

Midwest SGIM 2014 Meeting: A Collaborative Success!

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The 2014 Midwest SGIM meeting was held at the Navy Pier in Chicago September 4-5, 2014. Our meeting theme was "Collaborating to Improve Outcomes in Health, Medical Education and Research." With this theme we sought to highlight the fact that we as general internists are extremely valuable team members and leaders in many aspects of patient care, research, and medical education. As patient care, teaching environments, and research become more complex, we embrace the opportunity to work alongside colleagues both within and outside our field to serve our patients and trainees while advancing medical knowledge. We were excited to see our membership's response to our call for work highlighting the richness of such collaborative efforts. We received 107 more submissions for this meeting than last year, and of the 221 who attended the meeting, 33 were new attendees.

We invited three plenary speakers to address at least one component of the collaboration theme. Each was asked to describe his/her work and also the process of developing a project in a collaborative way. The speakers were asked to address the following questions: 1) How did the project get started? 2) Who were the participants? 3) How have you kept the effort going? 4) What have the outcomes of the collaboration been relative to patient outcomes, personal career advancement, publications, and presentations? 5) How has this collaborative moved the field forward? and 6) What advice would you give to junior faculty on initiating a project or senior faculty serving as mentors?

Monica Peek, MD (University of Chicago), discussed the process of working side by side with community leaders, local nonprofit organizations, dietitians, chefs, non-physician care managers, and others to teach diabetic patients that a healthy lifestyle involves more than just checking their glucose levels. Patients were taught to perform activities necessary to maintain good health such as making healthy food choices, shopping at a farmer's market, and cooking meals. Dr. Peek noted the value of partnering with community groups to help one another meet their needs rather than simply bringing programs and ideas to them.

Ashish Didwana, MD, from Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago discussed a collaborative educational program focused on promoting professionalism via a video-based educational workshop for housestaff and hospitalists. He described the process of developing these videos in collaboration with scriptwriters, actors, and medical educators. The videos were then used to promote discussion and reflection on the meaning of professionalism. A formal evaluation process demonstrated the positive impact on learners and will inform future directions for this project.

Karen Horowitz, MD, of Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine discussed her involvement in the ACCORD trial. In particular, she offered advice about how to be an active member of a large multicenter research team and the importance of speaking up and making a contribution to whatever endeavor one is working on. She emphasized that collaboration is a strategy that can be

learned and applied to any professional endeavor. As general internists, we have our own unique perspective on patient care and have much to offer in an environment of specialists and non-clinician-researchers.

The Thursday plenary session was devoted to outstanding trainee submissions. Santiago Romero Brufau, MD, presented "Are the Most Widely Used Early Warning Scores Ready for Automation?"; Sudhi Tyagi, MD, presented "Eosinophilic Granulomatosis with Polyangiitis (Churg Strauss Disease)"; and fourth-year medical student, Cassandra Fritz, presented "Intermediate Outcome Evaluation of an Innovative Pipeline Curriculum."

To promote collaboration and networking, we offered group-mentoring sessions for both junior faculty and trainees over lunch on each day of the meeting. This activity was organized by our at-large council member Wei Wei Lee, MD (University of Chicago). In each session, a panel of senior faculty with a vast range of expertise answered career questions from participants.

Meeting highlights included updates from national SGIM by SGIM president-elect Marshall Chin, MD (University of Chicago); a health policy update presented by Health Policy Committee member and national SGIM award winner (2009) Mark Liebow, MD (Mayo Clinic); and a highly interactive and informative update in general internal medicine presented by Amber Pincavage, MD, and Diane Altkorn, MD, from the University of Chicago.

Workshops that emphasized the theme of collaboration included "Simulation for Multidisciplinary Team

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FROM THE REGIONS

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Training to Promote Teamwork and Communication and Enhance Patient Safety,” coordinated by Krista M. Johnson (University of Iowa), and “A Cord of Three is Not Easily Broken: How Collaboration Between Internal Medicine, Pediatrics and Family Medicine and Also Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy is Transforming Primary Care Teaching at the University of Minnesota,” coordinated by Heather A. Thompson Buom (University of Minnesota). The three main areas of

this project include a novel curriculum, use of a direct observational tool, and major residency clinic redesign.

Our regional meeting was in itself a huge collaborative effort. Members of the leadership board and SGIM staff had frequent conference calls to finalize meeting dates, venue, theme, and content and assemble the planning committee. Members from the entire region contributed by serving as committee chairs, institutional champions, reviewers, modera-

tors, poster judges, mentors, and meeting participants. The success of our meeting is a direct result of the expertise, enthusiasm, and support of our members. We sincerely hope that the meeting served their needs.

We look forward to welcoming new and returning members at our 2015 meeting. It has been a privilege to serve on the Midwest leadership board.

Thank you, Midwest SGIM members, for another great meeting! *SGIM*