

I am incredibly grateful to the Iris Cantor-UCLA Women's Health Center for supporting my trip to the Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM) Annual Meeting in Hollywood, Florida with the Jan R. Cloyde Legacy Award. The experiences I had at SGIM were transformative for my research and my career. My ongoing and future work has already advanced, thanks to the feedback I received on my presented work, and the exposure I had to others' research. My commitment to a career in academic research has also been strengthened, due to the valuable networking opportunities and the exposure I had to the ways in which academic research impacts society at large.

I presented research that was conducted in collaboration with faculty at the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine and with the UCLA Health Department of Medicine. My presentation was nominated for the prestigious Mack Lipkin Senior Associate Member Award. As a result, there was a large and engaged audience for the presentation. The thoughtful questions posed by audience members has already advanced the research by identifying new statistical analyses that would be useful to contextualize the results of the research. The positive reception that this work received, along with the interest expressed by attendees into the intersection of behavioral science and medical research, will be pivotal as I explore new collaborations and pursue related projects.

My experiences at SGIM will advance my other research projects as well. I learned about groundbreaking research on several topics that I am actively investigating. For example, the findings of a qualitative investigation about the reasons behind patient no-shows is closely connected to my research on how experiencing a no-show affects service providers. Other influential research on how food subsidies can improve recipient health outcomes is related to my other ongoing work on addressing food insecurity. These projects are going to be central citations and inspirations for my ongoing and future work.

My career will undoubtedly be positively impacted by the new connections I made at SGIM. My mentor, Professor Richard Leuchter, was incredibly attentive and effective at forging meaningful connections for me with faculty at the David Geffen School of Medicine, and to clinicians in the UCLA Health system. I am preparing to apply for academic faculty jobs, so these are invaluable introductions. I also connected with scholars outside of the UCLA network, which is critical given my intention to apply for jobs across the country.

Finally, my experiences at SGIM have shaped how I think about a career in academic research. Despite the current events that instill a sense of uncertainty and signal a paucity in opportunities to pursue an academic research career, the senior faculty at SGIM underscored their support for junior scholars to continue with academic work. This notion was deeply inspiring and encouraging. SGIM presentations also showcased the influence that academic researchers can have in policy. For instance, I learned how anecdotal stories can combine with quantitative research findings to be effective advocacy tools as academics as they discuss policy changes in state and national contexts. These presentations highlighted how bleak circumstances are critical opportunities to make a difference, and offered actionable steps to do so.

Collectively, my experiences at SGIM have already advanced my research progress and strengthened my commitment to pursuing a career in academic research. I am deeply grateful to the Iris Cantor-UCLA Women's Health Center for supporting this transformative travel experience to SGIM through the Jan R. Cloyde Legacy Award.