As we approach the 35th Annual Meeting of the Society of General Medicine to be held May 9-12, 2012, in Orlando at Walt Disney World, you may be thinking: “What’s in it for me as a trainee?” Well, the Annual Meeting Program Committee has been working hard to ensure the inclusion of workshops, interest groups, and vignette and abstract sessions specifically targeted to students, residents, and fellows in the Student/Resident/Fellow (SRF) track.

There will be several workshops on the SRF track that will be of specific interest to students and post-graduates who may be applying for their first job, looking to get published, or wanting tips on how to secure their first grant. The diversity of topics includes “Negotiating Your First Dream Job—Everything They Did Not Teach You in Medical School”; “The Road Less Traveled: Unique Career Paths for Internists”; “Getting Your Vignette Published in JGIM and Other Journals: A Step-by-Step Approach”; “Applying For a VA Research Career Development Award”; “Writing Curriculum Vitae and Preparing to Interview”; and “Coaching Hand-Offs: Teaching Residents to Avoid the Fumble.” Each of these workshops will be led by experienced faculty who will be able to share tips with you as you move ahead in your career and who promise to lead collaborative sessions with specific deliverables that you can use in the future.

The One-on-One Mentoring Program is highly recommended! If you haven’t already done so, be sure to sign up for a mentor before the annual meeting. By signing up and completing the paperwork in advance, you will help make sure that you’re paired with a mentor who meets your specific needs—whether it be how to advance as a clinician-investigator or clinical-educator or how to negotiate delicate work-life balance. Mentor panels coordinated by Nancy Rigotti, MD, will debut this year. These panels will give you the opportunity to hear from academic faculty in various careers, including administration, hospital medicine, clinical research, and clinical education. Come with your questions for these GIM leaders to help make this the interactive learning session that will inspire your careers and be the buzz of the SRF track!

Melissa Wei, a PGY-2 at Emory in the primary care track, is coordinating the SRF interest group this year. The SRF interest group will meet on Thursday morning and provides an excellent opportunity for you to make connections with other trainees across the country. It’s amazing how the people you will meet at the SRF interest group will be your colleagues for the rest of your career. In addition, the junior faculty and fellows forum, which will meet on Friday afternoon, is being led by Neda Laiteerapong, a general medicine fellow at University of Chicago, and Minal Kale, a general medicine fellow at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. And don’t forget to support your colleagues as they present their clinical vignettes and research abstracts in oral presentations and poster sessions, beginning Wednesday evening and running throughout all four days of the meeting.

Hopefully, after reading this, you will be even more excited to attend the annual meeting! Registration is now open, and hotel rooms are available at a discounted rate for medical students and residents. Scholarships are available for the first 25 medical students to register for the meeting. See you in sunny Orlando!