

FROM THE EDITOR

Behind the Scenes at *Forum*

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It's been six months since I took the reins at *Forum* from my predecessor, Priya Radhakrishnan, MD. As a direct result of her leadership and hard work, *Forum* has continued a strong tradition as the voice of SGIM. Priya was generous with her time and mentorship last summer during our transition, and for this I would again like to express my appreciation. Now our current board is in the process of reviewing our early successes and planning for an exciting year ahead. Here I offer a short summary of our vision, short-term accomplishments, and future plans for *Forum*:

Overarching Goals

1. To represent the public image of the Society by presenting the best of SGIM
2. To provide a public forum for discussion of the diverse interests and opinions of SGIM members
3. To report on initiatives and activities of the Society to the greater membership
4. To highlight the positive impact of SGIM member activities
5. To demonstrate appreciation for the work of SGIM members
6. To promote networking and opportunities to engage new members in SGIM activities, including writing for *Forum*
7. To create value for SGIM *Forum* contributors and the editorial board by promoting opportunities for collaboration, scholarship, and career development
8. To have fun while contributing with pride to our academic community

Early Accomplishments

1. The new editorial board now includes 20 actively engaged

associate editors (AEs) representing every SGIM region.

2. Recruitment of new authors by AEs has led to participation by a large diverse group of SGIM members.
3. Outreach to committees and interest groups has resulted in collaborations on more than 20 articles that describe the activities of these groups and offer opportunities for engagement by new members.
4. Three theme issues have allowed us to increase awareness and advocacy for: LGBT Health Care (October 2014), Correctional Health Care (January 2015), and Hospitalist Medicine (March 2015).
5. Improvements in communication have been achieved through the following activities:
 - The Information for Authors statement was developed and posted on the *Forum* web page.
 - AEs have been drawn from every region of SGIM and are available to all members as mentors in developing articles for *Forum*.
 - We have utilized GIM Connect as a mechanism for communicating internally as an editorial board and also with the larger SGIM community. Postings on GIM Connect have led directly to the development of topics for *Forum* articles and served as a vehicle for writers to collaborate on articles.
 - Communication with the Board of Regional Leaders (BRL) has led to development of "Guidelines for Submissions from the Regions," which were distributed to BRL members

and discussed on a BRL conference call early this fall.

- A template for articles that preview regional and national meetings has been developed and will soon be available to facilitate publicity for these events.
- A link to the Springer Author Academy has been added to the *Forum* web page. This series of tutorials offers new writers a crash course in manuscript preparation, editing, and publication.
- In development: An expanded list of *Forum* departments and explanation of each will soon be posted on the *Forum* web page.
- 6. A policy for HIPAA compliance has been developed and a "Permission for Publication" form (modeled after *JGIM*) has been posted on the *Forum* web page.
- 7. A mechanism for appreciation, recognition, and career advancement opportunities for *Forum* writers and AEs has been developed.
 - To increase recognition for contributors to *Forum*, a list of contributing authors has been posted on the *Forum* web page and will be updated every six months.
 - A new career development agenda for AEs includes mentoring opportunities, opportunities for development of national collaborations on *Forum* articles and future projects, development of a *Forum* portfolio that can be included in the teaching portfolio at each AE's home institution, and an annual letter of recognition for

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participation on the editorial board.

Future Initiatives

We have developed several programs for the SGIM 2015 Annual Meeting in Toronto. We hope that these programs will provide opportunities to engage members and increase contributions to *Forum*.

These include:

- A new SGIM *Forum* Interest Group
- A new SGIM *Forum* Networking Session (both for current and

future contributors)

- A workshop for potential authors titled "Write it for *Forum*!"

Our workshop will include: 1) formal introductions (i.e. statement of interests and areas of expertise), 2) grouping of participants by area of interest, and 3) development of an outline for a future *Forum* article. AEs will participate as workshop facilitators who will mentor participants during the workshop and throughout the writing process. Come ready with your "elevator

speech," and leave with a new group of collaborators and a commitment for a future article for *Forum*!

On behalf of the entire *Forum* editorial board, I hope to see you in Toronto at the 2015 annual meeting! Come behind the scenes at *Forum*. Meet the current *Forum* editorial team at the interest group and networking sessions. Join us for our first workshop, "Write it for *Forum*!", and help us continue to be the national voice of SGIM.

SGIM