

Student Working Group

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2021



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SAVE THE DATE

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AMIA ANNUAL
SYMPOSIUM 2021
REGISTRATION

OCT 30-
NOV 3

AMIA ANNUAL
SYMPOSIUM 2021

NOV 26

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INFORMATICS
CONFERENCE
SUBMISSION

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AMIASTUDENTWG.SLACK.COM

Send us a request to
join our slack channel!



@AMIASTWG



Email the Co-Editor

MXH2000@CUMC.COLUMBIA.EDU

AN INTRODUCTION TO US:

Welcome to the AMIA student working group newsletter: August edition! Check out the fantastic, new AMIA website: amia.org and the STWG page:

amia.org/community/working-groups/student

YES YOU SHOULD CONDUCT PEER REVIEW (WITH SOME EXCEPTIONS PERHAPS)

By Kate Fultz Hollis, MS, MBI

Have you ever been asked to peer review an article for a journal or a conference paper but hesitate as you feel you are just a student? I want to encourage all students to accept a peer review as I am an editor and longtime AMIA Special Program Committee (SPC) member and lately I need many more reviewers for informatics papers and conferences. I look for reviewers who take time to review and try to understand the science and give back suggestions. My experience with students has been that almost all the time the student reviewers provide the most feedback for authors and will ask editors questions about the papers to help produce excellent reviews.

So if a journal editor or conference SPC member asked me to peer review do I automatically say yes? The complicated answer is: "it depends." Of course I would say yes to all AMIA peer reviewed journals and our friends overseas IMIA Publications because I am familiar with these publications and I have also published in them (you should always try to review for those journals who have published your work). Look at who publishes the journal or sponsors the conference and even after that look at impact factor, whether the journal is in fact peer-reviewed, and indexed by PubMed, SCOPUS, and other major indexing systems. The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) has an excellent guide to peer review: Ethical Guidelines for Peer Review.

AMIA Peer Reviewed Journals:

<https://amia.org/news-publications/journals>

IMIA Publications:

<https://imia-medinfo.org/wp/publications/>

Impact Factor: <https://mjl.clarivate.com/home?PC=K>

COPE: https://publicationethics.org/files/cope-ethical-guidelines-peer-reviewers-v2_0.pdf

AUGUST 2021 SPOTLIGHT



DENIS NEWMAN-GRIFFIS, PHD
POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW, UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

AMIA DISSERTATION AWARD WINNER 2021
AMIA ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM 2021 PRESENTER



How did you become interested in informatics? What are your current research interests? My degree is in Computer Science, but early in my PhD I worked on a medical project using NLP. I found the complexity of medical language irresistible and the chance to improve people's healthcare motivating. My main areas of research are (1) informatics for function and disability, (2) translational science processes in NLP, and (3) neural representation learning to compare and analyze text corpora.

What is the best part about winning the AMIA Dissertation Award? What this award means to me is that other people see the value in my research. My research is in a new area of informatics—function and disability—that I believe is important but is still developing as a field. This award tells me that my research program belongs in this community, and I'm grateful to have this platform for my work.

Briefly describe your presentation/poster at the AMIA Symposium 2021. We're looking at how COVID-related literature has changed over the course of the pandemic and providing a tool to dig into how the science has evolved. We're using neural embeddings of medical concepts to track how their usage and relationships have been changing, and we've built an interactive web tool for digging into the data.

What is something you personally hope to see introduced/grow in the informatics space in the coming years? I would love to see more informatics work focused on disability and functional impairments. 15-25% of the population experiences disability and everyone will experience limitations in function at some point in their life. It's an area where informatics technologies can have a really big impact, both in the healthcare space and with patient-facing technologies, but we've only just started to scratch the surface.

As a postdoctoral fellow, what advice would you offer to fellow students in or just starting in informatics? The biggest thing is to keep your ears and mind open and never stop being curious. If you see something interesting, read about it or talk to somebody working on it! A lot of my projects and collaborations have come out of an idea in a conversation, and it's part of what keeps the job interesting. It also helps to build your network, which helps a lot with growing your work and your career.

Are you presenting at AMIA Annual Symposium 2021? Reach out to us and get your presentation in the spotlight, talk about your project, and attract an audience at the symposium!

AUGUST 2021 SPOTLIGHT



KATE FULTZ HOLLIS, MS, MBI
OREGON HEALTH AND SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY

Briefly introduce your background and current position.

I have worked at medical schools and in academics for a long time, first as a grant writer and then as a fund raising researcher on medical research. My interests in medical information spurred me on to get a master's degree in library science in the early days of UMLS. While working closely with medical faculty, I became more interested in how research was done and sharing research information with everyone rather than finding money for the research. After being laid off from a long-time job, I took the opportunity to get another master's degree - in biomedical informatics from Oregon Health & Science University.

When did you join AMIA?

I joined AMIA when I was a first-year student at OHSU (about 8 years ago). My first conference was the AMIA Summits in San Francisco and while I was too shy to talk to anyone almost everyone came up and talked to me and that was refreshing. I got contacts that led to papers and to other very valuable volunteer positions.

What do you enjoy the most about being on the AMIA leader board/current position at AMIA?

What more can I say but the ability to work with teams of people who like accurate information as much as I do and who care about their colleagues and patients. As chair of the student working group, I was constantly meeting students who taught me things and AMIA leaders who listened to my concerns about members and were patient about listening. I had not experienced before the ability to talk to leaders, "way above my pay grade" as people say, who listened and treated me as an equal.

What advice would you offer to students in or just starting in informatics?

Always ask your program chair or a leading member of your department what advice they might have for you to work on interesting projects. I learned a lot about each member of my department about the work and what I could do. Funnily enough, I managed to work on a master's project with a physician in my department who was also getting an OHSU business degree and we graduated together. Whether your department is small or large, I recommend getting involved in the AMIA Student Working Group. All my current activities, including becoming an editor for International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA) Yearbook, came from volunteer work I did for AMIA as well as IMIA. I also could never imagine that a volunteer job that is hard and time intensive at times would get me involved with such great European colleagues and allow me to attend editorial meetings in Paris France.