

## HEALTH POLICY CORNER: PART I

## New SGIM Career Development Initiative: Leadership in Health Policy (LEAHP) Program

Mark D. Schwartz, MD, and Thomas Staiger, MD

*Dr. Schwartz is faculty in the Department of Population Health at the New York University School of Medicine, and Dr. Staiger is chair of the Health Policy Committee and medical director of the University of Washington Medical Center.*

**W**e live in a time of unparalleled change in how medicine is paid for and practiced. A few recent examples include: the Affordable Care Act, the replacement of the Medicare Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) with the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA), dozens of experiments underway by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services shifting payment from fee-for-service to value-based models, and increasing recognition by policymakers of how current payment models undervalue general internal medicine (GIM) and other cognitive specialties.

SGIM's opportunity to influence these policies and its need for robust advocacy have never been greater. SGIM's Health Policy Committee (HPC) has been highly effective in advocating for our Society's core missions of generalist practice, education, and research. But the time has come to expand our impact, deepen our bench, and build a sustainable pipeline of future health policy advocates, teachers, and leaders.

Therefore, SGIM has established an exciting new career development initiative based on the successful models of the TEACH (Teaching Educators Across the Continuum of Healthcare) and the Association of Chiefs and Leaders in General Internal Medicine's LEAD programs. Application for the new program is open to all SGIM members; the only prerequisite is a passion for learning about health policy and a desire to affect policy change.

The *Leadership in Health Policy (LEAHP) Program* has launched with the following aims:

- To develop an expanding national cadre of HPC members and future HPC leaders, effective and active health policy advocates, and local experts and teachers of health policy; and
- To offer career development resources and opportunities to all SGIM members and broaden engagement in the Society's health policy efforts.

The LEAHP program is the first national health policy career development program of its kind. As part of a larger effort to expand career development opportunities for SGIM members, LEAHP is a year-long program (starting at one SGIM annual meeting through the next) focused on federal health policy knowledge and advocacy skills and aligned with SGIM's core missions. Participants in the program will learn to:

- Describe the key structures and functions of the US health care system;
- Analyze innovative health care delivery and economic models;
- Explain the impact of health care reform on the practice of medicine, education, and research in GIM;
- Critically evaluate current health delivery and policy problems; and
- Conduct in-person advocacy with policymakers.

Co-led by current and past HPC chairs (Tom Staiger and Mark Schwartz), program faculty will be drawn from recent HPC subcommittee chairs, former SGIM presidents, and other SGIM health policy experts. Ten to twelve trainees will be selected for the 2017-2018 program and will begin their LEAHP year with an in-person half-day workshop on Wednesday, April 19, 2017, at the SGIM annual meeting in Washington, DC. This workshop will orient participants to the program, introduce them to others in the national cohort, and begin teaching core health policy knowledge and skills. Participants will have one-on-one mentoring with program faculty based on common interests and career goals throughout the year. Mentors will help participants draft an individual development plan (IDP).

During the 2017–2018 educational year, LEAHP trainees will participate in:

- Quarterly webinars led by core LEAHP faculty with curriculum presentations, a *Washington Post* journal club, and case discussions;
  - Quarterly health policy/advocacy teleconferences for health policy updates;
  - Monthly phone calls with mentors to check in on progress on the IDP, guide learning, and discuss challenges and opportunities;
  - HPC subcommittee work and monthly phone calls;
  - Multiple asynchronous resources
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curated on SGIM's website: a core set of books, key papers, online sources on policy basics, and a daily news feed on health policy;

- Direct advocacy at SGIM's Hill Day in Washington, DC (March 2018); and
- End-of-curriculum in-person workshop/reporting out at the 2018 SGIM annual meeting in Denver, CO (April 2018).

LEAHP trainees will also complete a capstone project consisting of at least two of the following products:

- A health policy white paper/perspective article;
- A curriculum in a health policy topic;
- An advocacy project with leave-behind materials and talking points; and
- A workshop in health policy to be delivered at an SGIM meeting.

While most program activities are specifically designed for LEAHP trainees, several resources will be available for all SGIM members, including: access to curriculum components of the annual pre-course, select call-ins for quarterly webinars

and teleconferences, and online health policy/advocacy resources at [www.sгим.org](http://www.sгим.org).

The competitive application for LEAHP will open October 15, 2016. The deadline for submitting an application is December 15, 2016. Applications must include a CV, personal statement, and nomination letter from a chief or chair. Eligible applicants may be at any career level but must be SGIM members

To apply or receive more information, visit the advocacy section of the SGIM website at <http://www.sгим.org/communities/advocacy>.

*SGIM*