

FROM THE SOCIETY: PART II

Health Policy Curriculum Advisory Board to be Created at SGIM

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As physicians, we see the effects of health policy in our practices every day. Whether it's access to care for Medicaid patients or availability of National Institutes of Health funds to pursue our research, we see the role health policy plays in our lives. However, the breadth and complexity of health policy is often daunting, making it difficult to engineer an educational strategy that will be broadly relevant. The SGIM Health Policy Committee has ascertained that members want to engage in health policy teaching and has formulated a plan to engage members.

In a survey conducted by the SGIM Health Policy Member Outreach Subcommittee, among SGIM residents, fellows, and medical students, 96% wanted more educational sessions about health policy (n=26). Respondents indicated that they wanted health policy sessions at SGIM conferences and online resources for active health policy issues as well as background information on core topics and a summary of SGIM priorities.

When attendings from the Health Policy Committee were surveyed (n=25), 71% reported that

they wanted to better understand the Affordable Care Act, and 92% said they were interested in attending more educational sessions. They similarly prioritized having health policy sessions at SGIM meetings and greater online resources for active health policy issues.

During the next year, the SGIM Health Policy Committee plans to assemble a health policy curriculum in accordance with the Member Outreach Subcommittee survey results. This curriculum will be guided by a newly created SGIM Health Policy Curriculum Advisory Board composed of health policy experts as well as residents and fellows. The advisory board will lead the build out of the curriculum and ensure that the target audience—SGIM members—is being engaged throughout the process.

Based on the survey results, the health policy curriculum will have two domains. First, it will have an up-to-date list of active state and federal health policy issues along with SGIM's stance on issues as applicable. Second, it will have background information on core topics such as health care finance and the

Affordable Care Act for SGIM members to view. Also, to address the needs of SGIM members as expressed through the survey, the newly formed advisory board will work collaboratively to set up health policy sessions at regional and national SGIM meetings.

SGIM is in a unique position to assemble health policy educational resources on a national level. SGIM is a professional organization that not only provides educational materials for members but also engages in advocacy efforts for its constituents. This health policy curriculum will enable SGIM members to develop expertise regarding health policy issues and participate in SGIM's advocacy efforts in support of general internal medicine with insight and perspective. This year we look forward to creating the SGIM Health Policy Curriculum Advisory Board and working toward constructing a national curriculum that is learner driven and engages SGIM members across the nation. We welcome your interest in this initiative. For more information, contact Ted Long at theodore.long@gmail.com.

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