

ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

UPDATES ON THE 2019 MEETING—YES, WE CAN!

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The timely theme for the 2019 SGIM Annual Meeting is “Courage to Lead: Equity, Engagement, and Advocacy in Turbulent Times.” This year’s meeting will, as always, encompass the breadth of general internal medicine, including health services research, medical education, population health, and excellence in hospital-based and primary care. In addition, this meeting will highlight the contributions generalists can make to advance health equity, patient and community engagement, and high-value care.

We intend the 2019 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.

As such, to support this year’s meeting theme, we are excited to introduce the following new and innovative programs:

- 1. Patient & Community Engagement:** We are inviting patients/community members to attend and participate in the 2019 SGIM Annual Meeting by co-presenting workshops, abstracts, and innovations they have partnered on with SGIM members. Sessions that include patient/community partners will be highlighted in the program. If you are currently involved in community-engaged research or collaborating with patients on an educational or healthcare delivery system innovation, we encourage you to include your non-clinical partners on the submission!
- 2. Advocacy 2019:** Annual meeting participants will be able to schedule in-person visits to Congressional representatives on Wednesday, May 8, before the meeting starts. SGIM will provide talking points and printed materials to leave with your representative. SGIM will also help you contact your Congressional offices to set up a meeting. We will be hosting an Advocacy 101 Webinar for interested participants on

April 12 to help you prepare. No cost registration for the event is due April 2—you can add this when you register for the meeting itself.

- 3. Pre-courses:** This year, we will have two innovative pre-courses that embody the meeting theme: one will focus on caring for and advocating for asylum seekers and the other will focus on effective strategies to support community engagement. Join us on Wednesday afternoon to attend one of these timely sessions!
- 4. Special Symposia:** We will have 10 special symposia this year that cover a range of thought-provoking topics, including the contribution of mass incarceration on health disparities, how physicians can advocate for social justice, strategies to support a single-payer health system, and international approaches to addressing health equity. These symposia will feature the director of National Institute for Minority Health and Health Disparities, the former health minister of Mexico, the former president of Ecuador, the CEOs of Healthify and HealthBegins, and the Lancet Commission on Public Policy & Health. Register for the meeting now to engage with this all-star cast!
- 5. Provocative Plenaries:** During the Thursday plenary session, the President’s address will be delivered as a TED-style talk. Then, we will feature “lightning talks” by two of our SGIM members who excel in equity, engagement, and advocacy. Each will deliver a brief, dynamic, stimulating, speech that features their work to promote health equity through education, research, and/or policy. Get ready to be inspired!

We are also pleased to announce that the Malcolm Peterson Lecture will be delivered by Camara P. Jones, MD, MPH, PhD, former president of the American

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Public Health Association and senior fellow at the Satcher Leadership Institute, Morehouse School of Medicine. She is a family medicine physician whose work focuses on the impact of structural racism on the health and well-being of the nation. In addition, we are excited that Vivek H. Murthy, MD, MBA, 19th Surgeon General of the United States, will be joining us for the Saturday plenary session to deliver a short speech and engage with us all in an open discussion. He is a general internist and hospitalist who has focused on addressing the

opioid epidemic, fostering emotional well-being, and promoting walkability in communities across the United States during his tenure as surgeon general.

Finally, in order to engage our trainees and create more opportunities for networking and collaboration among all of our members, we will be coordinating poster “walk & talks.” During each poster session, the top 10 most highly rated posters in a specific category may be toured by a relevant Commission or Interest Group. We hope these poster walk & talk sessions result in establishing

new connections and engaging discussions among SGIM members of all stages of training and tenure.

As a large group of general medicine physicians, together, we have a unique opportunity to promote health across a myriad of communities through clinical care, research, education, and advocacy, from a non-divisive vantage point during this especially tenuous political time. Let’s use our time together in Washington, DC, between May 8-11, 2019, to energize, organize, and collaborate on ways to achieve this audacious goal.

SGIM