

## TASK FORCE UPDATE

## Geriatrics Task Force and Geriatrics Interest Group Update

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**W**ith the advent of the “silver tsunami,” geriatrics has become an increasingly important topic in all specialties, including general internal medicine (GIM). The goal of the Geriatrics Task Force (GTF) and Geriatrics Interest Group is to facilitate the interface between geriatrics and general internal medicine through education, research, and practice updates.

One of the GTF’s most successful activities has been the Distinguished Professor in Geriatrics Program. Started in 2004, this yearly program identifies a notable internist or geriatrician to deliver a keynote address at the annual meeting and lead a walking tour through geriatrics-related posters. These activities facilitate career development of SGIM members in academic fields directly related to older adult medicine.

Over the years, the GTF has led an effort to elaborate on the future of geriatrics research through a generous grant from the Association of Subspecialty Professors. This year, the Association of Subspecialty Professors awarded the group a grant to develop best practices for the transition of care from skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) to home. Positioned at the interface between geriatrics and GIM, older patients who face this transition are at risk for poor outcomes such as hospital readmissions and medication errors. A group of internists, geriatricians, and SNF providers from across the country convened in July 2015 to develop best practices for transitions of geriatric care. The first edition of these best practices is due to be released in 2016.

Another achievement of the GTF and interest group this past year was to communicate the interests

of generalists in the latest update of the Beers Criteria for Potentially Inappropriate Medication Use in Older Adults. These criteria are one of the most widely recognized prescribing guides to prevent adverse medication effects in vulnerable older adults. They are updated periodically by the American Geriatrics Society, and as one of the largest groups of generalists in the country, SGIM was asked to provide comments on the latest draft of the updates.

We are also currently working on workshop submissions on Medicare wellness visits and geriatric preoperative evaluations for the SGIM annual meeting. To further the mission of the GTF and interest group to inform SGIM members of cutting-edge issues in the care of older adults, the GTF will begin providing periodic updates in geriatrics via *Forum*. Stay tuned for more to come!

**SGIM**