

FROM THE SOCIETY: PART I

Partnering with UpToDate

Margaret C. Lo, MD

Dr. Lo is associate professor of medicine at the University of Florida College of Medicine in Gainesville, FL.

UpToDate has become a primary point-of-care resource for medical knowledge. SGIM members may not be aware that SGIM has partnered closely with UpToDate over the past 15 years to bring the general internist perspective to UpToDate topics through scholarly review of chapters. Many UpToDate topics are written primarily for specialists but have important primary care implications with clear need of general medicine input.

UpToDate presents actionable recommendations that are evidence based, peer reviewed, and continually updated. The full contents of UpToDate are widely disseminated to institutions and individual physicians through a variety of online and mobile applications.

A group of SGIM reviewers consistently participates in this editorial process to ensure that the content and recommendations in UpToDate topics are relevant for the general internist and that all generalist questions are addressed by specialists. Each year, these SGIM reviewers provide key feedback on more than 100 UpToDate topics in general internal medicine and other subspecialties. Their recommendations are incorporated into the final knowledge tools produced by UpToDate.

Our partnership extends to a subscription grant program that provides UpToDate access to targeted groups. This program offers a free one-year subscription of UpToDate to 20 individuals or institutions work-

ing in underserved areas of the United States who are unable to afford access to UpToDate. These subscriptions are donated by UpToDate and awarded annually through a grant process conducted by SGIM.

Why is reviewing UpToDate content of value to SGIM members? In addition to enhancing UpToDate's primary care perspective, reviewers can share their expertise in general medicine with a broad range of clinicians in practice worldwide. UpToDate topics are used throughout the world and are viewed more than 20 million times per month.

Participation in the review process itself offers important opportunities for SGIM reviewers to enjoy faculty development and career advancement. For junior clinician-educators in particular, participation provides invaluable experience and knowledge-building in the fundamentals of effective peer review. SGIM reviewers interface closely with senior SGIM and UpToDate members in the UpToDate Lead Reviewers' Group. These senior members provide vital mentoring of junior members on how to perform high-quality reviews and critically analyze the evidence or recommendations presented in chapters.

SGIM's work with UpToDate also benefits SGIM as a whole. Every year, SGIM receives an honorarium in recognition of its ongoing contributions to UpToDate, and this income supports other valuable Society activities.

Many thanks to all the reviewers and members of the leadership group for making this valuable work with UpToDate a success.

Leadership Group

Margaret Lo, MD, Chair
Mark Aronson, MD
Koko Aung, MD, MPH, CPH
Suzanne Fletcher, MD, MSc
Robert Fletcher, MD, MSc
Keels Jorn, MD
Claudia Leonard, MD
Edgar Lerma, MD
Priya Radhakrishnan, MD

UpToDate Staff

David Rind, MD, MS
Jane Barr
Alex Elfner
Courtney Gervais

Current Reviewers

Irene Alexandraki
Moises Auron
Nancy Baxi
Bryan Bordeaux
Ian Chen
Barbara Cooper
Manivel Eswaran
Christopher Feddock
Eric Green
Melanie Hagen
Karen Horowitz
Lisa Inouye
Geraldine Menard
Joseph Rabatin
Clifford Rubin
Danielle Scheurer
Carol Stanford
Steven Yale