
JUNE 2020, ISSUE 5

The Women in AMIA UPDATE

Monthly E-Newsletter



WOMEN IN AMIA NEWS:

Writing thoroughly supportive, specific, unbiased and non-gendered letters of recommendation to sponsor a colleague for an award takes a lot more intention than it would seem. p. 2

NOMINATING WOMEN FOR INFORMATICS AWARDS

In this issue of the newsletter:

- How to nominate a deserving woman for an AMIA signature award (p. 2)
- A new section highlights women leaders in informatics and the current work they find interesting. Our first feature is Dr. Jessica Anker (p. 3).
- Link to the June podcast in which Dr. Hongfang Liu of the Mayo Clinic discusses networking and mentoring (p. 4).

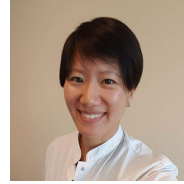
Previous issues of the WIA newsletter can be found on the Women in AMIA webpage [here](#).

Steering Committee Members:

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

NOMINATING WOMEN FOR INFORMATICS AWARDS

by Tiffany Leung



Since the inauguration of the Women in AMIA Steering Committee and its subcommittees, the Awards & Leadership Subcommittee has been committed to a vision of achieving diversity, equity, and inclusion in leadership and awards recognitions in informatics. Writing thoroughly supportive, specific, unbiased and non-gendered letters of recommendation to sponsor a colleague for an award takes a lot more intention than it would seem.

The proportion of women receiving STEM awards and recognition is low and influenced by a host of contributing factors, including different self-assessments of ability, different perceptions of award criteria, gendered nomination letters, and demographically homogeneous selection committees. Also, stereotyped perceptions of diverse candidates of racial, ethnic, language, or religious groups can lead also to low diversity and inclusion of deserving candidates.

If you're planning to write a letter of nomination for a colleague for an award, here are a few writing tips to consider. The Awards & Leadership Subcommittee assembled these tips based on experiences writing nomination letters and drawing from published evidence about implicit biases in written language of recommendation and evaluation letters.

- *Obtain an updated CV from the nominee.* Tell them you think they are qualified for the award you want to nominate them for!*
- *Identify co-signers for the letter of nomination.* Ask the nominee for suggestions, approach colleagues in shared networks, and consider diversity of co-signers to demonstrate the nominee's impact and influence.
- *Be specific!* Write about how the nominee's accomplishments and work specifically match the criteria for the award.
- *Avoid language that reinforces bias.* Highlight accomplishments, including publications and research, using standout adjectives about their talent and abilities. Avoid talking about only their work ethic or potential.
- *Avoid stereotyping language.* Women are often described as "caring, helpful, or warm," whereas men are often described as "successful, ambitious, or resourceful."
- *Keep it professional!* This should be obvious, but unfortunately it warrants saying explicitly: avoid mentioning irrelevant information, for example, from the nominee's personal or family life.

*If you think you might qualify for an award, make sure to speak up and reach out to a mentor or sponsor for support and to help you review your qualifications! Why not ask?

For a more complete list of tips and references, please check out the WIA Awards & Leadership Subcommittee's [Tips & Tricks for Successful Nominations](#).

INFORMATICS WOMEN WHO LEAD

by Wendy Chapman



Spotlight on Jessica Ancker

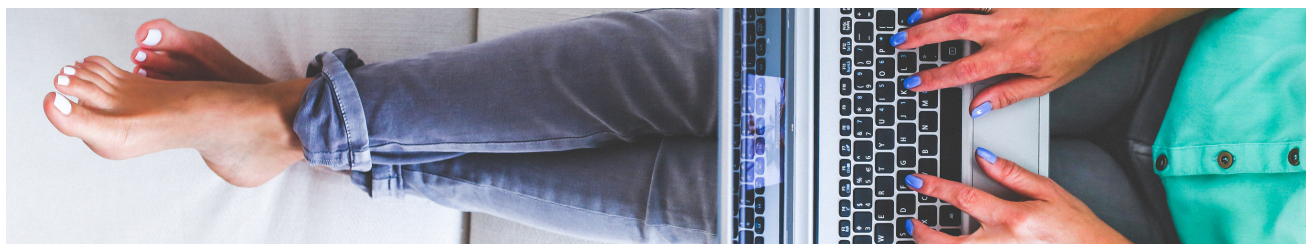


Name: Jessica S Ancker, MPH, PhD, FACMI

Leadership positions: Associate Professor (Department of Population Health Sciences, Division of Health Informatics, Weill Cornell Medical College), Associate Editor of JAMIA, Associate Editor of Medical Decision Making

What I'm excited about: My team has been working on a major systematic review of research on how to provide numbers to patients in ways they can understand and act upon. After hard and painstaking work, we are moving to the next step, which is to build the review results into an interactive decision aid for health communicators. We hope our decision aid will help communicators incorporate our findings into the information they develop every day for patients. I'm excited to see the product I've been thinking about for years!

I am also excited by current events. As I write this, thousands of people are demonstrating in cities around the world after the murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. Awareness is growing that the COVID pandemic is hitting hardest among the most vulnerable and that racism is claiming the lives of black Americans. I find it hopeful that so many seem to be waking up to the importance of combatting racism, inadequate access to healthcare, and other barriers to our common health and safety. I am hopeful that the activism we see today will bring the changes needed to create a better world.



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

The Women in AMIA Podcast

Karmen S. Williams

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New Episode WIA PODCAST

AMIA.ORG/AMIA-PODCASTS



EPISODE 13: NETWORKING & MENTORING

GUEST:
DR. HONGFANG LIU
HOST:
**DR. WENDY MARIE
INGRAM**

Podcast episode 13 features a conversation with Dr. Hongfang Liu, an NLP research leader, faculty at Mayo Clinic, and one of the most funded women in informatics. Dr. Wendy Marie Ingram hosts a delightful and insightful interview with Dr. Liu, which offers practical strategies for networking and mentoring.

We are looking for additional people to help manage the WIA Podcast series. Please contact Karmen if you are interested in assisting. Spread the word and stay safe out there! Thank you!