

FROM THE REGIONS

SGIM MID-ATLANTIC MEETING RECAP

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The day dawned cold, gray, and cloudy in Morristown, New Jersey, for the 2018 SGIM Mid-Atlantic Regional (MAR) Annual Meeting with the theme of “Clinical integration: Alignment across the Care Continuum.” Our location was the beautiful campus of the College of Saint Elizabeth, named for Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first American woman to be canonized as a saint in the Catholic church. The hosts were from Morristown Medical Center, a member of the Atlantic Health System, and the meeting chairs were Brenda Matti-Orozco and Gina Lacpra, aided by their colleagues, David Kuo and Rebecca Griffith. The venue was spectacular, a beautiful educational center in a rural setting replete with fall colors. As members drifted in and ate breakfast, the noise and energy in the lobby grew.

The program began with a welcome by the outgoing MAR president, Rosemarie (Ro) Conigliaro, followed by an update from SGIM’s CEO, Eric Bass. Eric reviewed for us SGIM’s new mission and vision statements, how we got here, and outlined a roadmap for where we (National SGIM) are going. In his review, Eric touched on the many programs and opportunities which involvement in SGIM provides for its members, and underscored SGIM’s importance on the national stage as an advocate for both its members and our patients in these turbulent times. This was followed by a thought-provoking talk by our keynote speaker, Dr. Ed Young, from the Mount Sinai Health System, who is boarded in both IM and Informatics. Congruent with our meeting theme, Ed’s talk was titled “Working Together with Data for Patient Care and Clinical Integration: Promise & Pitfalls.” He spoke about interoperability, and the potential as well as pitfalls of IT in this age of runaway data and Health Information Technology. Ed reminded us that use of patient data requires consent, that consent needs to be simple, consistent, and flexible, that data ultimately belongs to the patient, and that we all have a responsibility to make data both more useful and safe.

Our day continued with the first poster session of approximately 50 posters, held a short walk to the College library, which featured clinical vignettes, clinical

practice and medical education innovations, and scientific abstracts. The first workshop session featured a standing-room only session by Hofstra faculty on Individual Development Plans for goal setting and career development, as well as sessions on diabetes management from a psychosocial viewpoint, and cultural competency. Lunch included networking opportunities and mentoring tables, where senior SGIM members welcomed table visitors to discuss and answer questions about careers in clinical-education, clinical-research, clinical-administration, hospital medicine, primary care and GIM fellowships and other training opportunities.

The afternoon workshop session included a practical approach to prescribing the myriad new diabetic medications, featuring pearls from clinical pharmacy students, and a much-sought-out handout. The afternoon poster session now required a dash through the rain to reach coffee and the next set of 50 posters as well as poster tours, and more judging. The rain did not dampen the energy and enthusiasm of the group, as evidenced by many members engaged in intense conversations. After the last poster session, the final session of the day showcased the top rated abstracts as oral presentations of Clinical Vignettes, Educational Innovations, and Scientific Abstracts.

Attendance was outstanding, with a total of 186 participants, from all over the region except Puerto Rico. New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania were the most represented, with attendees from the other Mid-Atlantic states (Delaware, Maryland, DC) as well as from the Southern, Midwest and New England regions, and even one attendee from California! Our meeting boasted 43 student and 64 trainee attendees, so we were successful in our goal to involve associate members. Overheard conversations included ideas for future workshops, suggestions for publications of posters, and advice and input on career options. One member, for whom this was not their first meeting, told me “I met so many new people this year!”

Our meeting was a great success, thanks in no small part to the Leadership Council and the Committee

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chairs, including great coordination and scheduling by Mariecel Pilapil and Paul O'Rourke, who served in multiple capacities as well as all our poster judges, tour guides, session moderators and submission reviewers. In addition, we could not have pulled it off without the Herculean efforts of Allison Barrett, who stepped in as our staff assistant and even began training our new assistant assigned to our region, Tabina Lee-Noonan. Finally, Kay Ovington, SGIM's Deputy CEO, never let anything fall through the cracks, even emailing us at 10 pm with reminders and follow-up information.

Awards were announced at the end of the day, and included the following: Excellence in Clinical

Education, Frank Cacace from Hofstra/Northwell; Excellence in Clinical Investigation, Eva Tseng from Johns Hopkins; Advocacy and Community Service Award, Nisa Maruthur, also from Johns Hopkins; and Leadership in GIM Award, Jen Kraschnewski from Penn State. Also announced were our newly elected officers for the 2020 meeting: Jen Goldstein, President-elect; Patricia Ng, Secretary-elect; Manasa Ayyala, Membership-chair-elect, and Clark Veet, Associate Member-Elect. Ro passed the gavel to Tom Radomski, who will assume the position of president and lead the planning for the 2019 meeting, which Tom announced will be in Pittsburgh, PA. Having lived in Pittsburgh for many

years, and familiar with its reputation for being one of the nation's least sunny cities, I expect the weather to be about the same. However, I expect the 2019 MAR meeting to be even better than this year, since our goal is to continually improve the quality of our regional meeting, and to embody at the local level the values and mission that SGIM is to all of us as academic general internists.

By now the rain was torrential, as participants filed out to their cars to begin their journeys back to their hometowns. They left energized, engaged, and ready to take on the continuing challenges of providing excellent health care to our patients across the Mid-Atlantic Region.

SGIM