What Members Think About SEMCME

“SEMCME is a unique resource for educational and networking opportunities. I have found nothing else similar to it within the Ob/Gyn educational network across the country. Often, when networking at national meetings, other medical educators are very interested and envious we have this valuable resource available to us. SEMCME provides a means of networking and collaborating with my peers in other organizations, as well as pooling resources to address common program deficiencies or challenges. Over the years, SEMCME has remained responsive and supportive to the graduate medical education community through a variety of well-chosen, and superbly executed faculty development seminars. Through the annual Faculty Development series, I have gained a significantly better understanding of Milestones and how to incorporate them into our resident evaluation framework; assistance with addressing the ACGME requirements on training in social determinants of health; improving my knowledge and ability to initiate quality improvement projects within my residency program; as well as improving my ability to support struggling learners within my program. Having these sessions organized by SEMCME broadens the scope and brings together colleagues from different hospital systems to share best practices, common difficulties and brain storm teaching strategies.

The Ob/Gyn Committee organizes the SEMCME Post-Graduate Course every year. This Course mixes traditional lecture with hands-on simulation to address areas that individual member programs have difficulty providing within their institution. The residents that attend these sessions find them highly valuable experiences, year after year. The planning committee is committed to keeping these clinically relevant and financially effective. SEMCME has been wholly supportive in allowing the committee to explore new educational and teaching methods.

Another key area of involvement for SEMCME is coordinating and hosting the Mock Oral Exams. Like General Surgery, Ob/Gyn still requires passing of an oral board exam for residents to achieve board certification. This is a stressful, high-stakes exam. Residents are able to participate in these oral exams starting in their second PGY level, culminating in a true Board Mock Oral experience at the end of their senior year of training. The programs in the area are so supportive of this endeavor, both in sending their residents to participate, as well as their faculty to be examiners. We all recognize the educational benefit of having the residents go through this process and gaining a level of experience and comfort in having to defend their management decisions, in a clear and concise manner. I did my residency in a local, participating hospital system and sat for these oral exams as a resident. Though it is a very stressful event, the process was critical to preparing for and passing my oral board exam. Continuing this program through SEMCME is without question a critically important function of our committee, and one we are all committed to preserving.

In today’s medical marketplace, each residency program must navigate through the limitations of educational dollars, the increased clinical demands, decreased teaching time, and the limitation of training due to duty hour restrictions. SEMCME is a valuable asset, another tool that programs in the southeast Michigan area have to address these challenges. I feel very fortunate to be involved in such a professional, collaborative organization.”

Patricia M. Franz, MD
Program Director and Assistant Professor
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Beaumont Health System
Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine
“Thanks to SEMCME, I have participated and benefited from in several excellent faculty development programs right here in SE Michigan. SEMCME also offers its members innovative educational programs and networking resources to respond to the fast-changing medical education landscape. Created to support evolving ACGME requirements, the MI Summit on Quality Improvement and Patient Safety is an excellent example of one such initiative. This novel, statewide, multi-disciplinary program allows graduate medical education (GME) trainees to highlight their QI efforts and collaborate with peers working on similar projects. It was invigorating to witness over 100 QI posters from residents and fellows across the state. Furthermore, the SEMCME Basic and Advanced Quality Improvement bootcamps provide fantastic opportunities for clinicians at all levels to develop and hone skills critical to lead QI efforts at their institutions.

By bringing together diverse stakeholders including Michigan Hospital Association and Blue Cross Blue Shield Michigan, SEMCME is paving the way in aligning GME quality and safety initiatives with strategic priorities of our clinical learning environments.”

Lakshmi Swaminathan, MD, MHSA, FHM  
Director Patient Safety & Quality, Medical Education  
Associate Director, Internal Medicine Residency  
Beaumont Health

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“I have been attending SEMCME Internal Medicine meetings for well over a dozen years. As a young faculty I was able to meet, interact and seek advice from senior leaders. As my participation continued, I developed relationships with faculty across southeast Michigan. We developed a network to discuss issues and share solutions to common residency problems. In addition to the informal discussion, the Internal Medicine committee provides structured programs that enhance our residents’ training. By combining resources and expertise, the Internal Medicine committee provides training opportunities an individual program could not achieve. As a senior member of the Internal Medicine committee, I continue to hone my education skills. SEMCME provides a plethora of mentors for educators at any stage of their career. During my long association with SEMCME I have become the senior mentor whose advice I sought many years ago.”

Benjamin Diaczok, MD, FACP  
Faculty and Director of Ambulatory Clinic  
Department of Internal Medicine  
St. Joseph Mercy Oakland, Pontiac, MI