

## ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

## News from the Women and Medicine Task Force

Jennifer S. McCall-Hosenfeld, MD, MSc; Amy S. Gottlieb, MD; and Bevanne Bean-Mayberry, MD, MHS

*Dr. McCall-Hosenfeld is chair and Dr. Gottlieb is co-chair of the SGIM Women and Medicine Task Force; Dr. Bean-Mayberry is the VA liaison to the Women and Medicine Task Force.*

**T**he Women and Medicine Task Force (WAMTF) is the key SGIM member vehicle for promoting women's health and the academic careers of women in medicine. The WAMTF facilitates communication among interest groups related to women's health, promotes women's health as a generalist issue in both clinical practice and health policy, and supports the career development of academic women physicians and of all physicians pursuing careers in women's health.

During the past seven annual meetings, the WAMTF has sponsored the Distinguished Professor of Women and Medicine (DPWM, formerly Distinguished Professor in Women's Health). At the 2013 annual meeting, Karen Freund, MD, served as the DPWM. To a standing-room-only crowd, Dr. Freund presented a keynote address, titled "Working in Teams: Moving Forward While Keeping Your Balance." She also served as expert discussant for the women's health oral abstract and poster sessions.

We are pleased to announce that the 2014 SGIM DPWM will be Melissa McNeil, MD, MPH. Dr. McNeil has a longstanding interest and involvement in medical student, resident, and fellow education and has a career focus on women's health. She is a founding member of the Academy of Master Educators at the University of Pittsburgh, where

she chairs the Educator Mentoring Task Force. She serves as associate chief of general internal medicine and as the director of the area of concentration in women's health, a certificate program for medical students. She is also director of the University of Pittsburgh's Women's Health Fellowship. As the DPWM at the 2014 annual meeting, Dr. McNeil will deliver a keynote address, titled "Life Lessons Learned: Things I Wish I Had Known," and will also serve as expert discussant for the women's health oral abstract and poster sessions. The WAMTF will once again employ a peer-review process to award high-quality oral abstracts and posters addressing women's health topics.

At the 2013 annual meeting in Denver, the WAMTF launched its Career Advising Program (CAP), an initiative to help female junior faculty successfully navigate the academic promotion process. Twenty-four career advisees were matched with 24 senior career advisors. CAP is a two-year longitudinal mentoring experience that focuses on CV preparation, targeted committee membership, and strategies for relationship-building with external letter writers. The second class of CAP advisee-advisor pairs will be matched just prior to the 2014 annual meeting in San Diego. As was done last year, potential participants will be selected from SGIM's One-on-One Mentoring Survey. Advi-

sor candidates should be associate professors or professors and should identify themselves on SGIM's One-on-One Mentoring Survey by checking "advancement of women in medicine" under areas of expertise. Advisee candidates should be residents, fellows, instructors, or assistant professors and should check "advancement of women in medicine" and either "early-career advice" or "mid-career advice." For questions about the CAP, please contact Amy Gottlieb, MD, at [agottlieb@wihri.org](mailto:agottlieb@wihri.org).

For 2014, we are pleased to announce a collaboration between WAMTF and the VA Task Force. WAMTF members partnered with Kristina Cordasco, MD, MBA, chair of VA Task Force, to develop a symposium, titled "Using Lessons from VA to Improve Care for Women with Mental Health and Trauma Histories." This session will introduce and discuss gender-based research findings and lessons learned from VA health services research and VA clinical care to inform primary care providers who serve women Veterans and other women with trauma experiences. This symposium will be sponsored by VA Health Services Research & Development. We thank the VA for its support and look forward to collaborating to further our mutual goals of improving health for women, VA-served populations, and trauma survivors everywhere.