

## **The Society of General Internal Medicine Specialists of British Columbia**

The role of the Society of General Internal Medicine of BC (SGIMBC) is to cultivate a community to advocate and represent the interests of General Internists of BC, as well as educate the public on the role of General Internists across the province.

### **Executive Committee**

The Society's AGM was held this year via Zoom on December 4th, 2021. One committee member stepped down at the end of her term. All other members will be continuing their roles in 2022. An AGM motion was carried to provide the Executive Committee members with an appropriate stipend for their regular responsibilities, as well as additional project-specific remuneration for members. The SGIMBC By-Laws were updated and now pending legal review before being brought to the membership for final approval in 2022.

### **Membership/Community**

The SGIMBC continues to endeavour to recognize general internists across the province who are taking leadership roles in their community, health authority or in the province. Awards were presented this year to two outstanding society members who are positively impacting their community and the practice of GIM. In addition, a member survey was circulated to gather high-level information from SGIMBC members across the province. The data collected will be used to further develop the goals and objectives for the society, to ensure its best serving its members and the GIM community. The SGIMBC Website continues to provide a supportive community with a discussion forum, billing guidelines, informative newsletters and other support for the SGIMBC membership.

### **CME Sessions**

This year SGIMBC provided three valuable CME sessions to members. Topics focused on Practice-related Human Resources, GIM Billing and Complex Chronic Diseases: Chronic Fatigue.

### **Fair Remuneration**

The SGIMBC strives to further establish General Internal Medicine as a distinct specialty and ensure that GIM doctors are being appropriately compensated for their work. The SGIMBC Executive worked tirelessly providing representation, information and clarification to MSP and the Tariff Committee to ensure fair remuneration for General Internists in BC. In the fall of 2021 this resulted in two significant retro-payments provided as part of the Specialty Disparity Fund Adjudication to compensate for relative underfunding compared with other specialists in BC.

### **Goals for the Future**

Over the last tumultuous year the SGIMBC has focused on supporting the identity and success of all general internists. Looking forward, the SGIMBC is working to clarify and develop long-term strategies and goals for the society. Continuing the efforts of 2021, the society will further push towards reducing financial disparities.