

TASK FORCE UPDATE

A Quick Overview of the SGIM Academic Hospitalists Task Force (AHTF)

Maria G Frank, MD, and William Southern, MD

Drs. Frank and Southern are co-chairs of the SGIM Academic Hospitalists Task Force.

The SGIM Academic Hospitalist Task Force (AHTF) was created in 2006 as a joint effort between SGIM and the Association of Chiefs and Leaders of General Internal Medicine (ACLGIM) to establish a professional home for academic hospitalists within SGIM. The AHTF is dedicated to promoting scholarly activity and career development opportunities in education, research, patient care, and leadership in hospital medicine by providing the necessary tools for hospitalists to succeed in academia.

The AHTF is currently composed of 17 members. New members are always welcome. We are a group of academic hospitalists with varied interests and backgrounds—representing all SGIM regions—who share a passion for medical education, research, and leadership within the niche of hospital medicine. We conduct monthly conference calls during which we discuss ongoing projects and areas to be developed or improved in hospital medicine.

The task force has participated in many initiatives—some in coordination with other societies such as the Society of Hospital Medicine (SHM). Since 2009, the SGIM AHTF has proudly collaborated with SHM and ACLGIM in presenting the Annual Academic Hospitalist Academy (AHA). The goal of the AHA is to support the career development of junior academic hospitalists as educational leaders in their institutions; assist with the design, progress, and output of scholarly work; enhance awareness of quality improvement (QI) and patient safety initiatives; and support academic promotion of attendees.

The SuCcesful Hospitalist in Academics and Research (SCHOLAR) project was initiated by the AHTF and was completed in collaboration with the Academic and Research Task Force of SHM. The goal of this project was to understand the elements required for successful academic hospital medicine programs. Successful programs were identified based on grant funding, research presentations at SHM or SGIM national meetings, and the proportion of faculty who had been promoted. Leaders of these programs were surveyed, and results were presented at the SGIM 37th Annual Meeting.

Other projects in different stages of development relevant to academic hospital medicine include the Housstaff Oversight Project, which seeks to examine ways in which hospital medicine programs are responding to new ACGME requirements for resident supervision, and the Jobs of Academic Hospitalists, Clinicians, and Teachers in University Programs (JACT-UP) project, which aims to clarify the roles of clinical and academic hospitalists and to understand similarities or differences between them.

We strive to provide academic hospitalists with resources relevant to their practice and professional growth. These resources are available on the AHTF website and include the Hospitalist Quality Portfolio (created by a group led by Benjamin Taylor, MD), which addresses a way to better document the work and accomplishments of hospitalists involved in QI; the Academic Hospitalists Promotion Survey, which reflects promotion data on academic

hospitalists collected by a subgroup of the AHTF; Updates in Hospital Medicine slides since 2010; a guide to journal venues for clinician-educators and for safety and QI work; and a description of hospital medicine sessions at annual meetings.

Our future projects include subjects that are both familiar and challenging involving patient flow, patient satisfaction, hospital management, health care finance, defining core competencies for academic hospitalists, and work-life balance. We encourage passionate hospitalists to get involved and participate in the evolution and progress of our young specialty.

The future opportunities for academic hospitalists are numerous. Please join us at the 38th SGIM Annual Meeting in Toronto on April 23 at 8 am for the Academic Hospitalist Interest Group meeting, or participate in the American Board of Internal Medicine Medical Knowledge Module in Hospital Medicine on April 25 at 11 am. The annual meeting schedule is available at <http://connect.sgim.org/annualmeeting/programming/schedule>. You can follow the AHTF in GIM connect (Academic Hospitalists) where we will be posting a summary of hospital medicine sessions at the annual meeting. If you are a junior academician, consider joining the 2015 AHA. Furthermore, if you are interested in joining the AHTF, please visit the SGIM volunteer center for available task force volunteer opportunities or contact any of us through the SGIM website. We would love to hear from you!