

FROM THE EDITOR

Get Ready for the SGIM Annual Meeting!

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If you are an academic general internist, the SGIM annual meeting—the premier venue for networking, mentorship, and career development in general internal medicine (GIM)—is designed to support your career aspirations. How can you maximize this impact on your career? Here are some strategies to consider:

1. Start with a needs assessment. Where are you in your career? What are your short- and long-term career goals? (*Write them down!*)
2. Craft a mental “roadmap” detailing how you will get from your starting point to your goal.
3. List the skills, training, or experience you need to attain your goals.
4. Identify key influencers and contacts who can advise, mentor, or sponsor you on your career path.
5. Be strategic in your choice of meetings to attend. Plan to attend workshops and seminars that offer training in areas you have identified. (See step 3.)
6. Consider signing up for a mentoring session. A review of your new needs assessment is a great place to start. If you are further along in your career, identify some specific questions you have or areas to work on, and request a mentor who can help you focus on these.
7. Make an action plan for how you will do things differently after attending the meeting. This might include staying in touch with new mentors, initiating a new project, pursuing training to attain a new skill or credential, or

joining a working group focused on a professional interest of yours.

8. Come prepared. Rewrite your CV, and polish your elevator speech. Dress for success. You are about to meet an outstanding group of colleagues who want to know who you are and what you do! More importantly, these colleagues are here to guide you in pursuing your career aspirations.

The SGIM annual meeting is a great opportunity for those considering a career in academic GIM to gain insights into the many opportunities and career paths taken by GIM professionals. Early career physicians may be interested in attaining specific skills such as research training, clinical teaching, or professional writing. Mid-career people may wish to add leadership training, grant writing, editing a publication, or health policy advocacy. More senior SGIM members may look to the meeting as a chance to network with supportive colleagues, gain insights into best practices and feedback on career challenges, expand the reach of an educational program or research project, and mentor younger GIM professionals. At any stage of your career, the SGIM annual meeting provides unique opportunities to present your work on a national stage, seek out new professional opportunities, and network with influential leaders who share your commitment to GIM and can guide you on your career path.

Need a place to start? Career tracks at the annual meeting can assist you in formulating your agenda.

These include medical education, women’s health, Veteran’s Affairs, teaching, leadership, and hospitalist medicine. The long list of interest groups provides a glimpse of the broad range of opportunities for a GIM career. Take a chance, and attend an interest group—you will meet talented, dedicated professionals who are thoroughly committed to strengthening GIM and their field of interest for the benefit of patients, trainees, and society. If you are looking for research opportunities, the exciting collaboration between PCORI (the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute) and SGIM (see page 7) is designed to open doors for you into this innovative field of research.

Now is the time to plan your itinerary. Meeting registration and program information are available online at <http://connect.sgim.org/annualmeeting/home>. Don’t forget to include *Forum* in your meeting plans! The new SGIM *Forum* Prospective Writers’ Interest Group meeting on Friday at 3 pm is for all those who would like to know more about the workings of our newsletter. For a more in-depth session on writing for *Forum*, our “Write it for *Forum*!” workshop will take place on Friday, April 24, at 1:15 pm. You will meet our editorial team and learn more about how you can contribute to the voice of SGIM.

The *Forum* editorial team will be wearing ribbons that identify us at the meeting. Please stop us to say “Hi!” and give us your feedback! Ask us how you can also write for *Forum*! We are looking forward to meeting you in Toronto!