

FROM THE EDITOR

Being *Forum* Editor

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Three years ago, I took a chance. I decided to “lean in” for general internal medicine (GIM). Three years ago I accepted the role of editor in chief for SGIM *Forum*, and I have never regretted that decision.

To me, GIM physicians are the keepers of the “Big Picture.” We provide the institutional memory, the collective conscience, and the vision for the future of organized medicine. We are the physicians for whom, “the buck stops here.” When the cardiologist has said, “It’s not your heart,” and the orthopedist has said, “Nothing’s broken,” we explain, we teach, and we empower our patients to be the best version of who they can be despite their health burdens. We are the ones who say, “I understand. I have seen this before. I recognize your pain and can help you live with this.”

Academic general internists and leaders in organizations such as ours are uniquely positioned to represent the medical profession in advocating for social changes that enhance the lives of our communities. Every day, we witness the impact that health policy decisions have on the lives of our patients and the professional lives of our members.

There is a great sense of urgency in what we do as an organization. SGIM leaders possess a strong sense of responsibility and commitment to members and to the community we serve. SGIM leaders live up to this challenge by investing their wisdom, vision, commitment, and

time to creating a just health care system on a daily basis. As *Forum* editor, it has been my privilege to chronicle these efforts and report to the membership on advances in our profession that affect us all.

What has led to the success of *Forum* over the last 2 1/2 years? For me, it has been a labor of love, beginning with a deep respect for the members of the society and the work we do. Next has been a commitment to inform and engage the readership on issues that affect our patients, our students, and our profession as they emerge. In addition, *Forum* has provided the opportunity to include new members and emerging leaders in the work we do. We (the *Forum* editorial board) have challenged ourselves to present leading-edge topics that represent our commitment to diversity, social justice, and community engagement. We are proud to have presented topical issues on LGBT health care (October 2014), criminal justice and medicine (January 2015), immigrant health care (October 2015), and medical marijuana (March 2016) and focused issues on hospital medicine (March 2015), medical education (June 2015), and social media and health care (June 2016). If you missed any of these, back issues of *Forum* are available on the *Forum* website at: <http://www.sgim.org/publications/sgim-forum>.

As *Forum* editor, I have been proud to carry the mantle of responsibility for *Forum* as the representa-

tive voice of GIM. I have met and collaborated with SGIM members throughout the country, including four SGIM presidents and innumerable representatives of academic institutions throughout the world. We have built a formidable team of *Forum* associate editors who share your commitment, creativity, and passion for your vocation. We have celebrated your achievements, heralded your accomplishments, and debated the challenges and opportunities of a GIM career in this very turbulent health care environment.

It is now time for SGIM to begin the search for a new *Forum* editor. It is our time to challenge you—our members and loyal readers—to “lean in” for GIM. If you have enjoyed reading *Forum*, if you wish to share your dedication to your career in GIM, and if you seek an opportunity to join the discussion and become a change leader in GIM, then the position of SGIM *Forum* editor is right for you!

The call for applications for the next *Forum* editor will be posted this month on the SGIM website and GIM Connect and will soon appear in your inbox. I will be happy to discuss the responsibilities of the position as well as counsel the next editor toward a smooth transition of leadership when the time comes. For now, we have six great months of *Forum* content planned for our readers. Please keep reading *Forum*!

Thank you for all that you do every day to contribute to the legacy of SGIM.