The Maintenance-of-Certification half-day SEP-Based Learning Sessions were inspired by changes that the American Board of Internal Medicine has made to its Self-Evaluation Process, reducing the number of questions on its modules from 60 to 25. On Wednesday, May 14, attendees can participate in live self-study sessions on the 2007 Update modules in Hospital-Based Internal Medicine or Office-Based Internal Medicine or make a whole day of it by attending both sessions (for which a package rate is available).

If you’re looking for some lighter fare, Internal Medicine 2008 will feature several new courses that should be very entertaining as well as educational, according to Douglas S. Pauw, FACP, chair of this year’s scientific session.

A course called “All I Know of Medicine I Learned at the Movies” on Thursday will highlight diseases that have been featured in major movies. “That was a new one that we’d never seen and we thought that sounded really, really fun,” said Dr. Pauw.

Another new course will help attendees enjoy themselves more all year long, predicted Dr. Pauw. Book author Emily R. Transue, FACP, will teach about the importance of storytelling in medicine in a course titled “Embracing the ‘Story’ in the ‘History’” on Friday morning.

“It’s the use of patient’s stories to learn about your patient both to become a better doctor but also to better enjoy the practice of medicine. What are the things we learn from our patients that really stick with us and make being a doctor worthwhile?” said Dr. Pauw.

Dr. Pauw noted a few other new sessions that he is particularly anticipating, including several physical diagnosis talks and a Thursday course on translation of research into practice. “We get a lot of research that says we should be doing this vaccine, this treatment, this preventive thing, but when you take all the research, what do you get the most money out of? What helps the most people for what you do?” he said.

Dr. Pauw himself will teach a Friday class called “Medical Mythology” to address common misconceptions in medicine. “Probably the most common example is replacement of vitamin B12. Doctors believe that you need to give injections for people that have pernicious anemia. There’s lots of evidence that it can be given orally and it’s just as effective or more effective,” he said. The course will cover the evidence base on this and a number of other clinical “myths.”

As usual, the Scientific Program will end with a recap of the meeting’s highlights followed by the Doctor’s Dilemma competition. The concluding session, which has been growing in popularity, attracted more than 1,000 attendees last year, according to Ms. Licht. “That’s a very large audience for a session late on Saturday. It’s a very worthwhile session that ends the meeting on a high note,” she said.

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