The High-value Care Interest Group began over a warm pretzel in the lobby of the Manchester Grand Hyatt in San Diego at the 2014 SGIM Annual Meeting. A small group of us had previously met through networks, contacts, and home-grown projects in high-value care, and we sat down socially to share ideas. We began with discussing how the status of healthcare expense in the United States has been well documented. It is sufficient to say that we spend too much money and get too little back in health. We get lots of drugs, procedures, and appointments, but what we really want is health—perhaps best defined as the lack of pain, disease progression, or preventable injury. We also believe that value isn’t just about saving money—the principle of value can also increase health. By removing unnecessary testing and procedures, we can reduce cost and harm. With that motive, who wouldn’t want more value in their health care?

We went around the table sharing projects, resources, and initiatives at our home institutions. We were inspired and impressed with the accomplishments of our colleagues. However, at the same time, we were startled that we hadn’t yet found a forum for sharing and collaboration. To meet this need, we formed the High-value Care Interest Group.

Our group members are active. The “Do No Harm” project at the University of Colorado encourages trainees to write up clinical vignettes that illustrate when overtreatment leads to patient harm. The success of the group led to the Teachable Moments column in JAMA Internal Medicine, shifting national attention to the dangers of overtreatment.

Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center is home to Providers for Responsible Ordering (PRO), a grassroots effort directed at trainees and faculty to reduce unnecessary testing. They have created an online pledge and are undertaking local projects and training in an effort to reduce low-value practices.

The Interactive Cost-Awareness Resident Exercise (I-CARE) is a new curriculum tool for teaching trainees in a multi-site initiative. It began at Yale and has now spread to Johns Hopkins Bayview and Jefferson with more sites expressing interest.

New York University, through both Bellevue Hospital and New York University Medical Center, is investigating how to best assess trainees to ensure no harm comes to patients from under-treatment through the use of novel assessment tools both in real time as well as in other formats.

Weill Cornell has completed a survey confirming what we all suspect: Residents are interested in learning more about cost and value.

Colleagues at the University of Pennsylvania are assessing institutional variation of high-value learning and practice. They are correlating trainee performance on high-value care board questions with utilization data from the Dartmouth Atlas.

We use GIM Connect to share exciting resources and news on health care financing, reduction of waste, and creative interventions.

The High-value Care Interest Group is new but active. The topic of high-value, cost-conscious care is gaining momentum, and we are excited to collaborate on the subject and share best practices. We are always looking for new members, so join us on GIM Connect or come introduce yourself in Toronto!