

The 28th Annual Society of General Internal Medicine Meeting

*May 11th through May 14th, 2005
New Orleans, Louisiana*

EVALUATIONS REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Respectfully submitted September 2005 by:

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Executive Summary

The 28th annual meeting of the Society of General Internal Medicine was convened in New Orleans from May 11th through May 14th, 2005 with a meeting theme of “Out of Chaos: The Critical Role of Generalism”. A total of 1,651 people attended the meeting and left with new skills, new partnerships and new understandings of how to bring order to where there is chaos in healthcare.

Attendees provide meeting feedback to SGIM through an evaluation survey. For the first time, evaluations of the annual meeting were submitted only through an online system housed on the SGIM website. The overall evaluation response rate for the 2005 Annual Meeting was 38%. Previous years’ evaluation response rates ranged from 28 to 52% and included surveys submitted both online and through paper evaluations. The overall rating of this year’s SGIM annual meeting – with a mean score of 7.82 on a scale of 1 (worst ever) to 10 (best ever) - was the second highest observed in the last seven years. Attendees were also pleased with meeting logistics, which received a mean score of 7.46 on the same scale as the overall rating.

Consistent with the meeting theme, the Program Committee sought to inform attendees about critical healthcare-related issues and the opportunities for generalist physicians to lead and positively influence change. Eighty-three percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that this goal was met. New this year was organization of sessions around sub-themes introduced at the daily plenary session – this approach was well-received by attendees, with 80% rating this innovation as above average to outstanding (ie, receiving a score of 4 or 5 on a scale of 1 to 5). The plenary sessions themselves remained a cornerstone of the SGIM meeting, drawing over 1800 attendees for the three sessions – in fact, 93% of attendees came to at least one of the three plenary sessions!

Among a total of 9 possible choices from which survey respondents could select to identify the most important reasons they attended the meeting, the following selections scored highest (on a scale of 1=“not at all important” to 4=“very important”): to Network (mean score = 3.40); to Hear about new research (mean score = 3.20); and to Meet with collaborators (mean score = 3.15). Notably, when respondents were asked to indicate whether or not their personal attendance goals were met, the highest success rates were also observed for the three selections above: to Hear about new research (97% indicated that goals were met); to Network (94%); and to Meet with collaborators (92%). Among the 9 selections provided, the *average* proportion of survey respondents who felt personal goals for attending the meeting were met was a substantial 85%, indicating a homogeneously high level of success across all goals.

The SGIM meeting provides a wide variety of opportunities for attendees to learn new information, meet new colleagues, visit with old friends, and share opinions and perspectives. This year’s meeting included 21 precourses, 72 workshops, 5 special symposia, 53 interest groups that drew over 1400 participants, and a number of abstract, vignette, innovation, and other sessions. As always, precourses and workshops were a prominent feature of this year’s annual SGIM meeting. Attendees gave an overall mean evaluation score of 4.46 to the 21 precourses (1 being “poor” and 5 being “outstanding”), which is a slight increase from 4.3 in

2004 and 2003. Congratulations to Dr. John Schorling, MD, MPH, for his session “Finding Calm In The Midst Of Chaos - The Role Of Mindfulness In Medicine”, which received the SGIM Annual Meeting Precourse Award given annually to the highest rated precourse. The overall average session rating for the 72 workshops was 4.28, just slightly higher than the rating of 4.2 observed in 2004 and 2003. In 2005, the David E. Rogers Junior Faculty Education Award made by SGIM to the three junior faculty whose workshops receive the highest overall mean ratings went to Dr. Megan Cunnane for the workshop entitled “Contraception And The Internist: A Hands-On Approach”, Dr. Anjali Dhurandhar for the workshop entitled “Words of Inspiration: Putting our Best Moments in Writing” and Dr. Catherine Kaminetzky, for the workshop entitled “‘PICO’: Pushing The Virtual Evidence Cart To The Bedside”.

The 28th Annual Society of General Internal Medicine meeting mirrored in many ways its host city—innovative, colorful and a success by many measures. Special thanks to the attendees for their vigorous participation, the Program Committee for an innovative approach, Sarajane Garten, SGIM Director of Education and May Wang, SGIM Director of Information Technology, as well as all the staff and volunteers of SGIM who labored extensively to bring success to this meeting. A newly constituted Program Committee is already working to make the 2006 SGIM Annual Meeting in Los Angeles a great success.