Change is inevitable. This past year, we have experienced significant changes and transitions in our national and local elections and in our national priorities. These changes in leadership and society are also echoed in healthcare. Healthcare has seen many transformations over the last several years with the advent and struggle over the Affordable Care Act to a possible repeal and replacement with the American Health Care Act. SGIM has also changed predictably and incrementally with each new president and council member and more significantly with the upcoming introduction of a new physician CEO. The SGIM Forum will also be part of that change. Every three years there is a traditional passing of the torch, and this is one of those years. This is my first issue as the Forum’s editor in chief. Fortunately, unlike other administrative leadership changes we have witnessed, this one will be smooth and the new administration will celebrate the accomplishments of the outgoing chief. I am fortunate to have taken over the reins from Dr. Karen Horowitz, whose outstanding leadership over the last three years has made Forum a welcome and important channel to gauge the pulse of the Society. Thank you, Karen!

In order to be successful in academia one needs to be able to communicate effectively to stakeholders. The content published in Forum has never been more relevant to SGIM members. So much has happened in health care over the last several months. It is imperative that we are up to date as to how the footprint of these events affects academic GIM, our patients, our learners, and society. It is integral to our professional activities. Healthcare providers, particularly generalists, and their patients face uncertain times ahead. There is an urgent need for a coherent voice to communicate the values of SGIM. Forum can be the vehicle that members use to advocate around policy decisions and to channel concerns about the current state of health care in the United States. Forum has evolved into a powerful venue for SGIM to convey those values both internally to its members and externally to society. An effective and efficient tool in reporting SGIM events, Forum discusses member-generated questions and exchanges ideas on topics of mutual interest. Over the next several months, the editors of Forum plan on hearing from you, SGIM members, on how we can make Forum an even more important voice and reference for what’s happening in general internal medicine. Give us ideas on content and critique our efforts. I encourage you to e-mail me with ideas and comments on Forum content at editor.sgimforum2017@gmail.com. Letters to the Editor are welcome.

In the next few months, we will explore the increased use of internet-based methods, such as social media and communication, to further the dissemination and discussion on Forum content. We will also explore the feasibility of using enhanced mobile messaging to highlight Forum articles. Featured articles, particularly those dealing with health policy, may have links imbedded in relevant text to ease posting on social media sites as well as links inviting discussion with the author and other members following publication. New content ideas include regular articles on medical education research where SGIM members involved in medical education research and innovation can publish their ideas and invite discussion through the SGIM Web site and GIM Connect. We will also include narrative and literary pieces from our multi-talented members. Theme issues devoted to access and disparities and also interprofessional education and clinical care will highlight the work engaged in by many SGIM members. For example, this issue of Forum reflects the diverse interests and activities of SGIM members with articles on career choice, integrating behavioral health in primary care, and critical thinking.

Since beginning my primary care residency 30 years ago, my connection to SGIM and academic general internal medicine has never felt more important. The collective experience of the clinicians, educators, and researchers in the Society as well as the consistent commitment of the Society to patients will serve us well as we navigate these uncertain times. Forum will continue to evolve as an important voice for the Society’s membership. I hope you will join in on the chorus.