Notable Achievements 2019-2020

2019-2020 is a year of change at the Society of General Internal Medicine as the country continues to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic. But our organization has continued its valuable work in the field of academic general internal medicine. Rather than focus on the myriad of tasks we have accomplished over the last 12 months, this year’s Notable Achievements illustrate the top 10 areas of accomplishment related to our strategic goals.

SGIM Organizational/Strategic Goals

- Promote scholarship in person-centered and population-oriented approaches to improving health.
- Foster the development of general internal medicine leaders in academic and other settings.
- Ensure organizational health, including a thriving staff.
- Advocate for our vision of a just health system that brings optimal health for all people.

1. Social Determinants of Health

A workgroup chaired by Elena Byhoff and co-chaired by Shreya Kangovi with representatives from a broad spectrum of SGIM committees and commissions was formed by SGIM president Karen DeSalvo to create a publicly available position statement on SDOH. This statement provides a broad overview of the role and opportunity for academic general internal medicine to support policy, research, practice and educational efforts to advance efforts to address all the drivers of health. The statement articulates strategies for how SGIM members can leverage their roles as practicing physicians, health system leaders, educators, researchers and advocates to address SDOH and social needs, and ultimately to improve health and health equity. The statement can be accessed online in the Journal of General Internal Medicine at https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11606-020-05934-8

2. SGIM COVID-19 Response

- Working alongside CRD Associates, SGIM leaders and the Health Policy Committee have nimbly switched focus on their advocacy efforts during the COVID pandemic and have sent letters to Congress regarding protection for health care workers, new regulations for telehealth, deferred actions for DACA health professionals, and federal intervention and emergency relief during the pandemics. (https://www.sgim.org/communities/advocacy/legislative-endorsements)
- SGIM staff instituted new communication strategies to create an additional sense of member community during the pandemic. Enhanced communications included:
  - a COVID resource page to collate the incredible amount of information coming in from outside outlets (https://www.sgim.org/career-center/covid-19-resources);
  - weekly eNews for 8 weeks to push out information on webinars, community resources, and COVID funding opportunities;
  - a new series, Frontliners, that highlights SGIM members working on the “front lines” during COVID;
  - record-level engagement on GIM Connect in both the SGIM and ACLGIM All Member Forums as members share resources with and ask questions of their colleagues.
- SGIM leaders and members worked with to the AAMC to develop the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Clinical Guidance Repository, publicly available at https://www.aamc.org/covid-19-clinical-guidance-repository. The AAMC’s Repository is an open access resource for all clinicians and hospitals across the United States. The content is collected from academic medical centers
(AMCs), specialty societies, and federal partners. The goal is to identify, summarize, and highlight areas of alignment in clinical practice during the pandemic.


3. SGIM20 On-Demand

- The SGIM20 Program Committee, chaired by Eric Rosenberg and Ben Taylor, solicited and developed content for the annual meeting theme: Just Care: Addressing the Social Determinants for Better Health, which would have been held May 6-9 in Birmingham, AL.
- In the wake of not being about to hold the SGIM2020 annual meeting, staff worked with outside vendors to create SGIM20 On Demand, a virtual learning platform that captured much of the core content from the annual meeting. Online sessions include plenary speakers, oral abstracts, clinical vignettes and over 500 posters. The Content of the program was made available June 18. ([https://Connect.sgim.org/on-demand/home](https://Connect.sgim.org/on-demand/home)).
- SGIM National Awards/Grants: [https://connect.sgim.org/on-demand/awards](https://connect.sgim.org/on-demand/awards) hosts video acceptances from 19 awardees. A press release, social media campaign, and member education communication were created to broadcast these awardees as widely as possible in this virtual year. Read the press release here: [https://www.sgim.org/about-us/news-and-initiatives/sgim2020-award-and-grant-recipients](https://www.sgim.org/about-us/news-and-initiatives/sgim2020-award-and-grant-recipients)

4. SGIM Regions

- Several regions have increased career development and mentorship opportunities, including pre-course offerings in line with meeting themes, panel discussions, TED-talk style plenaries, and Council priorities. POCUS sessions were included in three regional meetings. Overall, the 2019-2020 total regional meeting attendance had several all-time attendee highs and/or comparable attendance from the previous year with a combined total of 1467 attendees, up 20% from last year.
- The Board of Regional Leaders developed a standardization project that targeted regional community processes, regional meeting processes and regional meetings program committee roles to streamline meetings and best practices across the regions.

5. ACLGIM

- The ACLGIM Summit took place in Paradise Valley, AZ, on December 2-4, 2019 with a record attendance of 95 chiefs and leaders. The theme of this year’s meeting was “Envisioning the Next Chapter.”
- In its 10th year, the Unified Leadership Training for Diversity (UNLTD, or “unlimited”) Program selected three new fellows – Brandon Allport-Altillo, MD, MPH, Utibe Essien, MD, MPH, and Jodi Williams, MD, MPH.

6. SGIM Publications

- In summer 2019, SGIM and SpringerNature signed a new five-year contract for publishing JGIM that will run through December 31, 2025. The contract has helped SGIM offer our members online only access to JGIM and the SGIM Forum/ACLGIM Leadership Forum Newsletters.
Approximately 92% of members have chosen online only access to these publications and this has resulted in significant savings to the Society.

- Tiffany Leung, MD, MPH was named the new Editor-in-Chief of *SGIM Forum*. Her tenure begins with the August 2020 issue.

### 7. Advocacy

- The Health Policy Committee reorganized their executive committee structure to more efficiently respond to member requests for additional advocacy and/or endorsements from the Society on specific topics.
- The Education Committee was very active in advocating for changes in national policies on medical education, including:
  - Response to USMLE’s proposed changes to Step 1 score reporting in collaboration with ACP and AAIM;
  - Response to ACGME’s Internal Medicine Milestones and associated Supplement Guide; and
  - Recommendations for ACGME Milestones and Supplement Guide (Milestones 2.0).

### 8. Fundraising

- SGIM launched a new two-year donor campaign to expand the existing Young Scholars and Investing in GIM programs. The Future Leaders of GIM Fund supports scholarships for membership and meeting registration to help build our membership and engage people entering the field of academic GIM. In the first few months of the campaign, SGIM raised $35,000, (in addition to $25,000 raised in general contributions).
- The SGIM policy on External Funds was expanded to define sponsorship parameters that parallel our exhibit program. SGIM garnered $15,000 in sponsorships from Episcopal Health and Kaiser for SGIM20 and had received over $30,000 in exhibit fees before we were unable to host the annual meeting.
- Additional Funding and Grants:
  - SGIM received $155,600 to create a curriculum on Partnered Research from the VA
  - SGIM received $100,000 in support of SGIM general needs during 2020 from the Hess Foundation.

### 9. Membership Advancements

- The membership team began working with Pyramid Communications in August 2019 to refresh the communications around the renewal process and ultimately increase member engagement in on-time renewals. As a result, SGIM was able to develop audience-specific membership renewal messaging built around the brand/organizational messaging. The membership team developed new trainee and full member renewal campaigns to consistently engage members with renewal reminders. The renewal campaign successfully launched in October 2019 and will end in July 2020.
10. External Organizations

- The leadership team has continued to strengthen communication and collaboration with other organizations, including the American College of Physicians, Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine, American Board of Internal Medicine, Association of American Medical Colleges, Cognitive Care Alliance, Primary Care Collaborative, and Society of Hospital Medicine, as well as with governmental agencies such as AHRQ, CMS, PCORI, HRSA, NIMHHD, and VA.

- The National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine invited 4 SGIM members to serve on their special ad hoc committee on Implementing High-Quality Primary Care – Asaf Bitton, Molly Cooke, Shreya Kangovi, and Luci Leykum. SGIM is a co-sponsor of the committee’s study.

- SGIM staff worked alongside FMP Consulting to develop RASCI charts for all staff members. FMP has also provided various professional training workshops for staff.