

## ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE: PART II

**PCORI Conference Award**

Jennifer Kraschnewski, MD, MPH, and Leslie Dunne, MPA

*Dr. Kraschnewski is assistant professor of medicine and public health sciences at The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine, and Ms. Dunne is SGIM Director of Development and Project Management.*

**P**atient-centeredness is not a new concept in general internal medicine (GIM). Whether in clinical settings or in education, we are trained to focus on the needs of our patients. Patient centeredness in our research—defined as engaging patients in all study aspects—has more recently been highlighted through efforts of the Patient-centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). PCORI is a nonprofit non-governmental organization whose establishment was authorized by Congress through the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010. PCORI's approach to comparative clinical effectiveness research, known as patient-centered outcomes research, unites patients, caregivers, clinicians, and other health stakeholders with researchers throughout the research process. The vision of PCORI is for both patients and the public to "have information they can use to make decisions that reflect their desired health outcomes."

Given our Society's mission to lead excellence, change, and innovation in clinical care, education, and research in GIM, our members are obvious stakeholders in PCORI's vision. SGIM members have historically been the champions and, in some cases, originators of concepts such as shared decision making, physician-patient communication, and effective care—all core elements of the PCORI mission. Our members include current researchers who are uniquely positioned to serve as PCORI investigators, given that primary care is ideally patient-centered care (i.e. patient-centered medical homes). In addition, our member-

ship includes academically oriented clinicians and educators who are particularly well suited to make valuable contributions to patient-centered outcomes research, bringing their important perspective to such research. Furthermore, SGIM engages trainees (i.e. medical students, residents, and fellows) who can benefit from these important connections at the beginning of their careers. Given these many synergies, SGIM applied for and received a Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Award with a project goal to educate our members about PCORI research and to provide avenues for better engagement of clinicians and clinician-educators in this research process. We also aim to provide PCORI with key perspectives from SGIM members regarding their participation in patient-centered outcomes research.

In order to accomplish these project goals, we've engaged a lead group demonstrating the breadth of SGIM members, including representation from the Education, Clinical Practice, and Research committees. We have also partnered with Family Voices, a national nonprofit family-led organization that aims to achieve family-centered care, and have included one of their representatives in our lead group for true patient engagement. We are looking forward to learning about our members' attitudes and needs regarding possible participation in patient-centered outcomes research. More importantly, we're excited about the opportunity to provide educational opportunities on a variety of patient-centered outcomes research topics through the creation of a PCORI "track" during the annual meeting in Toronto. Highlights of this project will include a

keynote presentation by Joe Selby, MD, executive director of PCORI. In addition, we will offer a series of workshops, including "Incorporating Patient-Centered Outcomes Research to Develop Learning Health-care Systems," "Understanding Patient-Engagement," and "Pragmatic and Patient-Centered: Clinical Trials Done Differently."

We will also host a session on understanding PCORnet, the National Patient-Centered Clinical Research Network, and how you can get involved. PCORnet, supported by PCORI, is developing a large, highly representative national network for conducting clinical outcomes research. This innovative health data network brings research and patient care together, improving our nation's infrastructure to conduct comparative effectiveness research to answer questions that matter the most to patients. PCORnet presents a tremendous opportunity for SGIM members to engage in patient-centered outcomes research. Similarly, PCORnet can benefit from the clinical, educational, and research expertise of key stakeholders within SGIM. Frontline clinicians, such as SGIM members, will be necessary to best use PCORnet to determine the types of prevention, diagnostic, and therapeutic questions most necessary to advance patient-centered medical care. As primary care physicians, our members have unique relationships with their patients that can allow for true patient engagement in these critical research investigations.

Not planning on coming to this year's annual meeting? There are still opportunities for you to learn

---

## ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE: PART II

continued from page 2

more about patient-centered outcomes research. This two-year contract will allow us to reach each of SGIM's seven regional meetings. In addition, we have even more in store for our 2016 annual meeting, including a patient-centered outcomes research poster session and more targeted workshop sessions

with a focus on new research trends in this exciting area. Stay tuned for opportunities through GIM Connect to stay connected with learning sessions between meetings and watch for articles highlighting this important topic in *SGIM Forum*. Patient centeredness is a key aspect of our specialty. Thanks

to PCORI, we have the opportunity to serve on the frontlines of keeping the patient in the center of our research agenda.

*This event is supported through a PCORI Program Award, EA-1283-SGIM.*

**SGIM**