# DENTFORMATICS

AMIA DENTAL INFORMATICS WORKING GROUP NEWSLETTER

## NEW MANAGEMENT

### WELCOMING THE NEW CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Towards the end of the summer of 2018, the Dental Informatics Working Group (DI-WG) welcomed a new Chair, Neel Shimpi (left), and Vice-Chair, Karmen Williams (right). The two joined forces to lead the DI-WG mission of serving individuals and organizations who are interested or involved in health informatics with an emphasis on dental informatics; collaborating with other healthcare and informatics specialties to improve healthcare applications and sharing expertise and experiences in the use of dental information systems, computer technology, and communications to improve patient care, research and education.

Neel Shimpi, BDS, MM, PhD, is a tenure-track, Associate Research Scientist within the Center for Oral and Systemic Health at Marshfield Clinic Research Institute. Karmen Williams, DrPH, MBA, MA, is a Post-doctorate Fellow in Public and Population Health Informatics in the Fairbanks School of Public Health and Regenstrief Institute at Indiana University.

# Dental Informatics 'Year-In-Review'

## FOLLOW-UP FROM AMIA 2018 ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

At the 2018 AMIA Annual Symposium, the Dental Informatics Working Group hosted the DI-WG Meeting that highlighted the working group status within AMIA, the recently fielded assessment, and members and work conducted in the field. The meeting was sponsored by FraudLens, Inc. and was a great success.

DI-WG has an interdisciplinary membership of 67 members, including AMIA staff. Among our non-AMIA staff membership, there are 36 in academia, 12 in healthcare and technology industries, and 7 in research institutions. Positions held by members include Professors; Directors, Dean, Chair, and Chief Executive Officers; Research Scientist, Analysts, and Biostatisticians; Students, Residents, and Fellows; and Chief Informatics Officers, Chief Medical Informatics Officer, and Chief Research Informatics Officer.

From November 2017 to October 2018, approximately 283 publications in PubMed included dental informatics. The American Dental Association Center for Informatics and Standards (2018) discussed the opportunity for dentists to shape the standards and technologies that will be used in the future and define their use.

October through November 2018, a 9-item, online survey was sent to members of DI-WG to gain perspectives on increasing participation in DI-WG, improving communication, and working collaboratively.

Although only 10 members participated (19% response rate) in the survey we received meaningful feedback.

The biggest opportunities in dental informatics were identified as a lack of integrated medical-dental data, need for generating new knowledge using private practice, utilizing electronic dental records for personalized decision making, working with other informatics areas and working groups, leveraging informatics to reduce dental care costs, reducing oral health disparity, and identifying dental informatics as core research.

Additionally, engaging the next generation in dental informatics was a topic of interest. Strategies were identified as: developing informatics curriculum targeted at dental students; providing dental informatics research opportunities for students; systematic outreach and recruitment strategies; build an appreciation of informatics in dentistry; collaborate; training sessions for dental and healthcare providers - community awareness; vision and strategy to enhance informatics role in dentistry; and provide students with an AMIA Symposium registration pass.

# MOVING FORWARD IN 2019

*Next steps from the 2018 DI-WG Meeting at AMIA*

As we move into 2019, DI-WG set plans to increase awareness of DI in AMIA and beyond and improve communication among DI-WG. The goals for 2019 are as follows.

- Host a Panel at the 2019 AMIA Annual Symposium

- Host a pre-symposium workshop at the 2019 AMIA Annual Symposium

- Develop a collaborative manuscript

- Hold bi-monthly phone meetings and webinars (alternating months)

- Distribute a quarterly newsletter

- Gain sponsorship for annual webinar for non-AMIA members; Recognition award to be presented at AMIA Annual Symposium; and DI-WG meeting at AMIA



**We need YOUR help...**

The Subcommittee for the Pre-Symposium Workshop has started planning. We need your help to formulate session ideas, pinpoint speakers, and help with the flow of the workshop.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, February 7, 2019. If you are interested in joining or learning more, please contact Andrea Mahnke at Mahnke.Andrea@MarshfieldResearch.org or Sajeesh Kumar at skumar10@uthsc.edu.

**ALSO, submit your dental informatics research at this year's AMIA and encourage your colleagues to do the same!**

REMINDER...

2019 AMIA Call for Participation ends **March 13, 2019**.

DENTAL INFORMATICS WORKING GROUP
## Bi-Monthly Membership Call

1st Wednesday
April, June, August, October, December
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm EST

Join meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/759251021

You can also dial in using your phone.
United States: +1 (669) 224-3319
Access Code: 759-251-021

**Next Membership Call: Wednesday, April 3, 2019**
**12:00 pm - 1:00 pm EST**

# BI-MONTHLY PHONE MEETINGS

To ensure dissemination of information and successful communication, the AMIA sponsored phone meeting will be hosted every other month on the 1st Wednesday 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm EST. For 2019, the phone meetings will be held on:
**April 3,** June 5, August 7, October 2, and December 4

Join by computer, tablet or smartphone.
https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/759251021
Or Phone:
United States: +1 (669) 224-3319
Access Code: 759-251-021

## BI-MONTHLY WEBINARS

*COMING THIS MARCH...*

Dr. Elaine Blechman and Dr. Neel Shimpi will discuss new technology and research opportunities in dental informatics.

We invite you to participate in the bi–monthly webinars in March, May, July, and September of 2019. This year, potential webinar topics include decision making in dentistry, information technology, current dental informatics highlights, policy, research methods, statistical methods, and professional development.

We invite you to present your research or topic(s) of interest at a webinar this year. Please reach out to Neel at Shimpi.Neel@MarshfieldResearch.org or Karmen at KarSWill@iu.edu for more information.

DENTAL INFORMATICS WORKING GROUP WEBINAR

## DR. ELAINE BLECHMAN & DR. NEEL SHIMPI

"Red Kangaroo: The Last Mile in Oral Health"

## MARCH 2019
## MORE INFO TO COME

Contact Neel or Karmen for more information and opportunity to present at upcoming webinars.

# DI-WG Meeting at 2018 AMIA



Photo 1: Dr. Neel Shimpi, Chair of DI-WG thanking FraudLens, Inc for sponsoring the refreshments at DI-WG meeting 2018.

Photo 2: Dr. Karmen Williams, Vice-Chair of DI-WG welcoming the workgroup members at the AMIA 2018 annual meeting



**Calling all Dental Informatics Researchers!!!**
The DI-WG would like to highlight your recent, dental informatics work in the next quarter newsletter.

Contact Neel Shimpi at Shimpi.Neel@MarshfieldResearch.org or Karmen Williams at KarSWill@iu.edu with any questions, feedback, or items to be featured in the upcoming newsletters.