

FROM THE EDITOR

SCHMOOZING, MENTORING, AND THE “BUMP”

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If I did this right and I stuck to the deadlines put out by *Forum*'s managing editor, Frank Darmstadt, then the timing of this editorial should coincide with the start of the annual meeting in Washington, DC. I hope that you downloaded this latest issue of *Forum*, stuffed it in your carry on, read it cover to cover on the way to DC, and got into the zone for the meeting. I know I've said it numerous times in these pages, but will say it again: I love the SGIM Annual Meeting!! Where else can I spend 4 days with more than 2,000 of my best friends? I literally spend hours catching up with so many colleagues, talking about the work we do, our families, and the latest crazy twist that our careers in general internal medicine have taken us.

When I started to attend professional meetings as a fellow, my mentors stressed the importance of “networking.” *Merriam-Webster* defines *networking* as “the exchange of information or services among individuals, groups, or institutions *specifically*: the cultivation of productive relationships for employment or business.”¹ In New York, we always called that *schmoozing*. The practice has become so important that books have been written about it and Web sites dedicated to the art.² I'm not going to repeat many of the great practices nor provide any more tips, but, suffice it to say, the SGIM Annual Meeting is the single most important place for an academic general internist—e.g., an educator, researcher, administrator, or whatever—to learn, teach, and share the work that they do. It is where we go to hear many of the thought leaders in our profession as well as others outside who influence our work. For many of us over the years, it has also been a social event on a national scale where we caught up with old friends and colleagues, watched our children grow, and missed those who could no longer attend.

One great way to take advantage of the expertise at the meeting is to sign up for the one-on-one mentoring. I have been both a mentee and a mentor and still find time

to meet up with past mentors and mentees to continue the process of advising. These days, I seem to be benefiting more from the advice I get from my former mentees than they benefit from what I've been providing them. Full circle!!

The meeting also reminds us of the breadth of work that we do. Last month's *Forum* was dedicated to the meeting theme of equity, engagement, and advocacy, and you'll notice that the May issue has that same theme due to an overwhelming number of outstanding articles received in response. The subject is so important to our work that we will continue to publish several more articles on this theme in future issues. This issue also includes the first president's column from our new president, Dr. Karen DeSalvo, who now begins to lay the foundation of her year as president. No small task, following in the footsteps of Dr. Giselle Corbie-Smith!

Speaking of articles, another thing I love about the meeting is the famous annual meeting “bump” during which a *Forum* editor happily sees an increase in the number of articles submitted immediately following the meeting. Yes, I'm talking to you. If I or one of *Forum*'s associate editors do not come up to you at your poster, after an oral presentation, or workshop and say “We'd love to see something about that in an upcoming issue of *Forum*!,” then please approach us. We want to help you disseminate your work, ideas, and interests throughout the Society.

Contact us!!

References

1. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/networking>. Accessed April 1, 2019.
2. Miedaner T. Talane's Top 10 tips for mastering the art of networking. *LifeCoach* (Web). <http://www.lifecoach.com/articles/career/talanes-top-10-tips-mastering-art-networking>. Accessed April 1, 2019.