

ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE: PART I

Wrapping Up Wise, Wild, and Wonderful Washington

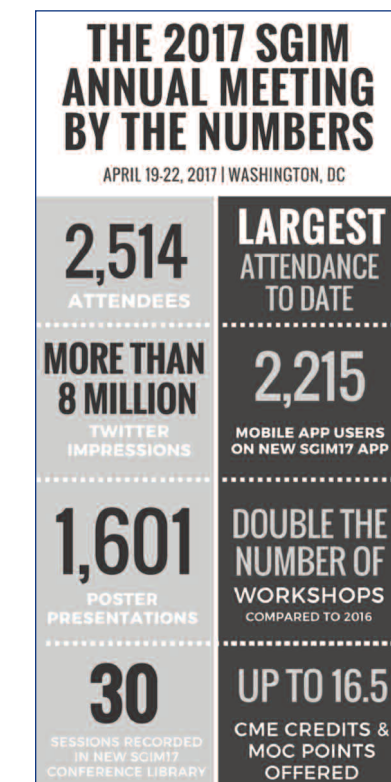
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As chair of the 2017 Annual Meeting devoted to “Resilience and Grit: Promoting Organizational Change and Preventing Burnout in GIM,” I am pleased to report on the innovations and successes of this meeting. Our theme was both inspired and timely. Suggested by Eileen Reynolds (2017 SGIM President) and adapted by the program committee, the theme inspired us all to think creatively and be innovative in our actions just as Council’s comments on the AHCA kept SGIM membership at the forefront of the current challenges facing physicians and patients in the United States).

In early 2016, when the Program Committee began to prepare for the 2017 annual meeting, we wanted to address some daunting challenges. As SGIM membership has grown over the last several years, acceptance rates had fallen. We wanted to increase meeting submission acceptance rates so that more members could present their work. After reviewing options and discussing educational evidence on learning and attention span, we redesigned the meeting to focus on 60-minute sessions, thereby giving more members a chance to share their work (see the “by the numbers” box). We had amazing engagement from many fronts on everything from how to best use limited meeting space (e.g., room plus table options to accommodate the burgeoning number of interest groups) to redesigning poster presentations with video tutorials on best practices by Steve Fihn and friends.

To increase the quality of presentations, Workshop Chairs Mukta



Panda and Waseem Khaliq developed a completely new peer review rubric. The Program Committee then worked to increase the quality of accepted content overall by developing a peer review rubric for each submission type. New rubrics were posted online alongside submission criteria for transparency.

As the planning year progressed, additional people were inspired by the spirit of innovation surrounding the meeting. SGIM staff members Shelly Woolsey, Julie Machulsky, Lisa Le, and Steve Scruggs designed a new annual meeting Web site look, launched a new meeting app and conference library, and enhanced social media presence. The

new SGIM17 Conference Library increased the value of the meeting to attendees by allowing post-meeting views of up to 30 sessions if they were unable to attend during the meeting. Recorded video sessions include the Plenaries, Distinguished Professor Keynotes, Special Symposia, and Clinical Updates (see Web site <https://connect.sгим.org/sgim17/program/library>). Our Special Symposia Chairs, Stewart Babbott and Elizabeth Eckstrom, designed a series of sessions and recruited speakers for topics such as preventing burnout, from developing personal skills to organizational approaches; resilience programming brought in “physiology of mindfulness” experts Aviad Haramati; while SGIM star Mark Linzer and others tackled the issues of institutional change at all levels. The Clinical Update Chairs, Gail Pokorney and Paul O’Rourke, designed a new SGIM-MED talk series to bring some spark to the already excellent Updates format. Mark Linzer and Colin West delivered an invigorating SGIM-MED talk on Resiliency and Wellness, while D.C. Dugdale, Karen Horowitz, and I presented a SGIM-Med talk on Diabetes. MOC credit was available for the first time at this meeting, an incredible value-add for meeting attendees, thanks to the efforts of MOC Chair Eric Green, the MOC Task Force, and Evaluation Chairs Bobby Baron and Somnath Mookherjee.

There were so many highlights during the meeting that it’s difficult to name just a few. The Opening Plenary session was full of fantastic

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presentations—from resident Maureen McCamley's presentation highlighting the importance of home visits to Eileen Reynolds' Presidential Address "Reflections on Resilience" that reminded us of the wisdom and persistence of our members, our history, and our mission, as SGIM forges new advocacy strategies to support our goals and our members. The untimely fire alarm did nothing to dampen the spirit of the session and we should congratulate ourselves, and the speakers on staying calm in the face of sirens and flashing lights!

Thursday, informally dubbed "Celebrating Our Humanities Day," included additional special sessions: a book club, a member-driven performance venue showcasing participants' artistic contributions and discussion on how engagement in the arts and humanities contributes to personal resilience, and an evening concert. This piano reception brought resilience and grit home via Dr. Rich Kogan's performance that intertwined Chopin's music with stories of his life.

Additional programming on Friday and Saturday included a plenary

presentation from Vivian Lee, who highlighted how one organization vastly improved its quality and outcomes by becoming more financially transparent and accountable through physician-led initiatives. Saturday morning began with a fascinating armchair discussion moderated by Steve Fihn, featuring Tom O'Toole and Erika Poethig, on the critical nexus between housing and health. Then, Madeline Sterling and Barbara Turner hosted a panel of past presidents of SGIM as they reflected on our history and mission. About 550 audience members participated in SGIM's 40th Anniversary Symposium which actively engaged senior and junior members to 'look back' and 'look forward' about SGIM's past and future in an evolving health care system.

I'd like to thank the program committee and the many submission reviewers. The astonishing Margaret Lo, who co-chaired the meeting two years running, contributed weeks of work—her wisdom and incredible organizational talents made the meeting a success. Everyone on the SGIM staff, from the indefatigable Sarajane

Garten, to the enthusiastic Lisa Le, and the fantastically loyal and talented Kay Ovington, demonstrated true resilience and grit!

Our three-pronged approach to the theme—personal, workplace-based, and systems-based—resulted in a broad array of sessions with excellent attendance. Personally, I felt invigorated by the shorter sessions—knowing I could stand up and walk every hour was refreshing, and I felt I could attend more variety of sessions.

As we look forward to next year's meeting in Denver, with a theme related to health information technology, I am reminded of why we are such a strong organization. I look to each and every one of us to carry *each and every one of us* forward as we face the considerable political challenges and many professional, practice and personal issues going forward. Please volunteer to review, mentor, advocate, and contribute to the 2018 meeting and to the mission of SGIM—remember being connected is a huge predictor of happiness and health. See you in Denver!

SGIM