

SGIM

Society of General Internal Medicine

TO PROMOTE IMPROVED PATIENT CARE, RESEARCH, AND EDUCATION IN PRIMARY CARE AND GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE

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PRESS RELEASE

April 24, 2012
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

International Sessions on Emergency Medical Relief during the Haiti and Japan
Disasters – to be presented at the SGIM Annual Meeting
Promoting Generalist Values during Times of Change

Alexandria, VA--

The Society of General Internal Medicine's Annual Scientific Meeting will be held May 9-12, 2012 in Orlando, FL at the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort. This meeting will showcase work in improving patient safety, measuring quality, smoothing transitions across health care settings, and adapting to changes in medical education. The collaboration, networking, mentoring, and sharing of information and ideas will demonstrate the many ways general internists can promote values of patient-centered care, outstanding medical education and research during these times of change. Members of the media are welcome and encouraged to attend all aspects of the meeting.

The Great East Japan Earthquake and Generalist Physicians: What the Primary Care for All Teams (PCAT) Accomplished and Our Lessons Learned
IPA: Thursday, May 10, 1:00-2:30pm

Japan experienced an unprecedented earthquake disaster, tsunami and radiation leakage all in one disaster and the resulting breakdown of the health care system was devastating. The long process of recovering from mass evacuation is still an ongoing problem. Generalist physicians with limited experience in disaster medicine, when properly organized, have a lot to contribute including: opening clinics at the shelters, assessment of health care needs of victims, management of chronic diseases and prevention of disaster-associated illnesses. A contingent of Japanese physicians, led by Shunzo Koizumi, MD, FACS, Vice President, JPCA, will share their experiences as the Japan Primary Care Association (JPCA) and provide generalizable lessons on disaster preparedness from the perspective of generalist physicians. Strategies for international cooperation in large scale disaster will also be discussed.

Haiti: Care of Acute and Chronic Diseases after Disaster
IPB: Thursday, May 10, 3:00-4:30pm

This session will present the experience of a humanitarian physician in Haiti after the devastating 2010 earthquake. Dr. Olivier Hagon, a physician trained in emergency medicine and anesthesiology who is the current medical director of the Coordinator

Medical Unit Swiss Rescue, will describe the medical management of mass casualties and will illustrate the principles of first aid, improvisation, sorting (triage), and organized help. Dr. Hagon will discuss the logistic barriers to delivering care that were encountered in the aftermath of the earthquake. The challenges of acute and chronic disease care will be discussed specifically. The limits of what can be achieved by a physician in the context of a humanitarian catastrophe will be shared. Finally, a more general overview on Dr. Hagon's experience in several recent humanitarian catastrophes (e.g. Libya, Kenya) will be presented.

Who presenters are: Doctors and other health care professionals responsible for teaching general internal medicine to the next generation of physicians. Most combine teaching with taking care of patients in clinical practices and/or research about medical treatment. For more information on SGIM or for a schedule of the events, please visit www.sgim.org/go/am12.

SGIM is a member-based international association of over 3,200 of the world's leading academic general internists, who are dedicated to improving access to care for vulnerable populations, eliminating health care disparities and enhancing medical education. The members of the Society advance the practice of medicine through their commitment to providing comprehensive, coordinated, and cost-effective care to adults, educating the next generation of outstanding physicians, and conducting cutting-edge research to improve quality of care and clinical outcomes of all patients.