

## ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE: PART I

# ¡SI SE PUEDE!: YES, WE CAN!

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The 2019 SGIM Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, shattered prior attendance records with more than 2,700 registrants! As chairs of the 2019 SGIM Annual Meeting, we would like to thank the staff, program committee, and other volunteers, presenters, and attendees who all contributed to its unparalleled success. Most attendees (81%) rated the conference “above average” or higher and almost all (99%) would recommend the conference to others.

The theme of the 2019 Annual Meeting was “Courage to Lead: Equity, Engagement, and Advocacy in Turbulent Times.” To this end, we designed the 2019 SGIM Annual Meeting to be a venue to discuss how generalists can proactively lead collaborative efforts—within our clinics, health systems, classrooms, and communities—to advance health, well-being, and equity. We encouraged all SGIM members to collectively act to achieve equity using their strengths, passions, and expertise in research, medical education, high-quality clinical care, and health system design. Giselle Corbie-Smith reminded us that “if you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together,” and Camara Jones supported that when she said, “our power is in collective action.” In this short article, we review some of the meeting highlights in hopes of reinvigorating your commitment to improving equity.

We heard outstanding and engaging talks at each morning’s plenary sessions. In order to reinspire us, we list a few noteworthy quotes from these presentations:

- **Giselle Corbie-Smith:** “The master’s tools will never dismantle the master’s house.” (Audré Lord) “Find your tribe. Find your purpose. Find your tools.”
- **Alicia Fernandez** taught us that justice is the same in every language as we all chanted together “Si Se Puede.”
- **Yvetter Roubideaux** shared that it’s essential to know your work is important, even if others don’t and even if the challenge is large.
- **Carl Streed:** “By focusing on transgender health, we can be better doctors for everyone.”

- **Adina Kalet:** “Education is the most powerful weapon with which you can change the world.” (Nelson Mandela)
- **Patrick O’Connor:** “Success is based on outstanding mentorship.”
- **Camara Jones:** “Systems that perpetuate racism have mechanisms that are identifiable and addressable.”
- **Brittany Badesch** emphasized the importance of letting the community lead us in our efforts to end urban gun violence.
- **Sonia Angell:** “We can’t make healthy choices if we don’t have healthy choices,” and “what we don’t measure really does matter.”

The 2019 Annual Meeting had several successful program innovations:

1. **Patient & Community Engagement:** In addition to a pre-course focused on community engaged research, this was the second year we invited patients/community advocates to co-present their work with SGIM members in workshops and abstracts. This innovative engagement was well received by attendees.
2. **Advocacy 2019:** Annual meeting participants had an opportunity to schedule in-person visits with their Congressional representatives the day before the meeting.
3. **Poster Walk-and-Talks:** During each poster session, the top ten highest rated posters in a specific submission category were toured by a Commission or Interest Group. This stimulated much discussion and interaction, and the poster sessions were very well attended!

Together, we have a unique opportunity to promote health in our communities from a non-divisive vantage point through clinical care, research, education, and advocacy, especially during this tenuous political time. Thank you to the SGIM staff members who demonstrated

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ed their collective commitment to the organization by working together to create a truly outstanding meeting. In particular, we would like to thank Jillian Gann and Kay Ovington for their invaluable leadership and contributions. Also, we would like

to laud Giselle Corbie-Smith for setting us up for success by selecting an inspiring meeting theme and for being a graceful and exemplary leader. Finally, we would like to recognize the efforts of our outstanding Program Committee members

who truly worked collectively and contributed complementary skills to realize the shared vision of this meeting.

We look forward to seeing you at the 2020 SGIM Annual Meeting in Birmingham, Alabama!

**SGIM**