructive and productive.

FAQ POCUS C1

Thanks to the impressive preparatory work of Rahel Felser and the support of many USIM members, a comprehensive FAQ for POCUS C1 is now available. The document has been reviewed, revised, and endorsed by the entire Task Force and will serve as the consensus reference until the next revision of the POCUS C1 certificate.

Educators Guide C1

Under the leadership of Cédric Steinmann and Fernando Esposito, and with contributions from other Task Force and USIM members, work is underway on an Educators Guide for K1. The aim is to define and refine, through a scientific consensus process, the expectations and ideal standards for AIM training hospitals regarding POCUS education.

USIM Website

Our website has been online since late September and has enjoyed great interest: www.ig-usim.ch

Fernando Esposito continues to update and develop the site. Particularly noteworthy are the published POCUS training concepts of HFR Fribourg and Triemli Hospital Zurich. Cédric Steinmann even succeeded in publishing their “Triemli Blueprint”:

<https://smw.ch/index.php/smw/article/view/4484>

USIM at the SGAIM Congress

Together with the SGAIM board, particularly thanks to Christoph Janggen, we initiated a process in which USIM will take central responsibility for ultrasound education at future SGAIM congresses. At the upcoming autumn congress, we will offer SGUM-certified courses for the first time, thanks to Olivier Groscurin. The team led by Caroline Rimensberger and Olivier Groscurin is committed to offering an engaging and increasingly practice-oriented program. USIM will, of course, also be represented at the 2026 Spring Congress in Lausanne.

Our medium-term goal is to obtain SGUM certification for as many educational activities as possible so that internists performing ultrasound can fully benefit from synergies at the SGAIM congress.

USIM Working Group for General Practitioners

As our current focus is strongly hospital-based, yet we aim to represent all internists performing ultrasound, we are establishing a working group to improve integration of colleagues working in ambulatory or private practice settings. The first meeting will take place on 24 November 2025.

USIM Webinar

Next webinar: 12 February 2026, 16:00–16:45

Prof. Irene Ma (Chair and Founding Member, CIMUS — Canadian Internal Medicine Ultrasound Group):

“Internal Medicine Postgraduate Curriculum: The Canadian Experience”

USIM Research

Research collaborations continue to grow, exchanges are becoming more intensive, and the publication section on our website is steadily expanding. It is encouraging to see how USIM is advancing research on ultrasound in General Internal Medicine across Switzerland.

Please report your ongoing or planned projects to Antonio Leidi or Fernando Esposito so that we can leverage synergies and achieve more together.

Delphi Consensus Study on POCUS in Postgraduate General Internal Medicine

At the recent Steering Group meeting, André Julillerat and Antonio Leidi presented first insights into the results of this consensus study. A representative sample of ultrasound leads from internal medicine departments across Switzerland was asked about essential ultrasound competencies for hospital-based internists. The results are highly informative and will help us better represent the needs of the entire USIM community.

Next Milestones

The next steps are approaching. You can find them in the roadmap.

Green: successfully completed milestones.

Orange: milestones currently in progress.

Yellow: milestones that should now be actively addressed (copied as well into this email).

We would be delighted if some of you were interested in taking the lead or contributing to one of these projects.

Upcoming projects to launch:

1c	Contribute to the evaluation and development of an Entrustable Professional Activity (EPA) for ultrasound in general internal medicine, in collaboration with the existing SGUM working group	Q4 2026
1d	Active role in integration of POCUS into official training objectives (e.g., Weiterbildungsprogramm)	Q1 2027
2c	Support for underserved areas through tutor exchange programs or regional training hubs	Q1 2027
2d	Promotion of faculty development via structured train-the-trainer programs (e.g. AIM Tutorentag coordinated by USIM)	Q1 2027
2e	Advocate for the recognition of internal ultrasound tutoring hours by SGUM as part of quality circles (Qualitätszirkel) for continuing professional development	Q1 2027
3c	Define, through a Delphi consensus among ambulatory-based swiss GIM POCUS experts, the essential ultrasound skills required of a board-certified internist in the outpatient (ambulatory) setting	Q4 2026
3d	Develop a digital tool for longitudinal integration in clinical rotations (e.g. digital centralized logbook with an option for supervisor validation)	Q4 2026
5b	Development of competency-based assessment tools (e.g., DOPS, EPA-style entrustment levels	Q4 2026
6b	Encourage practice-based research projects evaluating POCUS impact on clinical care through funding by grants .	Q1 2028
6c	Encourage research projects evaluating the impact of various teaching/training strategies on the acquisition of competency	Q1 2028

Best wishes

Claudio