Support from external sources is crucial for any successful research enterprise, but GIM takes it a step further by offering a program that funds faculty-driven projects ranging from testing innovative ideas in our clinics, to initiating new educational strategies, and getting pilot projects up and running for researchers on their way to larger projects and funding sources. In 2017, GIM sponsored four grants for a total of $50,000.

Education and training are key ingredients of an academic medical center. Our Internal Medicine faculty produce a diverse education portfolio precepting both the foundations of Doctoring course and Ambulatory Clerkship, as well as attend for Primary Care and categorical Internal Medicine residents. Providing exceptional clinical experiences and mentorship during these formative years is paramount to building the future of capable physicians. And the payback is twofold.

This past year saw unprecedented change in how we deliver primary care. The Top Ten initiatives, in progress since 2015, was completed this year. The pinnacle achievement added social workers and care managers to our teams. All of our primary care clinics enrolled in one or several transformation initiatives that will keep the focus and momentum for quality, efficiency, and integrated care in the forefront for academic year 2018.

Palliative Care continued to show commitment to quality improvement during 2017, with several projects achieving meaningful results: pain assessment and documentation within 24 hours increased from 55% to 93%, Healthcare Decisions Maker documentation increased by 17%, and Medical Power of Attorney documentation for patients living with cancer increased by 14%. This work culminates to improve the quality of life for patients living with serious illness.

Excelling patient care is at the core of each of our missions. Whether faculty are making new discoveries, inspiring new learners, or wrapping-up their eighth clinic for the week, each is motivated by providing the best care available for their patients. This past year, GIM practices provided more face-to-face care than ever before, expanding the reach of their important work and impacting thousands of lives.

Integrative Medicine expanded their reach by adding two new providers. Additional provider availability added access for patients and allowed the program to reinvigorate the pre-clinical medical student elective. During this rotation students experience an interprofessional care team who provides counseling to patients on non-medication, non-surgical options for specific illnesses and promotes general wellness, including: exercise, nutrition, sleep, stress management and complementary / alternative medicine therapies.

In 2018, our Division, sections, clinics, and workgroups will face old and new challenges alike. Even with all the action going on around us, our biggest challenge will be staying focused on our internal goals. Maintaining focus on these priorities will position us to take on any short-term challenge, plan for exciting long-term ventures, and be our best selves every day.

Congratulations on a successful 2017 – now let’s make 2018 even better. Follow our Progress...