We suggest that trainees do some selected preparation for the discussion session. One option is the Robert Wood Johnson document titled “A New Way to talk about Social Determinants.” Another option would be to have trainees view video clips from the highly acclaimed “Unnatural Causes.” (See SDH Bibliography.)

We suggest having one or two case scenarios based on real patient cases from your own population that demonstrate one or more social determinant of health commonly experienced that are clearly impacting patient outcomes. For example, if you have a significant immigrant population, you might choose a patient representing that population. If you have many women veterans, you might choose such a case.

We suggest using the PowerPoint as a prompt for the trainees, perhaps to get them thinking about social determinants which they might not have otherwise considered, and then proceed to a discussion of the case scenarios you have developed. The first quiz slide can be used as a needs assessment for experience with SDH and/or as a wake-up call for those who are not aware of their impact on health outcomes.

In the bibliography is a link to Health Leads and a screening tool they have developed. There is also an article reviewing some existing screening tools. As a group activity or as a post-session activity, we suggest you ask your residents to develop a practical screening tool they could use in their own continuity clinic.