SGIM Forum Call for Submissions:
Theme Issue on Physician and Patient Mental Health & Well-being - September 2021
Submission deadline: July 15, 2021

SGIM Forum will publish a theme issue on mental health and well-being for its September 2021 issue. This theme issue on Physician and Patient Mental Health and Well-being focuses on the mental health of patients and clinicians, especially for general internists and trainees.

Mental health and well-being, including mental health disparities and access to behavioral health services, have been long-standing and influential drivers of our patients’ overall health. Often overlooked, clinician mental health and well-being have recently become a targeted focus for improvement. The COVID-19 pandemic has been an especially powerful driver for the medical community to re-evaluate the state of clinicians’ and patients’ mental health and well-being.

Patients face difficulties accessing affordable and equitable behavioral health services for mental health disorders and substance use disorders. Health and public policies and the incentivization of interprofessional health care teams, including behavioral health integration, can help improve mental health care services. Undergraduate, graduate, and continuing medical education can confer greater competency and comfort among healthcare professionals to serve patients in need of such services. Additionally, societal services and benefits can also play a role in improving the community environments in which our patients live and work.

Physicians face acute and chronic stress, mental health disorders, and/or substance use disorders, and experience additional signs and symptoms of poor or declining well-being. Focusing on improving individual self-care and bolstering resilience are no longer acceptable as isolated solutions to systemic problems. Work and learning environments for physicians and learners can offer significant support through the creation of physically and psychologically safe environments, attentive to the impacts of various forms of workplace violence, the hidden curriculum, and more.

What can medical education, advocacy, research, and innovation offer our communities and systems of care towards optimal health for all?

Please consider the following for submissions to this theme issue:
- Article submissions of all types are welcome, covering a wide range of important issues, including but not limited to:
  - Innovative approaches to mental health service provision, including but not limited to equitable and inclusive service provision for patients and clinicians
  - Policies to promote clinician and patient mental health
  - Community-based or social programs to promote patient mental health
  - Behavioral health integration in primary care
  - Patient engagement in mental health care
  - Health profession education or interprofessional education related to mental health service provision
  - Mental health and well-being programs for students, residents, and faculty
  - Clinician mental health in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic
  - Consequences of poor clinician or patient mental health on the patient-clinician relationship
  - Community collaborations and advocacy for mental health
• Artwork or photography submissions will also be considered (they must be 300 DPI or higher).
• Medical students, residents, and fellows are also encouraged to submit.
• Please refer to the author instructions for more detailed article requirements and a suggested article template.

Submit your articles or artwork to Editor.SocietyGIMForum@gmail.com by July 15, 2021 for consideration for this theme issue.

*Forum* is a place for members to share their diverse perspectives and experiences, advocacy, research, and clinical work, for this theme issue and continuously into the future. Submissions not published in the theme issue will be considered for publication in future issues of *Forum.*