



DIVISION OF GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE

January 2024:

Summary of 2023 GIM  
Accomplishments



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Innovator Attachments](#)

# GIM INNOVATOR



**FROM THE DESK OF DR. EGEDE:** In 1967, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote the book *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?* It was his fourth and final book published before he was assassinated in 1968. In it he reflects on the Civil Rights movement and says, “We must walk on in the days ahead with an audacious faith in the future.”



In a start to a new year like 2024, audacious faith in the future is no simple matter. However, it is this willingness to believe in great things ahead that can keep you motivated to continue through the looming challenges before us. The unknown can get the better of us at times and cause anxiety at all that may or may not come to pass. In those moments, I like to remind myself that I felt the same way last year at this time and then look at all that was accomplished despite that feeling at the start of the prior year. So, as we look forward to 2024, I would like to take a moment and celebrate all that was accomplished in 2023.

**Section of Perioperative Medicine.** The Section of Perioperative Medicine continues to increase the the number of annual preop clinic visits while maintaining less than 1% same day cancellations,

a lower 30-day readmission rate compared to surgeries with no preop visit, and low mortality index for co-managed patients. In addition to their clinical distinction, the Perioperative Medicine team expanded the preoperative optimization program to 5 surgical services – Ortho, OB/GYN, Bariatrics, MIGS, and Colorectal. More than 100 patients have completed the program with another 100 active in the program. The Section also implemented an inpatient surge plan to meet the continually rising demand for co-management, integrated risk assessment tools into Epic, and successfully included several new inpatient and preop clinic team members over the course of the year. The Section continues their dedication to teaching excellence, scholarship, and leadership. A few highlights include incorporation into the MCWfusion learning communities, clerkships for M3 and M4 students, rotations for Orthopaedic surgery interns, and an APP student preceptorship. Finally, they continue their scholarly achievements including poster presentations, workshops/oral presentations, authorship of articles/chapter/modules, editorships, and national/regional leadership.

**Section of Hospital Medicine.** The Section of Hospital Medicine continues to admit about one third of all patients at Froedtert, with an average of 23 Medical teams plus the Procedure Service. Census is variable and surges do occur, but the team continues to grow with 19 new hospitalists this year (13 MDs and 6 APPs).

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Continued from the Desk of Dr. Egede:

New program development included a complexity intervention unit (Med Psych) which opened in February 2023, a rapid response model update, transplant team changes, re-initiation of the geographic re-localization project, staffing model changes to allow flex teams, and roll out of a patient satisfaction pilot. Quality continues to be high in terms of observed to expected length of stay and mortality rates, as well as 12-month rolling average for readmission rates. Hospitalists continue to serve in leadership roles within the SHM and ACP and continue their teaching excellence through a number of leadership positions and teaching more than 35 learners at the bedside daily. Finally, specific to the Procedure Service, a total of 1,959 procedures were completed during the academic year and services were expanded to include outpatient lumbar punctures for the oncology team.

**Section of Primary Care:** The Section of Primary Care continued an increase in total visits (up 8.8%) and video visits (up 15%) and record high RVUs last quarter. In culmination of several years of planning a Med-Psych service was initiated in the GIM Clinic focusing on patients with significant psychiatric and medical illness. Med-Psych also has a continuity resident clinic with three residents reviewing cases for placement into the clinic. Primary Care continues to provide exceptional teaching service, including clinical apprentice courses for M1 and M2 students, resident clinics, and service as Medical Directors and Program Directors for a number of programs. The Executive Health Program started seeing patients in their new space, increasing efficiency and referrals due to improvements in the program. The Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia (HHT) program was part of a large multi-site trial that closed in the summer of 2023 with preliminary results presented at the American Society of Hematology annual meeting. Finally, the Complex Care Program focused on improving care and reducing utilization for 368 patients with medical and social complexity through a 4-session intervention that includes home and telephone visits by community health workers.

**Section of Veterans Affairs:** A number of new roles and responsibilities occurred within the VA Section, with Dr. Sanghani taking over as Section Chief, Dr. Ganshert taking on the Associate Program Director for Internal Medicine, Dr. Farkas as the VA Women's Health Medical Director and Women's Health Mini-Residency Co-Director, Dr. Whittle leading the Cooperative Studies Program, and Dr. Gavinski as the Women's Health Elective Director. VA Section faculty also continue to offer national presentations, lead workshops at national conferences, conduct funded research, and publish high impact scientific articles and editorials.

**Section of Research:** The Section of Research continued efforts to facilitate collaboration through monthly section meetings highlighting clinical integration, teaching, and funding opportunities, supporting the Department's expansion of industry trial participation through presentations and resource development, and diversity and grow GIM's research portfolio through the new faculty hires and VA research integration and expansion. Grant submission and funding continued to be high with three new NIH R01s, a new NIH R21, a new NIH U54, and a new Department of Defense grant all funded in 2023. Finally, the health systems research support team provided statistical support for 108 GIM research projects in addition to supporting GIM operations and QI efforts.

**Section of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement:** The Section of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Community Engagement organized a number of events over the course of the year. Most recently, the Winter Potluck and CAPS Community Information Session and Health Fair were two events highlighted. Over 50 community members attended the Community Information Session and Health Fair, which included education stations, health screening, music, live local talent, and lunch. 15 student volunteers and 3 clinical faculty assisted with health screening activities, including representation from the Primary Care, Hospitalist, and Research Sections.

**Section of Faculty Development and Education:** The Section of Faculty Development and Education continued mentoring and CME programs including the Mentor/Mentee pairs (31 mentor-mentee pairs), GIM Affinity Groups (8 Affinity Groups), GIM Seminar Series (average attendance of 14-16 attendees at 25 seminars), and GIM Learning Academy (average attendance of 12-15 attendees at 10 sessions). The Section also helps to host a Primary Care Journal Club and an Update in Hospital Medicine Journal club series. Educational programs covered DEI and community engagement, opioid training, medical education, wellness, QI/ Safety, Research, and Clinical/Medical updates. Over the year, GIM faculty and APPs participated in multiple local, regional, and national conferences, 2 faculty received ACP Wisconsin Chapter Awards (Drs. Lyons and MacKinney), and 9 faculty were inducted as new ACP fellows. In addition, 7 faculty were promoted to Associate Professor and 1 faculty was promoted to Full Professor.

As you can see, we had an extremely successful 2023. Attached are slides with more details from each Section. Please attend our upcoming GIM Business Meeting for additional updates and summaries of the year behind us, and plans for the year ahead!



Please see attached for highlights from 2023. Regular attachments will resume in February