



Summary of Senior Scholar Interviews, 2025

Questions Asked

- What was valuable to you as a Scholar?
- What could have been improved? How?
- What could have improved your interactions with the group?
- Future: how do you want this year to go?
- What are the Potential benefits/drawbacks of creating social opportunities for past/future participants to enhance networking?
- How would you envision the future of the Scholars program?
- What do you think about working with emerging leaders; i.e., the potential for Scholars to work with emerging leaders?
- Anything to add?

What was valuable to you as a Scholar?

- Appreciate being able to do this; fortunate to work with other Scholars
- Wonderful experience, fascinating and impressive people; learned from everyone
- Networking and interacting with the group; wealth of knowledge
- Various levels of knowledge and experience; felt I was one of their contemporaries
- Health Equity program in Arlington was exceptional
- The work is exciting and vital; great to be part of it and contribute in some way.
- The biggest thing was greater insight into the role SFG had in significant policy issues (e.g., health equity, broad lens on issues of OH promotion and equity)
- Development of strategic approaches to have impact on the issues
- The opportunity to be in the room where it happens
- Diversity and background responses; first meetings, in awe of expertise in the room

What could have been improved? How?

- Best possible experience due to relationships with other scholars and fellow
- Two-way street; appreciate that org took a chance on me; mentors in the organization
- Need a stronger mentorship plan
- The biggest challenge was covid, not in-person mtgs; in person is better
- Opportunities to interact with members and for engagement are limited.
- Would appreciate working with members on projects
- When we first started, had to feel our way
- Wondered if we really formalized project; how do we pivot to stay engaged?

What could have improved your interactions with the group?

- Need cohorts every couple of years with overlap between groups
- Need appropriate people to mentor across expertise categories
- Need an orientation to improve the interactions
- During onboarding, discuss what Scholars can and cannot do
- Roles and boundaries could be better defined.
- Some Scholars proceeded with caution, maybe too much caution
- Have clearer directions on what we were expected to achieve
- Need more interaction with members
- Good to have one or more scholars on each project
- Unclear what to do with Emerging Leaders

Future: how do you want this year to go?

- Help membership and mission of SFG
 - Facilitate medical dental integration by developing background rules
 - Look at regulatory agencies for expanding med-dent integration
 - Create health plan regs e.g., anesthesia in med-dent integration
 - e.g. Mini-residency in FL.
- Take a priority population- focus on a data - to increase awareness;
 - Chronic conditions and healthy behaviors are two areas where we as a group could be strategic.
 - Fact sheets re government agencies; explicate for the public how the different agencies affect health

Future: how do you want this year to go?

Webinars on future directions

- Integrate and contribute more information on populations- e.g.,
- Persons with disabilities;
- Veterans and rural;
- CHC;
- Physical and mental health and relationship;
- Developing the right partnerships;
- Being at the table.

Areas of interest

- Disability as a health equity and medical-dental integration issue;
- Coding and integration.
- Take our portfolio and say: Here's what we are working on, are you interested in working on something?
- Health Equity- convene an action-oriented program focused on the new admin?
- How to push the health equity focus under the new leadership or understanding the impact of new admin on the health care environment?

Benefits/drawbacks of creating social opportunities for participants to enhance networking?

- Coming out of covid, the opportunities for Scholars to get together is critical for the experience,
- Commit to F2F annually
- Regarding mentoring someone more junior; support activities
- That is a good opportunity, to increase the network; very important
- Benefit is that there is power in numbers, to broaden engagement of others in what we are doing
- E.g., signing on a letter with other organizations
- Create opportunities to broaden support for our main issues with potential partners and opposition

How would you envision the future of the Scholars program?

- Teach individuals about SFG, work with them on projects
- What are the projects we could help push forwards? E.g., providing accurate information on social media
- Scholars program is a wonderful opportunity, could use parameters drawn up on what the engagement rules would be
- Give scholars an opportunity to be more involved in projects
- Back to summit- before being invited, did not know much about SFG
- Mentored by member of Santa Fe Group; a source of new members
- How do we broaden the exposure and impact of the group?
- Intentionality in of use of SFG label

What do you think about potential for Scholars to work with Emerging Leaders?

- People 5-10 years out don't yet have the vision
- After 5-10 y → emerging leaders
- Scholars could serve as mentors and are interested in working with them
- Need experience base to make use of Scholars program
- Good to have Junior Scholars (year or two-emerging leaders) to improve connectivity to their ideas and concerns
- Get ideas on what is and is not important than them

Anything to add?

- Provide dates further in advance
- Maintain a calendar online (e.g., google calendar)
- Would like to be considered for membership
- Members could be more proactive
- Scholars don't know what the boundaries are
- Highlight was the Summit, and the opportunity to be actively engaged in that, including the training, planning, and developing the outcomes