

## INTEREST GROUP UPDATE

**Academic Physician Administrators and Leaders Interest Group**

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**If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.**

—John Quincy Adams

**H**ealth care organizations require strong physician leadership to be successful. Imperatives for improving quality, safety, education, and care efficiency have created a growing number of opportunities for physicians to take on leadership roles within academic medical centers, departments, and divisions. The Academic Physicians Administrators and Leaders (APAL) Interest Group was started over a decade ago to create a forum for SGIM members with leadership and administrative roles and for those interested in learning more about leadership and leadership opportunities. Interest group meetings are an opportunity for networking and are generally devoted to one or more of the following: sharing best practices

and innovations, discussing current challenges and options for addressing those challenges, and identifying opportunities for workshops and scholarly activities to help promote leadership development within SGIM. The majority of attendees are in a current leadership role, such as division head, clinic director, residency program director, or hospital administrator; however, the group is also open to attendees who have never held a leadership position but are considering taking one in the future.

A number of SGIM workshops, including workshops on change management, negotiation, and medication reconciliation, were conceived at APAL meetings. The idea to survey chairs of departments of medicine to better understand pro-

motion opportunities for work in quality and safety and to address the challenge of rewarding faculty for this work had its origins at an APAL meeting.<sup>1</sup> An issue brought up at one meeting by a fellow who said he wasn't finding many opportunities within SGIM to pursue his interests in quality and safety led to the establishment of the Quality and Safety Subcommittee of the Clinical Practice Committee.

**References**

1. Staiger TO, Wong EW, Schleyer AM, Martin DP, Levinson W, Bremner WJ. The role of quality improvement and patient safety in academic promotion. *Am J Med* 2011; 124:277-80.