

## ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

## Get Ready for the 38th SGIM Annual Meeting in Toronto!

David C. Thomas, MD, MHPE; Sharon E. Straus, MD, MSc; Sheira Schlair, MD, MS; Kerri Palamara, MD; and Sarajane Garten, MA

*Drs. Thomas and Straus are chair and co-chair of the Annual Meeting Program Committee, Drs. Schlair and Palamara are chair and co-chair of Annual Meeting Clinical Vignettes, and Ms. Garten is SGIM director of meetings.*

It's time to set your calendars for April 22-25, 2015, for the 38th Annual Meeting in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. This year's meeting theme is "Generalists in Teams: Adding Value to Patient Care, Research, and Education." Health care reform focused on patient-centered care is driving team-centered delivery system redesign and is a salient interest for SGIM members. This theme has relevance to SGIM members interested in clinical care, education, administration, and research. Team-based models of patient care are rapidly evolving and require rigorous development and evaluation. The education and training of general internal medicine physicians must include knowledge of team member responsibilities and, in some cases, development of new skills such as team leadership, quality, and patient safety measurement. As such, inter-professional training venues need to be developed and training methods evaluated. Research methods will continually evolve to provide valued performance information from existing and new data sources. Integration and coordination of physician efforts with non-physician professionals are critical for reform to be successful. We therefore believe the meeting theme will be of interest to all health care professionals.

Our three plenary speakers will be SGIM President Dr. William Moran, Dr. Jeffrey Turnbull, and Dr. Malcolm Cox. Dr. Moran will kick off our first morning with his presidential address.

On Friday, our keynote speaker will be Jeffrey Turnbull, MD, FRCPC, chief of staff of the Ottawa Hospital. Dr. Turnbull is an expert on poverty and its effect on health nationally and internationally. He is founder

and current medical director of the Inner City Health Project for the homeless population in Ottawa. He has been involved in education and health services initiatives to enhance community, institutional capacity, and sustainable development in Bangladesh, Africa, and the Balkans. Dr. Turnbull is the recipient of several national and international grants and awards, including the Order of Canada and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

The Malcolm L. Peterson Lecture will be delivered on Saturday morning by Malcolm Cox, MD. Dr. Cox is an adjunct professor of medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. He most recently served for eight years as the chief academic affiliations officer for the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in Washington, DC, where he oversaw the largest health professions training program in the country and repositioned the VA as a major voice in clinical workforce reform, educational innovation, and organizational transformation. His presentation is titled "Building Health Care Value Through System Redesign: Leverage at the Point of Interprofessional Care and Education."

In response to comments gathered from annual meeting attendees, we have made many changes this year. Scheduling has been adapted to include both 90- and 60-minute time slots. The clinical vignettes program will focus on innovation and team-based approaches to health care delivery and education. Members of the Student/Resident/Fellow Interest Group have been working to encourage trainee submissions and to offer guidance on crafting quality submissions. The clinical vignettes will include a special oral presentation

session moderated by chief medical residents (CMRs) who will receive telephone-based coaching on facilitation skills by faculty experts prior to the annual meeting. This will be a great opportunity to foster peer mentoring and coaching skills in our trainees. This special vignette session will be held during Session H—one of the meeting's 60-minute sessions—on Friday at lunchtime and will be titled "Clinical Vignettes with the CMRs." For those who wish to focus their attention on a specific topic or topics, the program will direct you to content tracks in women's health, medical education, and other areas of interest.

You can choose from several special series in 2015. Katrina Armstrong, MD, MSCE, will be the eighth SGIM Distinguished Professor of Women and Medicine; Gail Sullivan, MD, MPH, will be the 12th Distinguished Professor in Geriatrics; and Craig C. Earle, MD, will be the sixth SGIM Distinguished Professor in Cancer Research. The VA series has been expanded and includes five workshops this year. New in 2015 will be a Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) series.

Interest group meetings will be scheduled in four time slots, but none will be scheduled on Saturday! This innovation in the schedule means fewer groups will be meeting at the same time. The interest group schedule is available at: <http://connect.sgim.org/annualmeeting/programming/ig-schedule>.

For those who haven't been to Toronto since 2007, you will find the city is as entrancing and interesting as ever. Love the theater? After London and New York comes

continued on page 2

## ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

continued from page 1

Toronto. Shoe lover? Visit the Bata Shoe Museum. Sports fan? Visit the Hockey Hall Of Fame or buy reduced-price tickets to see the Blue Jays play the Baltimore Orioles on Thursday evening. For the first time, we have arranged for tickets in two different sections at two different prices, so take your pick. The last time a group attended a baseball game during the meeting more than 200 people bought tickets, so don't worry about going on your own!

It's time to start planning to attend. Encourage your colleagues to join you. Encourage your trainees to submit! To learn more, visit our new meeting website: <http://connect.sgim.org/annualmeeting/home>. It's easy to navigate and includes detailed information on hotel reservations, travel planning, and more. Plan ahead to have a current passport! (Your passport cannot expire within six months of when you travel.) VA employees should plan

ahead to obtain approval for VA funding and must apply for a government passport as well. For more on this, check with your local VA travel office. Non-US students will need to apply for a visa through a Canadian embassy. Finally, non-US students will need a SEVIS Form I-20 signed by their designated school official (DSO) prior to traveling.

The excitement is mounting! 2015 is here, and we are ready, SGIM! See you in Toronto!

*SGIM*