



FROM THE SOCIETY: PART II

# SGIM Membership Survey Summary

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In the fall of 2014, the SGIM Membership Committee launched the membership survey to understand the needs of our members and gauge their satisfaction with the Society. The questionnaire was based on prior surveys and designed to be comparable to those from 2004, 2009, and 2012. We formulated 60 questions for trainees (i.e. students, residents, fellows) and 71 questions for full members. Seven questions were open ended, and the rest were multiple choice. All survey questions underwent several rounds of review and were pilot tested before launch. The survey was sent to all SGIM members via e-mails that included a SurveyMonkey® link and 10 reminders (i.e. seven through SurveyMonkey, two included in E-news, one through the All Member Open Forum) as follow-up requests to participate in the membership survey. An editorial in *Forum* also supported this endeavor. There were a total of 1,011 respondents, which represented approximately 31% of the membership. A summary of the highlights of the quantitative portions of the survey follows.

### Respondent Characteristics

**Gender.** As shown in Table 1, survey respondents in 2014 were 54% female and 45% male. (Approximately 1% preferred not to answer.) This was consistent with a trend over the last seven years of more women joining SGIM and/or completing the SGIM Membership Survey.

In the two oldest age groups (i.e. greater than age 65, age 55 to 64), men outnumbered women by approximately 2 to 1. In the two youngest age groups (i.e. age 25 to 34, age 35 to 44), women outnumbered men by approximately 2 to 1.

**Table 1. Distribution of 2014 Survey Respondents by Gender and Age**

Age	Female	Male
<25	0%	0%
25-34	14%	8%
35-44	21%	12%
45-54	13%	11%
55-64	6%	11%
>65	<1%	3%

Another notable gender difference was the higher percentage of female respondents who reported working part time in 2014—16% compared to 4% among male respondents. An in-depth analysis of the gender differences found in the survey is being prepared by the SGIM Membership Committee for publication in 2016.

**Age.** Overall, a higher percentage of respondents in 2014 were 55 years or older compared to prior years, but 2014 showed an increase in the proportion of members in the 25 to 34 age group (Table 2).

**Table 2. Percent of SGIM Membership Survey Respondents by Age Range**

Age	2004	2009	2012	2014
<25	0%	0%	0%	0%
25-34	22%	19%	18%	21%
35-44	42%	40%	36%	33%
45-54	27%	28%	28%	24%
55-64	9%*	13%*	14%	17%
>65			3%	3%
No Answer			0%	0%

\* Age cutoff for the 2004 and 2009 surveys was > 55 years.

**Racial/Ethnic Background.** The percentage of Asian respondents climbed to 18.2% from 16.5% in 2012, 17.1% in 2009, and 15.1% in 2004. The percentage of African-American respondents remained unchanged, and the percentage of Caucasians continued to decrease. There was a small decrease in those who identified as Latino/Hispanic to 3.7% in 2014 compared to 4.3% in 2012.

**Academic Rank.** A greater percentage of professors (9%) reported being deans compared to 5% for associate professors and 1% for assistant professors. The same was true of division/section chiefs (25% vs. 12% vs. 3%), research center directors (12% vs. 9% vs. 1%), and chairs (5% vs. 3% vs. 1%). Compared to full professors and assistant professors, respectively, a greater percentage of associate professors reported being clerkship directors (10% vs. 4% vs. 9%), associate residency program directors (17% vs. 4% vs. 15%), clinic directors (10% vs. 4% vs. 7%), and medical directors (16% vs. 7% vs. 11%).

Faculty compensation increased with academic rank. The most commonly reported salary range was \$150,001 to \$175,000 for assistant professors, \$175,001 to \$200,000 for associate professors, and \$200,001 to \$225,000 for full professors.

**Hospitalists.** The percentage of survey respondents who identified as hospitalists increased in 2014 to 22% from 15% in 2012 and 11% in 2009 (Table 3); 64% of hospitalist respondents reported being age 44 or younger. The SGIM Membership Committee is completing an in-depth analysis of this growing population of SGIM to be published in 2016.

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**Table 3. Percent of Survey Respondents who Identify as Hospitalists**

Hospitalist	2009	2012	2014
Yes	11%	15%	22%
No	89%	85%	78%

*Distribution of Work Effort.* Survey respondents were doing more clinical and administrative work and less research in 2014. Teaching time was unchanged. More respondents (69%) spent 25% or more of their time on clinical activities in 2014 compared with previous years: 56% in 2004 and 57% in 2012. A larger percentage of respondents (37%) also spent 25% or more of their time performing administrative activities compared with prior years: 29% in 2004 and 33% in 2012. A smaller percentage of respondents (29%) spent 25% or more of their time on research in 2014 compared with 37% in 2004 and 34% in 2012.

Overall, respondents in the 2014 survey preferred less clinical and administrative activity and more time for research and teaching. Only 29% of respondents spent 25% or more of their time doing research while 41% preferred to be spending 25% or more of their time doing research. Currently, 38% of respondents were spending 25% or more of their time teaching. A total of 56% preferred to be spending 25% or more of their time teaching.

*Job Satisfaction.* Overall, job satisfaction remained high among survey respondents: 86% ranked their job satisfaction at a six out of 10 or higher compared to 89% in 2012 and 91% in 2004. Of note, the highest job satisfaction (i.e. six or higher) was reported among respondents age 25 to 34 (92%) and those age 55 or older (90%). The lowest job satisfaction was re-

ported by participants age 45 to 54 (83%). By region, the highest job satisfaction (i.e. six or higher) was in the Northwest (96%) and Mountain West (95%) while the lowest job satisfaction was reported among international (82%), Mid-Atlantic (83%), and Midwest (84%) respondents.

*Membership Payment.* A greater percentage of survey respondents paid for their SGIM membership out of pocket in 2014 (43%) compared to 2009 (36%). There were no comparable data for 2012 and 2004. Most of the SGIM membership (82%) received a flat dollar amount for scholarly activities and professional dues while 18% had a variable/incentive-based program. The most common range of institutional funds available was \$1,001 to \$2,000.

*Trainees.* A total of 80 trainees, fellows, residents, or students responded to the question regarding likelihood of pursuing a career in general internal medicine. The majority (86%) of those who completed the survey said they were likely to pursue a career in GIM. Trainees reported that their most important needs from SGIM were: 1) clinical skills development, 2) finding or working with a mentor, and 3) selecting a fellowship or residency program.

**Satisfaction with SGIM**

Most survey respondents (81%) reported their SGIM membership as very valuable or essential and plan to renew next year. Eighteen percent reported their membership was valuable but were unsure about renewing. Only 1% found their membership not valuable and did not plan to renew.

Networking, regional and national meetings, and opportunities to present their work were cited as the most critical aspects of SGIM's

value. Job and career listings, opportunities to volunteer, and continuing medical education credits were cited as the least important aspects of the Society.

The three areas that survey respondents felt that SGIM did not emphasize enough were: 1) facilitating members' career advancement, 2) developing members' leadership skills, and 3) developing administrative skills for SGIM members.

The three most valuable professional resources were felt to be: 1) the annual national meeting, 2) presentation opportunities at the annual national meeting, and 3) networking opportunities.

Most respondents (83%) attended at least one national annual meeting within the last five years, while 58% reported attending at least one regional annual meeting within the last five years. In terms of regular conference attendance, 47% of respondents attended three or more national annual meetings in the last five years, while 26% attended three or more regional annual meetings in the last five years. \*Members of the SGIM Membership Committee that contributed to this survey include:

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*Florida State University*
2. Robert Fogerty  
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3. Maria Frank  
*Denver Health Hospital Authority*
4. Robin Klein  
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