

FROM THE REGIONS

News from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting

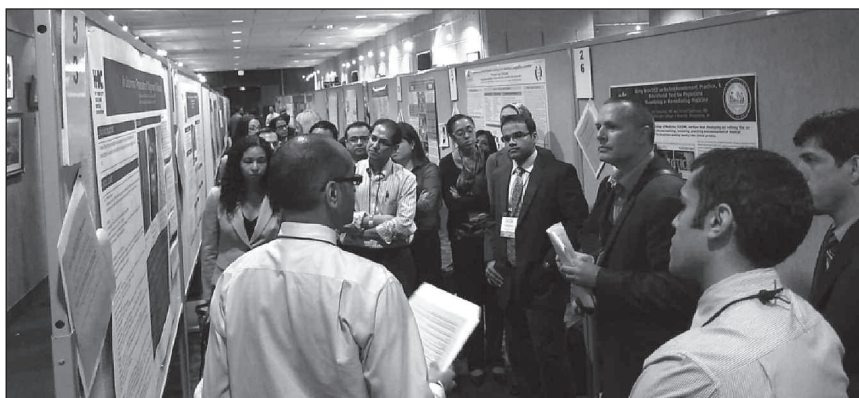
Rachel Levine, MD; Sarang Kim, MD; and Jenny J. Lin, MD

Dr. Levine was meeting chair of the 2011 meeting and associate professor at The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Dr. Kim is current past-president of the Mid-Atlantic region and assistant professor at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, and Dr. Lin is current president of the Mid-Atlantic region and associate professor at Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

The 2011 Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting held at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore was a great success! The meeting theme, "Generalism in an Era of Health Systems Change," was the focus of keynote speaker and Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Carolyn Clancy's opening address. This well-attended regional meeting included interactive and timely clinical, research, and education-related workshops; a highly successful one-on-one mentoring program for junior faculty and trainees; oral abstract and vignette presentations; and interest groups for clinician-educators, clinician-investigators, hospitalists, VA physicians, and students, residents, and fellows.

A notable highlight from the meeting was an enhanced poster session featuring a new poster tour program. Modeled after similar national SGIM meeting poster tours, a "master discussant" led meeting attendees on a walking tour of the poster presentations. The goal of the poster tour was to ensure that the poster presentation component of the meeting was highly attended and more interactive, providing a more educational experience for presenters and participants alike. Poster presenters were invited to give a brief oral summary of their posters' key take-home points. The master discussant shared insights, comments, and suggestions, and facilitated discussion among the poster tour participants.

Master discussants were selected on the basis of recognized expertise in their fields. To reflect the variety of poster presentations at the meeting, the tour included



Dr. David Thomas, master discussant, leading a poster tour at the Mid-Atlantic SGIM Meeting in March 2011.

three master discussants. Paul Haidet, MD, director of Medical Education Research at the Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine, served as the "master educator" and facilitated a lively discussion of the medical education abstracts among presenters and participants. The tour of the clinical vignette abstracts was led by David C. Thomas, MD, director of ambulatory care and training from the Mount Sinai Medical Center. Several fascinating cases stole the show, especially with added clinical pearls from Dr. Thomas. Jeffrey Carson, MD, GIM division chief and researcher at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, led the tour of clinical research posters and provided presenters with practical insights from his experience as a clinical trial researcher. In total, more than 60 abstracts were covered in an engaging and interactive discussion that encouraged presenters to hone their presentation skills and answer "on-the-spot" questions from the master discussants and poster tour participants. Master discussants encouraged fur-

ther dialogue among participants and suggested next steps for poster presenters.

In addition, the poster competition program, where on-site judges rated each poster for its content and visual presentation, provided additional opportunities for presenters to receive feedback and have their work recognized through poster awards. The most highly rated posters were chosen in each of the following categories: clinical research, medical education research, and clinical vignette. The poster session, with the new introduction of master discussants and a revised poster competition program, was one of the best-attended sessions of the meeting. The meeting attendees gave the session high ratings, describing it as one of the most valuable aspects of the meeting, and noted that it provided both educational and networking opportunities.

The 2012 Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting will continue the poster tour tradition with a new panel of master discussants and an even

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more streamlined poster competition program. The meeting will be held for the first time ever in Delaware at Christiana Care Health System on March 16, 2012. The theme this year is "Generalism on the Front Lines: Defining and Deliv-

ering High-Value Health Care," and we are excited to have Sean Tunis as our keynote speaker. Dr. Tunis is president and CEO of the Center for Medical Technology Policy and has served as director of the Office of Clinical Standards and Quality and

chief medical officer at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). We invite all members to submit their vignettes, abstracts, and medical educational innovations and look forward to seeing many of you in Delaware!

SGIM