

FROM THE EDITOR

A YEAR OF WORDS

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"Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing."

—Benjamin Franklin

This month's *Forum* marks the second year of my tenure as Editor in Chief. I know it's a cliché but where did the time go? I cannot believe that a year has gone by since I took the reins from Dr. Karen Horowitz. With the help of *Forum's* outstanding group of associate editors, SGIM Communications Director Francine Jetton, the SGIM staff in Alexandria, Managing Editor Frank Darmstadt, and Graphic Designer Howard Petlack, I made it through my first year. From July 2017 through June 2018, SGIM members and other colleagues wrote nearly 100 articles for *Forum*. During the past year we heard from you through our reader survey—we changed the look of *Forum*, tweaked a few things, and kept the things you liked to make a great publication even better. As part of our 40th-anniversary year, we introduced "Flashback40" and revisited articles from the *Forum* archives with a fresh perspective.

As we embark on the coming year, there are a few acknowledgements and reflections I'd like to share:

1. SGIM members are gifted writers with a broad range of expertise and ability to write about diverse topics. The quote above by Benjamin Franklin is appropriate for SGIM members as they do both. Over the last year, they provided articles on the role of the environment on health, health policy, issues of equity, improving care and the practice of medicine, and medical education to name a few. Keep it coming and continue to engage in areas not typically covered in traditional journals.
2. Never underestimate the capacity of your associate editors. There have been many times *Forum* associate editors have come through with outstanding copy from a diverse group of colleagues or wrote the copy themselves. A big shout out to Avi O'Gasser, who took "Flashback40," the special feature for SGIM's anniversary year, and ran with it.
3. Always appreciate the work of your Managing Editor and graphic designer. Frank Darmstadt and Howard Petlack are the people behind the scenes that make it happen. Patiently waiting for copy and

then turning a diverse collection of articles into a well-crafted issue. Thank you!!

Looking back on this first year, I can say that it's been a little challenging and a little nerve wracking, especially when a deadline is approaching and articles are still coming but always enjoyable and rewarding. I've appreciated the feedback I've gotten via e-mails, and in person about what you liked and what you didn't. Moving forward, we are looking for more articles related to the diverse research programs pursued by the members of the Society. In addition, we hope to decrease the time to publication for select articles that we feel need to be released sooner for their time-sensitive subjects by exploring e-pubs ahead of publication. Look for some more theme issues. And, following the example from the 2018 National Meeting, look for a new feature, where we hear from the voice of the patient.

This month, we also welcome several new associate editors to the *Forum* Editorial Board: Drs. Jorge Rodriguez, Justin Roesch, Irene Alexandraki, Elisa Sottile, Ricardo Correa, Yousaf Ali, and Megan McNamara. Our new associate editors give us representation in medical education, hospital medicine, women's health, and the VA. Geographically, they come from Arizona, Florida, Massachusetts, New Mexico, New York, and Ohio. Be sure to reach out to them as well as the rest of the existing Editorial Board for questions about submitting article to *Forum* and any ideas to make the publication better. Their contact information can be found on the SGIM *Forum* Web site as well as on the masthead of the printed version.

This month's *Forum*, as always, features a breadth of work by SGIM members:

- **Economist Dr. Adam Block from New York Medical College School of Health Sciences and Practice breaks down the American Patients First Act, The Trump Administration's Strategy to Lower Drug Prices.**
- **Drs. Dianne Goede and Scott Joy provide the rationale for a national consolidated prescription drug-monitor-**

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- ing program to aid in combating the opioid epidemic.
- Dr. Quratulain Syed and her colleagues give recommendations for healthcare leadership to promote a culture of collegiality
- and healthy work environment, and to manage incidents of peer discrimination and harassment in the workplace.
- Dr. Steven Fox and colleagues provide a clinical example of how
- to provide care for the uninsured. Finally, some updates and acknowledgements from the Society round out the issue.

Happy reading!!

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