Get Ready for San Diego and the 37th SGIM Annual Meeting this Spring!

Neda Ratanawongsa, MD, MPH; Geraldine E. Menard, MD; and Sarajane Garten, MA

Drs. Ratanawongsa and Menard are chair and co-chair of the SGIM Program Committee, and Ms. Garten is Director of Meetings at SGIM.

It’s time to set your calendars for April 23-26, 2014, for the 37th Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA. This year’s meeting theme—Building the Bridges of Generalism: Partnering to Improve Health—celebrates the depth and diversity of the connections that inspire and empower generalist medicine. We enthusiastically encourage submissions highlighting the diverse partnerships that foster excellence in clinical care, education, research, and advocacy in generalist medicine.

We are excited to announce our three plenary speakers, beginning with SGIM President Eric Bass, MD, who will kick off our first morning with his presidential address. On Friday, the Malcolm L. Peterson Lecture will be delivered by Mark D. Smith, MD, founding president of the California HealthCare Foundation (CHCF). During his tenure, Dr. Smith focused the CHCF on catalyzing efforts to improve health care quality and access for California’s most vulnerable and underserved residents.

At our Saturday awards breakfast, we will hear from America Bracho, MD, executive director of Latino Health Access, a center for health promotion and disease prevention that assists with the health needs of Latinos in Orange County.

Our special symposia will address a wide range of innovative topics from understanding how the Affordable Care Act affects migrant health to implementing new educational milestones. We will again offer a spectrum of evidence-based updates organized by SGIM members. After a break of a few years, the US Preventive Services Task Force will once again present an update on prevention.

Two special programs will be offered to celebrate our theme of partnerships. One will highlight partnerships with patient and family advocacy organizations to enhance the quality of health care delivery. Another will focus on the integration of art and drama in medical education, including an offsite event to the San Diego Museum of Art. These events are presented in collaboration with faculty in the Medical Humanities and Arts program at the University of California, Irvine.

Programming for students, residents, and fellows has been expanded this year with two new offerings. A Career Development Retreat will be offered on Wednesday for general internal medicine (GIM) fellows. This will include a guided walk through of the opening poster session, which will feature posters submitted by GIM fellows. On Saturday, Primary Care Progress will present its highly rated advocacy workshop, titled “The Missing Link to Building New Primary Care Teams: Public Narrative.” SGIM Council has increased the number of registration scholarships for medical students from 25 to 50, so this is a great opportunity to encourage your most enthusiastic and energetic medical students to attend and learn about all of the wonderful career opportunities in GIM!

Finally, the 2014 meeting will offer the chance to celebrate the life and work of a leader in GIM with the inaugural Frederick L. Brancati Mentorship and Leadership Award, co-sponsored by SGIM and the Association of Chiefs and Leaders of General Internal Medicine (ACLGIM). This award will recognize junior faculty who inspire trainees to pursue academic GIM; provide financial support for leadership training; and promote the transformation of health care through innovations in research, education, and practice as Dr. Brancati did.

The 2014 annual meeting is shaping up to be an exciting program with time to network and catch up with colleagues. While the Padres will be in DC, these new and innovative learning opportunities will meet all of your non-baseball needs. We’ll see you there!

For more information, go to: http://www.sgim.org/meetings/annual-meeting