The Women in AMIA
UPDATE

Monthly E-Newsletter

2019 AMIA Annual Symposium, Washington, DC

CLINICAL INFORMATICS FELLOWSHIP PIPELINE, PART 3

In this issue of the newsletter:

- We spotlight Dr. Dara Mize, Assistant Professor of Biomedical Informatics and Medicine and Director of the Clinical Informatics Fellowship program at Vanderbilt U (p. 2).
  - *This is part of an ongoing series that will feature clinical informatics fellowship directors and explore ways to increase the representation of women in clinical informatics fellowship programs across the US.*

- Informatics Around the Globe and more featured on For Your Informatics Podcast (p. 4).

Previous issues of the WIA newsletter can be found on the Women in AMIA webpage <u>here</u>.

Steering Committee Members:
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Spotlight on Clinical Informatics Fellowship Directors

Dara Mize, MD, MS, FAMIA

WIA: *What is your current position and title?*

Dara: I am an Assistant Professor of Biomedical Informatics and Medicine at Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) and a Clinical Director of VUMC HealthIT. I am also a practicing Endocrinologist. In my IT role, I lead and participate in the design, implementation, and evaluation of informatics solutions for the clinical enterprise. I am the Program Director for the VUMC Clinical Informatics fellowship program. I co-founded a Clinical Informatics Graduate Medical Education rotation to provide an earlier introduction to the field of clinical informatics for housestaff and other medical trainees. I also co-founded a Clinical Informatics Integrated Science Course for 3rd and 4th-year medical students in the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.This program strengthens students' conceptual understanding of the foundational sciences that underpin clinical informatics through active learning exercises and clinical informatics experiences.

WIA: *How did you first find out about clinical informatics?*

Dara: During residency, I came to understand the importance of reliable systems in providing the highest-quality clinical care. When I came to Vanderbilt for my Endocrinology fellowship, I met practicing Clinical Informaticians. They shared their real-world experiences leveraging novel technology to design innovative, scalable solutions to common clinical challenges. I immediately knew I wanted to learn more about this field, and with my engineering background, these interests felt well-aligned.

WIA: *What made you decide on a career path that includes clinical informatics?*

Dara: Once I started formal informatics training, it was easy for me to see how leveraging this skillset afforded a unique opportunity to positively impact the care of many more patients than I can see face-to-face. Determining how to balance my time between the clinical work that I love and the informatics

Dara cont'd: work that I knew would be rewarding and impactful was less straightforward. Fortunately, I have outstanding mentors whose guidance helped me navigate that balance.

WIA: *What do you find most exciting about your work as a Clinical Informatics Fellowship Director?*

Dara: My favorite part of my work as the Clinical Informatics Fellowship Program Director is witnessing the maturation of our fellows during their time with us. They come to fellowship from diverse backgrounds, with variable foundational science and technical skills, and unique career goals. And they graduate with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to lead informatics projects and programs independently.

WIA: *Do you have any words of advice for medical students or residents who may want to consider a career path that includes clinical informatics?*

Dara: My advice to medical students or residents who may want to consider a career that includes informatics is to think about it like any other clinical specialty where you have an interest. Look for opportunities to be involved in informatics projects. Reach out to those at your institution who do the type of work that interests you. The Informaticians I work with are a collegial group who are happy to provide guidance and share their experiences. There is a broad spectrum of how a career involving clinical informatics can look, so ask them to introduce you to other individuals whose career paths may look slightly different. If your institution has a rotation for medical students or GME learners, take it. If not, consider developing a rotation with a faculty member or participating in a visiting elective at another institution.

WIA: *There may be medical students and residents out there who would be interested in a clinical informatics fellowship but aren't fully aware of this option. Do you have any ideas on how to reach out to this group?*

Dara: We should think about reaching medical students and residents the same way they learn about traditional clinical careers. Incorporating informatics into their curriculum or offering an elective experience can strengthen their understanding of the foundational sciences that underpin clinical informatics and give them an earlier introduction to the field. An earlier introduction will allow them to make more informed training decisions earlier in their career and prepare for a job that incorporates clinical informatics in a way that meets their professional goals.

WIA: *What is something about you that you'd like to share that most people don't know about?*

Dara: When I was around eight years old, I watched a story on the news about families who didn't have access to routine medical care due to a lack of health insurance. The naivety of my youth led me to believe we could solve that problem by simply having more doctors willing to take care of patients who couldn't afford to pay. That day, I decided I would be one of those doctors. As my understanding of the world and the US healthcare system matured, I recognized that complex problems need complex solutions. I still wanted to be a physician, but I began to realize that we would have to think more creatively and systemically if we wanted to increase access to high-quality, equitable care. Of course, we are a long way from achieving that goal, but I feel fortunate to work in a field that gets to be part of the solution.

Drop us a line!

Women in AMIA would love to hear from you about what's working, what's not and what to feature in future editions of the newsletter. We also have some questions for you: How has your workflow changed? In these trying times, how are you focusing on the positive?

Please email us at:

AMIA-2020womeninamiasteeringcommittee@ConnectedCommunity.org

For Your Informatics Podcast

Episode 22:
Women in Informatics Around the Globe

Featuring:
Josephine Nabukenya, PhD, Uganda
Raniah Aldekhyyel, PhD, Saudia Arabia *(not pictured)*
Host:
Adela Grando, PhD

https://amia.org/news-publications/podcasts/for-your-informatics @FYIInformatics

Listen and share:

Please share and mentor sign-up available soon!

AMIA
INFORMATICS PROFESSIONALS. LEADING THE WAY.

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE 5TH ANNUAL
FIRST LOOK PROGRAM

This program is a workforce diversity initiative focused on addressing the gender and racial/ethnic disparities in the workforce by exposing female undergraduate, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) who are interested in informatics and/or STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) to the field through attendance at the American Medical Informatics Association's (AMIA) Annual Symposium.

PROGRAM DETAILS:
October 30 - November 3
(Mandatory participation only on October 31)

APPLY HERE BY OCTOBER 1, 2021

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