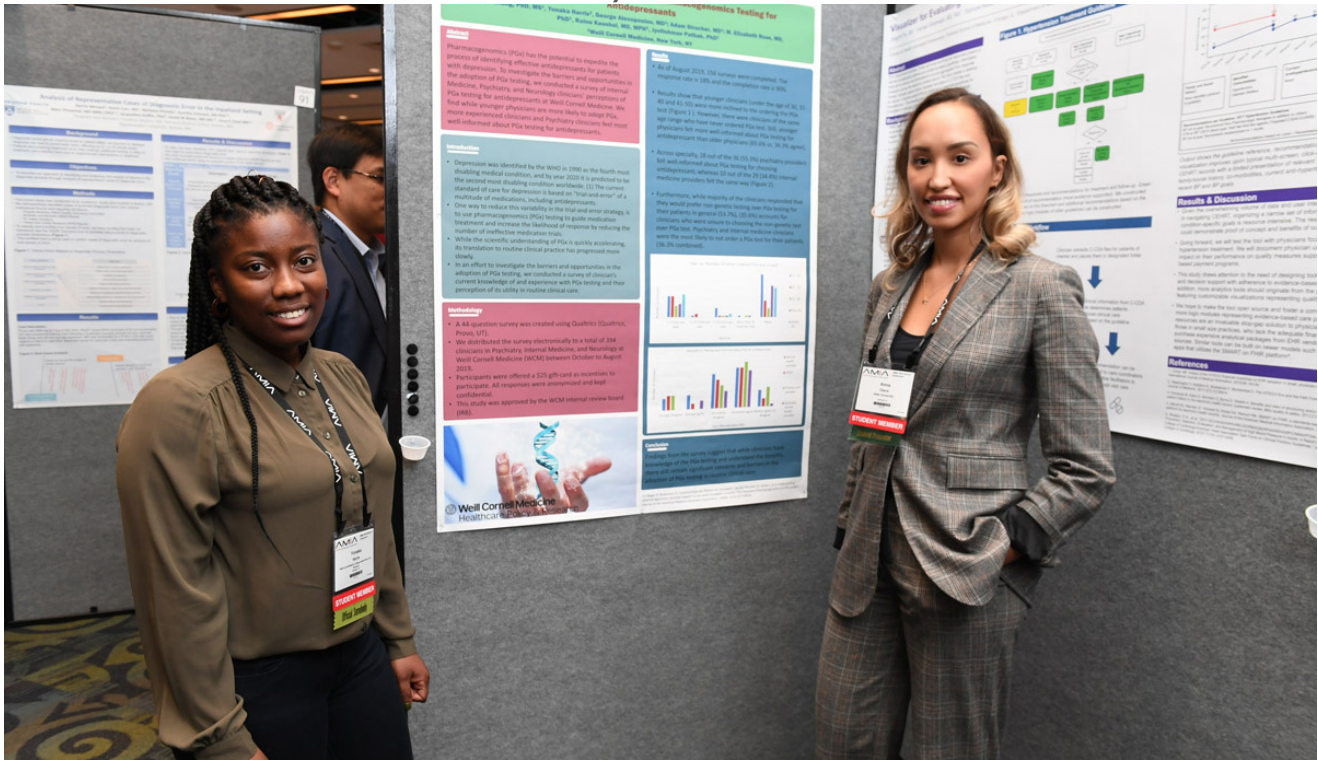# The Women in AMIA
UPDATE

Monthly E-Newsletter

EARLY CAREER PROGRESSION IN INFORMATICS

In this issue of the newsletter:

- We spotlight Dr. Mindy Ross, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the University of California Los Angeles (p. 2).

- Dr. Deepti Pandita talks with Dr. Anita Murcko about 'Underrepresented Leaders' in Clinical Informatics Fellowship Programs with a special introduction by Dr. Tiffany Leung. (p. 4)

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

Steering Committee Members:

Tiffani Bright, Wendy Chapman, Prerna Dua, Sabrina Hsueh, Xia Jing, Tiffany Leung, Allison McCoy, Omolola Ogunyemi, Margarita Sordo, Donghua Tao, Kelly Taylor (AMIA Staff), Rebecca Wilgus, Karmen Williams

Early Career Spotlight

Mindy Ross, MD, MBA

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

Mindy: I am an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) David Geffen School of Medicine, board certified in pediatrics, pediatric pulmonology and clinical informatics.

WIA: *How did you first learn about biomedical informatics and what got you interested in the field?*

Mindy: When I was a pediatric pulmonary fellow at the University of San Diego (UCSD), I attended a Grand Rounds Lecture "Biomedical Informatics: Impact on Quality Improvement and Research" by Dr. Lucila Ohno-Machado. I didn't know much about biomedical informatics at that time, but the lecture encapsulated what I was interested in: using the electronic health record to improve healthcare delivery. I met with her and began training in the Division (now Department) of Biomedical Informatics. Working on interesting projects and surrounded by such dynamic colleagues such as Dr. Adela Grando, Dr. Danielle Mowery and other professors such as Dr. Wendy Chapman and Dr. Rob El-Kareh at UCSD inspired me to continue in clinical informatics. My research in the field continues to be invigorated at UCLA by my primary informatics K23 grant mentor, Dr. Alex Bui.

WIA: *What do you find most exciting about your current work and/or about the field of biomedical informatics in general?*

Mindy: Creative solutions and looking at things from different angles are what excites me and keeps me motivated. I also love that informatics is a multidisciplinary field and values team science. My current research is to use data entered into the electronic patient portal in addition to the electronic health record to help clinicians provide more comprehensive asthma management. One challenge

Early Career Spotlight, cont'd.

Mindy cont'd: with implementation of informatics tools in this space is the consistent uptake of the tool by end-users after it is launched in the system. To address this, my work is grounded in approaches related to user experience design, implementation science, and health services research. Favored designs, workflow and enhanced efficiencies will hopefully encourage engagement of families and clinicians with the tools.

WIA: *Do you have any words of advice for biomedical informaticians starting out in their careers?*

Mindy: In academia, it's helpful to carve out a niche or focus that you can potentially expand over time. It is important to find a mentor or team of mentors that have time to work with you and who are interested in developing your career. If you are fortunate enough to have a "champion" or be in a culture that practices transformational leadership you may be exposed to opportunities not available otherwise. If you don't have a champion or sponsor, remember one day you can be a champion for others and practice transformational leadership.

For research, resilience and determination are important. It will likely take several "no's" for an eventual "yes" to receive grant funding. On the practical side, it's helpful if you find an institution that has infrastructure in place for data capture, retrieval and analysis and if not, plan your timeline accordingly. If you are on the operational side, when you first start out, you may find more success if you understand the local values and institutional culture and assist within those constructs and then branch out. Also in informatics, we work within larger societal infrastructures with inherent inequities so is helpful to become aware of these to improve the status quo, avoid implicit bias (i.e., algorithm designs) and work to narrow the technological "digital divide" as we can.

WIA: *How do you think informaticians can get the general public to understand what it is that we do and why it's important?*

Mindy: It's not a word people (in medicine and otherwise) are very familiar with. In one of my studies, we interviewed parents who did not use the electronic patient portal. Many of them were unaware the portal even existed. Once we described the potential features (reviewing labs, requesting refills, messaging care team, etc) their interest was piqued. If people understand how it can help improve care and make things more efficient, they are more willing to engage. I tend to boil the definition down to: using technology to improve healthcare delivery.

WIA: *How is the pandemic affecting you professionally (and personally if you'd like to share)?*

Mindy: I was fortunate to receive an NIH K23 Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award last year; however, the timing was such that there was a hiring freeze and increased COVID research took priority at our institution. Every aspect of the work was slowed. I managed to make progress, although not to the extent I anticipated prior to COVID, but this year will be better.

Early Career Spotlight, cont'd.

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

Mindy: I participated in the inaugural Women in AMIA leadership training course from 2019-2020. It was a life-changing opportunity and I encourage you to apply (https://www.wialeadership.com). From that program, my peer team was awarded a Seed Grant to increase the listenership for the Women in AMIA Podcast, now the <u>AMIA: For Your Informatics Podcast</u>. I'm now on a steering committee to rebrand and relaunch the podcast and we will be presenting our work at a panel session during the AMIA 2021 Annual Symposium in San Diego. It was a very educational experience and I even learned multimedia skills such as making and editing videos.

WIA note: As a part of the Women in AMIA Leadership Program, Mindy's team created four leadership videos interviewing future leaders, leadership coaches, and leaders in AMIA. These videos are currently being highlighted on For Your Informatics podcasts in the Summer Leadership Series. Listen and share today at www.amia.org/amia-podcasts.

FOR YOUR INFORMATICS'

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JULY 28: LEADERSHIP WISDOM
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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 are you dealing with COVID-19? In these trying times, how are you focusing on the positive?

Please email us at:
AMIA-2020womeninamiasteeringcommittee@ConnectedCommunity.org

For Your Informatics
UNDERREPRESENTED LEADERS

NEW

Although women now make up the majority of medical school students, only 25% apply for clinical informatics programs. **Dr. Pandita Deepti**, the first female director of an accredited clinical informatics fellowship program, guides this discussion on underrepresented leaders.

Hosted by Dr. Anita Murcko
Introduction by Dr. Tiffany Leung

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