

Frank Zhou

Experience at SGIM Conference

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Attending the SGIM annual meeting was an incredibly meaningful and motivating experience that affirmed my commitment to pursuing a career at the intersection of clinical care, research, and health equity. I was honored to present our study, *"Disparities in lecanemab uptake among U.S. Medicare beneficiaries,"* as an oral presentation and to be named a finalist for the Lipkin Scientific Presentation Award. Sharing our findings on gender disparities in the uptake of a novel Alzheimer's therapy sparked important conversations about equity in access to high-cost, high-impact treatments, especially during the question section at the end of my presentation. These are discussions that I believe will help move this work forward.

Presenting at SGIM not only gave me the opportunity to highlight our research, but also allowed me to receive thoughtful and challenging feedback from leaders in general internal medicine. I was especially encouraged by the engagement from attendees who shared their own experiences with gender inequity in clinical care and research, and I came away with concrete suggestions for refining our analyses and framing our findings for broader impact.

What made the SGIM meeting particularly valuable was the chance to build community with others working toward more equitable healthcare systems. I reconnected with mentors who have shaped my path thus far, including Catherine Sarkisian, John Mafi, Utibe Essien, Bruce Landon and many more. In addition I was introduced to new potential mentors at Mount Sinai, including Alex Fetterman and Jenny Lin. As I prepare to begin my internal medicine residency in New York City, I am excited to explore these connections in a new academic environment.

More than anything, SGIM reinforced my sense of purpose. Being in a space where equity, advocacy, and rigorous science are held as core values reminded me why I chose this path. The experience has sharpened my research goals and strengthened my resolve to continue working toward a healthcare system that delivers high-quality, equitable care to all – especially to women and other historically marginalized groups.