The 2012 Mid-Atlantic regional meeting was hosted by the Christiana Care Health System in Newark, DE, on March 16, 2012. Attendance at the meeting was strong, despite it being Match Day and not having a major metropolitan host city. (No offense, Newark!) The meeting theme, “Generalism on the Front Lines: Defining and Delivering High-Value Health Care,” was woven into the day, starting with the opening keynote session by Sean Tunis. Dr. Tunis is president and CEO of the Center for Medical Technology Policy, prior director of the Office of Clinical Standards and Quality, and chief medical officer at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). His talk was titled “Defining High-Value Health Care through Comparative Effectiveness Research.” It was a clarion call to SGIM members to take the lead in performing and translating the research that will, hopefully, transform health care in the coming years.

For the second straight year, the regional meeting hosted a well-received “walking poster tour” for attendees, led by an all-star group of master discussants. Judy Shea, associate dean of Medical Education Research at University of Pennsylvania, led the tour of medical education innovation posters. Alex Federman, MD, associate professor of medicine at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, and Jeanne Clark, MD, associate general internal medicine (GIM) division director at Johns Hopkins University led poster tours highlighting selected research abstracts. The clinical vignette poster tours were led by Pamela Charney, MD, professor of clinical medicine at Weill-Cornell University School of Medicine; Timothy Krohe, MD, associate professor of medicine at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center; and Bimal Asher, MD, clinical director of the GIM division at Johns Hopkins University. The poster tours were a huge hit with attendees. A poster competition, based on content and visual presentation, recognized the top scoring research, innovation, and clinical vignette posters; written feedback from the on-site poster judges was shared with poster presenters at the end of the day.

Other highlights of the day included a lunchtime plenary session with a panel of GIM leaders representing academic, community, rural, urban, hospitalists, and primary care settings who discussed the future of generalism as well as the ties that bind us all in GIM. A career panel, “Faces of GIM,” was geared toward students, residents, and fellows and included a panel discussion followed by small breakout groups to explore and discuss different career paths in GIM. The Medical Education Innovations session featured noteworthy presentations from educators at Christiana Care Health System, New York University Langone Medical Center, and Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences as well as thoughtful discussion of next steps from experts Paul Haidet, MD, of Penn State and Paul Hemmer, MD, of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

Throughout the day, attendees especially enjoyed hearing about new research, learning about health policy, meeting with collaborators, and enhancing their clinical and teaching skills. Christiana proved to be a wonderful host site for the meeting and captured the elusive nymph of conference locations—free parking. Christiana allowed its residents to have their afternoon clinic off so they could attend associate-level programming during the afternoon. Heartfelt thanks were given to Dan Elliott, MD, and Neeta Milisincic, MD, meeting chair and co-chair. The bar has been set high for next year’s Mid-Atlantic regional meeting to be held at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia on March 1, 2013. Next year’s theme is “Access, Affordability, and Patient Care: The Generalist’s Role in the Future of American Healthcare,” and Jeffrey Brenner, MD, founder and director of the Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers, will be our keynote speaker. We hope to see you there!