FROM THE REGIONS

Summary of 2015 SGIM Mountain West Regional Meeting

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Dr. Frank is associate division chief of hospital medicine at the Denver Health Hospital Authority and assistant professor of medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

Our meeting was highlighted by outstanding and engaging speakers who specialize in extremely relevant topics in the practice of general internal medicine. Our keynote address was a debate focused on the JNC-8 guidelines. Dr. Allan Prochazka’s outstanding update on new evidence in the treatment of hypertension described the JNC-8 guidelines. Dr. Shakaib Rehman asked, “Did JNC-8 get it wrong?”; discussion of the controversies surrounding the guidelines ensued. Dr. Prochazka is a general internist at the Denver VA and a professor of medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. Dr. Rehman is a hospitalist at the Phoenix VA and professor at the University of Arizona College of Medicine. It was a fantastic discussion!

Clinical updates in primary care and hospital medicine were presented by Dr. Lawrence Feinberg, who is an internist, gastroenterologist, and professor of medicine from the University of Colorado, and Dr. Cason Pierce, a hospitalist at Denver Health Hospital Authority and an assistant professor of medicine from the University of Colorado. Both updates were interactive, relevant, and well received.

Workshops are among the most popular and acclaimed sections of our meeting. Drs. Eva Aagaard and Jeanette Guerrasio presented a TEACH workshop focusing on remediation and dealing with the struggling learner. In the meeting evaluation, 80% of attendees rated the workshop as “above average” or “outstanding.”

Other notable workshops included “Ultrasound (US) Point of Care and Ultrasound-guided Bedside Procedures: the Basics and Beyond,” which was presented by Gerard Salame and Jack Cunningham. This workshop explored the use of US as an aid for bedside procedures. The introduction of the stethoscope by Laennec in 1816 was initially controversial but became widely accepted within five years. The use of US as a bedside diagnostic aid may represent the future of medical practice.

“What Tools Are in Your Toolbox: Tools and Strategies for Success in Improving Patient Experience” was led by Dr. Marisha Burden. We selected this workshop because patient experience has been increasingly recognized as a key focus for hospitals across the country. This workshop helped participants understand important considerations in developing their patient experience platform, including how to build necessary buy-in, roll out strategies, and select useful tools to track results. This workshop was rated as “outstanding” by 75% of meeting evaluation respondents.

Dr. Jeannine Engel’s workshop titled “Maximize Clinical Revenues and Improve Patient’s Health: Best Models for Delivery of Chronic Care Management Services” was both engaging and formative.

Dr. Abbaszadegan from Phoenix VA Health Care System presented the very popular and highly rated workshop titled “Transforming Chronic Pain Care: Moving to the Biopsychosocial Model.” During this interactive workshop, faculty discussed a “whole person” approach to pain management as an opportunity to improve both patient outcomes and provider satisfaction.

“Beyond Good Job: Using Feedback to Take our Learners from Good to Great” was a workshop led by Dr. Patrick Lendon from University of New Mexico. The workshop continued on page 2.
emphasized the importance of effective feedback and allowed participants to role-play practical skills in delivering effective feedback. The workshop was informative, interactive, fun, and very well received!

Extremely favorable reviews were provided by 32% of meeting evaluation respondents. Most rated keynote and plenary sessions and workshops as “truly above average” or “outstanding.” Comments included:

- “Fantastic discussion of hypertension guidelines”
- “Gained new familiarity with the data behind JNC-8”
- “Made new contacts with great collaborators”
- “Outstanding meeting content and networking opportunity.”

In summary, our 2015 regional meeting, “Patient Centered Care,” on October 7, 2016, at the University of Arizona College of Medicine in Phoenix, Arizona. The meeting will be chaired by Dr. Nacchal Nachiappan with the support of the regional leadership team: Dr. David Tanaka, meeting planning committee; Dr. Shakaib Rehman, president; and Dr. Maria G Frank, past-president. Do not miss another great networking and learning opportunity.