

ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

Special Programming at the SGIM 37th Annual Meeting

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Dr. Cené is chair and Dr. Peet is co-chair of the SGIM Special Programming Committee.

Get ready, get ready, get ready! The Special Programming Committee has several exciting activities designed to illuminate this year's theme, "Building the Bridges of Generalism: Partnering to Improve Health." By partnering with non-medical disciplines and a community organization, we highlight innovative ways to advance our clinical care, teaching, and research with the ultimate goal of optimizing health and wellness in the patients we serve.

"Medicine and the Arts" will be one theme of several special programming activities. As a few medical schools have done, the University of California at Irvine Medical School has developed a curriculum connecting medicine and the arts. Their program in medical humanities and art, directed by Johanna Shapiro, PhD, offers both required courses and several electives to medical students and residents within two residency programs at the institution. By exposing students and residents to the arts, the program aims to remind learners of the humanistic side of medicine. Dr. Shapiro and her colleague, Joel Shallit, MD, will offer two unique workshops during the meeting to expose conference attendees to their program.

Dr. Shapiro will lead a workshop on the Medical Readers' Theater, a course offered to medical students during their family medicine clerkship. She will introduce the structure and goals of the class and then take the group through a session. She will also give an overview of the program at UC Irvine.

Dr. Shallit will take a group off

site to experience an example of the course he runs at UC Irvine, titled "Examining the Painting/Examine the Patient." This elective, offered to first-year medical students, hopes to improve the visual skills of medical students through examining art. This workshop will take the group to the San Diego Museum of Art to tour the museum and examine specific works of art.

"Partnerships with Family-focused Organizations to Enhance Clinical Care, Teaching, and Advocacy" is the second theme of this year's special programming activities. We have partnered with the Exceptional Family Resource Center (EFRC) to present a moderated poster session on Thursday evening. EFRC is an organization that has provided emotional support, information, resources, referrals, and training opportunities to families of individuals with special needs in San Diego and Imperial counties since 1990. These family-centered services are provided by Family Support Liaisons—peer mentors who have received comprehensive training in a variety of topics, including family support dynamics; communication skills; conflict resolution; systems navigation; public benefits; health and education services; and local, state, and national resources. Services are individualized based on family needs and emphasize parent choice, confidentiality, and collaboration.

This poster session will highlight five EFRC programs that support families in their caregiving and decision-making roles and provide professionals with a range of tools and

strategies to encourage and nurture family involvement, including:

- **Operation House Call: A Pediatric Residency Learning Experience.** In this program, residents visit the EFRC and meet with a family to gain a more in-depth understanding of the day-to-day impact of having a family member with special health care needs.
- **Family-centered Discharge Planning Protocol: A Systematic Referral for Support and Services.** The protocol features a toolkit to facilitate the referral of families to follow-up support, resources, and generic community programs and services following a hospitalization.
- **Family Liaison Services: Peer Parent Support.** Incorporating best practice guidelines for training Family Support Liaisons reinforces family-centered clinical practice.
- **Family Engagement: Patient-Family Advisory Councils.** Recruiting, supporting, and sustaining volunteer participation in Patient-Family Advisory Councils are critical to success.
- **Project Leadership: Parent Mentors/Parent Leaders.** This interactive, 21-hour training helps participants learn the "nuts and bolts" of advocacy. Graduates identify and access forums to represent the family perspective in policy decisions impacting children with special health care needs and partner

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with professionals to design and implement family-centered programs and services.

We hope that these special programs will generate new ideas that each of you can take back to your

institutions and use to advance your clinical practice, teaching, research, and advocacy efforts. Our role as generalists calls for us to build bridges by working in partnership with medical and non-medical disciplines as well as community part-

ners. Together, we can accomplish all that we need to do in health care and achieve a vision of true patient- and family-centered care! Please join us and our partners for these exciting activities.

SGIM