

HEALTH POLICY CORNER

Call for Volunteers: Collaborative Group on Teaching Health Policy

David Popiel, MD; Cara Litvin, MD; Theodore Long, MD; and Mark Schwartz, MD

Drs. Popiel, Litvin, Long, and Schwartz are members of the Health Policy Outreach Subcommittee.

As medical educators, we are faced with the challenge of preparing our students and residents to succeed in the ever-changing health care climate. In addition to being sound clinicians skilled in providing evidence-based patient care, we want our learners to meaningfully navigate the health care system, advocate for population-based interventions, control costs, improve patient safety, maximize health equity, and know how to participate in the policy process. Simple enough, right?

Unfortunately, nobody has designed the one-size-fits-all curriculum for this yet. Any attendee of the SGIM annual meeting can tell you about the increasing number of academic centers that are demonstrating an interest in developing and expanding medical education on population health, public health, medical economics, and health equity. A keystone piece of all of these educational interventions is health policy education. Although health policy education for medical students

and residents is highly variable across different institutions, many of us will agree with the current literature that health policy education needs to be integrated into medical education at both the undergraduate and graduate medical level.¹⁻²

Although the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) stop short of any competencies that include health policy education, the SGIM Health Policy Committee recognizes that many leading institutions are exploring collaborations and partners to strengthen their own health policy education. We are exploring ways in which SGIM can serve as a catalyst for further creation and development of health policy educational material between institutions.

Over the next year, we'd like to develop a learning collaborative of members interested in developing and teaching health policy educational materials. Our plan is to share

these health policy curriculum "best practices" at the 2015 annual meeting. We envision using GIM Connect as a platform to facilitate this sharing of resources. To start, we'd like to identify the health policy educational needs of SGIM members, fellows, residents, and students. How do you think SGIM can best create a health policy curriculum for its members and students? What resources would be helpful for you? How can SGIM share these resources? Please join us in this collaborative by contributing to our "open forum" discussion on GIM Connect.

References

1. Mou D, Sarma A, Sethi R, Merryman R. The state of health policy education in US medical schools. *New Engl J Med* 2011; 364(10):319.
2. Patel MS, Davis MM, Lypson ML. Advancing medical education by teaching health policy. *N Engl J Med* 2011; 368(8):695-7.