The Academic Hospitalist Taskforce (AHTF) introduces the Quality Portfolio as a tool to formally organize and document scholarly activities in quality improvement to support career development and promotion (http://www.sgim.org/index.cfm?pageId=846).

The SGIM AHTF was formed in 2006 as a joint SGIM/ACGIM Taskforce with the mission to establish a “home” for Academic Hospitalists within SGIM. The goal is to extend the vast resources and expertise of our organization to those who practice Hospital Medicine.

Documenting activities in quality improvement and/or patient safety may be crucial to the career advancement and success of Academic Hospitalists. Yet work and achievements in these areas may not align with classic career paths or fit standard metrics used to assess academic success. Reconciling this conflict was identified by the AHTF as a major challenge to not only Academic Hospitalists but also other academic faculty engaged in QI and to the division chiefs seeking to advise and promote them. Thus, the AHTF created the ‘Quality Portfolio’ to fill this void.

In brief, we designed the Quality Portfolio to parallel the Educators Portfolio (EP), namely to capitalize on the EP’s wide recognition, minimize duplicative efforts, and draw upon expertise of those involved with the development of the EP. After determining which domains the Quality Portfolio should contain, we drafted prototypes to populate with activities from our Taskforce members (SGIM and the Society of Hospital Medicine) to evaluate the degree to which our framework captured the varied work of our group. We vetted early versions through local contacts, including division chiefs, to establish proof of concept. We continued to modify the Quality Portfolio and agreed that the most useful final product should include an outlined Quality Portfolio framework, detailed instructions, and an example to guide users.

We sought external vetting of our final product from appropriate stakeholders, and our final review included 15 members from 10 institutions. The majority of feedback has been overwhelmingly positive; most thought the Quality Portfolio would be a valuable addition to their current evaluation process.

Both SGIM and ACGIM have endorsed the Quality Portfolio as a useful tool for documenting accomplishments in QI.

The structured framework for the Quality Portfolio has six distinct categories:

1. QI Leadership/Administrative Activity
2. QI Project Activity
3. QI Education/Curricula
4. QI Research
5. QI Honors/Awards/Recognition
6. QI Training/Certification.

Additionally, the portfolio begins with a brief narrative to outline broadly an individual’s role in and approach to Quality Improvement. The portfolio concludes with an appendix to include pertinent or supporting information not otherwise contained in the portfolio.

Physicians may use the Quality Portfolio either as a stand-alone document to succinctly organize one’s work, accomplishments and focus in QI, or as an adjunct to the traditional CV. The Quality Portfolio will not replace, but rather augment the current methods of documenting academic productivity.

We gave the Quality Portfolio a “version 1.0” moniker to acknowledge that it will be revised over time, rather than to denote its test phase.

We encourage faculty along with division and department leaders to review and use the Quality Portfolio and provide us feedback on experiences with its use as well as suggestions for improvement.

We welcome the process of revision and modification, both formally by the Quality Portfolio Working Group and by local institutions.

The Quality Portfolio will be featured in the inaugural Academic Hospitalist Academy (http://www.sgim.org/index.cfm?pageId=815) and workshops on utilizing the Quality Portfolio are in the works.

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