

Geriatrics Interest Group

Glenda Westmoreland, MD, MPH, and Gail Sullivan, MD, MPH

The Geriatrics Interest Group was begun in 1988 as the Task Force on Geriatric Medicine by then SGIM President Steven Wartman, MD, PhD. There were two purposes for creating the Task Force. The first was to enhance geriatrics activities at the Annual Meeting in the form of precourses, abstract sessions, and workshops. The second was to facilitate communication with other geriatrics groups, particularly the American Geriatrics Society (AGS). Rebecca Silliman, MD, PhD, chaired the Task Force until 1992, when Gail Sullivan, MD, MPH became the Chair. Beginning in 1998, Glenda Westmoreland, MD, MPH, joined Dr. Sullivan as Co-Chair. Since the Task Force had successfully completed the purposes for which it was created and because there was increasing membership and sustained interest in the Task Force, in 1999 it was renamed the Geriatrics Interest Group.

Membership in the Geriatrics Interest Group continues to increase. Currently, there are approximately 35 active members representing 15 states. Members are generalist and geriatrician faculty, including clinicians, educators, and researchers, as well as general internal medicine and geriatrics fellows.

The Interest Group meets twice annually. These meetings occur at the SGIM Annual Meeting and at the annual meeting of either AGS or the Gerontological Society of America. Additionally, the Interest Group corresponds by several conference calls per year and through electronic communications using a listserv.

Since its inception, the Interest Group has successfully presented several faculty development seminars in geriatrics. These seminars have included three precourses and four workshops at the SGIM Annual Meeting, three

symposia at the AGS Annual Meeting, and a variety of activities at regional and other meetings. The Interest Group also has collaborated with the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM) to present workshops at AGS and SGIM national meetings. The most recent precourse presented by the Interest Group was at the 1999 SGIM Annual Meeting and was entitled "Dementia, Delirium, Depression, What's New on the Horizon." This precourse featured presentations by Christopher Callahan, MD, David Gifford, MD, MPH, and Peter Pompei, MD. At the 2000 Annual Meeting, the Interest Group will present a precourse entitled "Geriatrics Office Assessment for Primary Care Physicians: A Practical Approach," that

will include presentations by other members of the Geriatrics Interest Group, Christine Richie, MD, and Steven Ryan, MD.

The Interest Group also has been at the forefront of publishing curricular guidelines in resident education in geriatrics. To that end in 1989–1990 the Interest Group surveyed SGIM members for their interests regarding geriatric issues. The survey confirmed the hypothesis of the Interest Group that much of resident education in geriatrics was delivered by generalists. The most common settings for resident education in geriatrics were acute care, home care, nursing homes, and clinics. Based on the results of the survey, a

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2000 ANNUAL MEETING: A PREVIEW

Striving for Excellence in Generalism: Precourses 2000

Cheryl A. Walters, MD, and W. Scott Richardson, MD

Do you want to give your professional skills a big boost? Do you ever feel that workshops are too short to intensively cover an area of interest to you? Do you want to learn about a whole new area of expertise from national leaders in the field? Would you like to collaborate on SGIM projects defining scholarship in education and primary care? If so, consider participating in this year's precourses on Thursday, May 4, 2000, in Boston.

The theme of the 2000 Annual Meeting is "Innovation in Generalism: Patient Care, Teaching, and Research," and we are privileged to preview precourses for you. Submissions were highly competitive and the 33 course offerings include invited courses and submissions ranked outstanding to

excellent on five criteria (importance to generalists, degree of participatory interaction of methods, clarity of goals and narrative, rigor of material in promoting understanding, and innovation in one of the theme areas). We wish to acknowledge the critical reviews by our Subcommittee members: Elizabeth Allen, MD (OSHU), Joshua Chodosh, MD (UCLA) Robert Goodman, MD (Columbia), Kenneth J. Mukamal, MD (Harvard), Walter A. Polashenski, MD (University of Rochester), and Anderson Spickard III, MD, MS (Vanderbilt).

In keeping with this year's meeting theme, course offerings promote excellence in the major professional roles of generalists: clinician, teacher,

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administrator, investigator. Some representative examples are highlighted.

Courses cover professional development across the career spectrum. The transitions from resident to fellow, and from fellow to junior faculty will be explored in “Minority Faculty Development” (sponsored by the Minority Faculty Interest Group) and “A General Internal Medicine Survival Course” (Steve Simon, et al.). Junior to mid-career faculty will benefit from participating in “Navigating Your Professional Course in a Changing World” (Sunita Mutha, et al.), “Change is Inevitable, Growth is Optional: Strategies for Successful Navigation of a Career in Internal Medicine” (sponsored by the Women’s Caucus), and “Academic Hospitalists: Career Options in a Changing Field” (Karen Hauer, et al.). Mid-career to senior faculty are invited to attend “General Internal Medicine Division Chiefs: Money and People” (Robert Centor, et al.).

A rich mix of courses focuses intensively on skills relevant to the practice of medicine. These include “What the Internist Should Know about Alternative/Complementary/Integrative Medical Therapies” (David Eisenberg, et al.), “Basic and Advanced Applications of Oral Contraceptive Use” (Tosha Wetterneck, et al.), “Spirituality and Medicine: From Research to Clinical Care” (Christina Puchalski, et al.), “Caring for the Woman of Child-bearing Age” (Jeffrey Pickard, et al.), “Preoperative Medical Consultation” (Steven Cohn, et al.), “Evidence-Based Patient-Centered Interviewing” (Robert Smith, et al.), “Facilitating Health Behavior Change in Primary Care: Introduction to Motivational Interviewing” (Richard Saitz, et al.), and “Evidence-Based Health Care” (Eduardo Ortiz, et al.). The care of special populations is addressed in “Practical Approaches to Geriatric Assessment” (Joshua Chodosh, et al.), “Optimizing HIV Management” (Frederick Hecht, et al.), and “The Quality of End-of-Life Care: Overcoming Barriers and Effect-

ing Change” (Mary Catherine Beach, et al.). Unique aspects of this year’s program include opportunities to attend two off-site courses with local faculty: “Under a Different Roof: Homelessness and Health Care in Boston” (Joshua Hauser, et al.), and “Women’s Health Clinical Skills” (Pam Charney, et al.).

Skills basic to excellence in scholarship are addressed in “Steering Your Paper to Press: Tips from the *JGIM* Editorial Team” (Eric Bass, et al.) and “Peer Review of Clinical, Teaching, and Research Practices” (sponsored by the Task Force on the Clinician Educator). Participants may contribute to important dialog and activities on defining standards for peer review and reporting of scholarly work by educators. Course proceedings will be incorporated in the position papers being written by working groups (with the support of a Zlinkoff Award to the Task Force project, “Broadening the Definition of Scholarship: Documenting and Recognizing the Scholarly Efforts of Clinician Educators”) on standards and methods for peer review of educational resources and for peer review of teaching skills. Members of the *SGIM UpToDate* Peer Review Cluster will provide hands-on training of participants to become *SGIM* reviewers of the primary care sections of a continually updated electronic medical textbook. Participants are also encouraged to attend a related interest group, “Exploring the Concept of the Master Teacher” (co-sponsored by the Task Force on the Clinician Educator and the Education Committee).

Members striving to become more effective educators are invited to attend a number of courses, such as “Curriculum Development for Medical Education: A Six-Step Approach” (Patricia Thomas, et al.), “Teaching and Evaluating with Standardized Patients—How Standardized Can They Be?” (Elizabeth Kachur), “Teaching Students and Residents to Care for Vulnerable Patients” (Margaret Wheeler, et al.), “A Curriculum in Ambulatory Teaching for

Residents” (Calvin Chou, et al.), “The Art of Bedside Teaching: Learning from Websites, CD-ROMs, and Tapes” (Linda Pinsky, et al.), “Teaching Physical Diagnosis” (Dale Berg, et al.), and “Studying What You Did While Changing What You Do: A Case-Based Approach to Education Research” (sponsored by the Education Committee). Emphasis on usefulness and innovation are captured in this quote from one of the leaders of the Education Committee’s course, Daniel R Wolpaw, MD: “We’re hoping to be where the rubber hits the road—only a little off to the side.”

Excellence in research methods is also taught in a broad range of courses including “Thinking About Change as an Outcome” (Pamela Williams-Russo), “Quality Improvement: Promoting Change” (Haya Rubin, et al.), and “Designing and Adapting Health-Related Surveys for Multicultural Research” (Leo Morales, et al.). In addition, in collaboration with the American Federation for Medical Research, we are able to offer outstanding research training in the course “Approaches for Improved Risk Adjustment in Observational Studies” (Michael Schwartz, et al.) and a plenary talk and sequential workshops led by Joseph Lau, a pioneer in meta-analysis and project director of the AHRQ Evidence-Based Practitioner Training Program within the course “Peer Review of Clinical, Teaching, and Research Practices.”

We encourage you to visit the *SGIM* Website. Preregistration for precourses is open through March 29, 2000. We look forward to seeing you in Boston at the Annual Meeting. ***SGIM***

Cheryl A. Walters, MD, is Chair and W. Scott Richardson, MD, is Co-Chair of the Precourse Subcommittee of the SGIM 2000 Program Committee.