

## FROM THE SOCIETY

## There Are Medical Meetings—and Then There's SGIM!

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**D**ear SGIM, I am honored to be your next executive director.

My first official duties began with the 2016 SGIM Annual Meeting in Florida in May. From the first moment I arrived at the Diplomat Hotel, I sensed that this was a special community. I ran into former SGIM president and search committee chair Bill Moran while waiting to check in. Bill greeted me warmly and introduced me to a volunteer leader who immediately seized the opportunity to share his goals for his committee and ask me to support his committee's work.

Welcome to SGIM! And I hadn't yet picked up my room key!

That was a most fitting introduction to this community: energetic, gregarious, and always searching for what we can do better.

Why did I come to SGIM? Probably for the same reason you became a member and offer your time: the mission. There are many important medical societies in the Washington area alone, but no opportunity inspired me in quite the way that

SGIM did. I was especially drawn to the desire to reinvent health care—not for the sake of protecting professional turf but authentically for the greater good.

This may be the most important endeavor in health care today. That's the game I want to play.

We certainly have our work cut out for us. The work environment must be improved. Patients' experiences are all too often difficult and enervating. Medicine's financial and organizational infrastructures can frustrate our progress.

But as Bill Moran told me recently, "It's general medicine time." I see what he means. Patients are craving the holistic patient-centered approach that is at the core of general internal medicine. The world is urgently searching for care models that achieve the Triple Aim—great patient experience, a focus on population health, and improved efficiency. This was once thought to be medicine's unicorn—often described but never seen. But general internal medicine has shown that it is possi-

ble not only in small projects but also on a larger scale.

There is so much for me to learn. SGIM must address the challenges that face many small organizations in an uncertain environment. But SGIM's influence far outweighs its size. This is directly attributable to you (our members) and to our remarkable staff.

I'll spend my first months listening and learning about our members, our organization, and the work that's ahead of us. To that end, expect no sweeping 90-day plans. Instead, my charge is to sustain well-earned gains and strengthen SGIM to serve the field long into the future. I'll be reaching out to you and joining some of your committee calls. My goal is to ensure that SGIM continues to make a difference for you, your colleagues, and your patients. If you have thoughts, observations, and advice to share, please contact me at [fortinf@sgim.org](mailto:fortinf@sgim.org).

It is my extraordinary privilege to be your partner in this journey. Let's get it started!

**SGIM**