Student Working Group

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2021

AMIA
INFORMATICS PROFESSIONALS. LEADING THE WAY.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1 INTRODUCTION TO STWG

2 FOR YOUR INFORMATICS PODCAST

3 AMIA FIRST LOOK PROGRAM

4 STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

5 KNOW-YOUR-LEADERS: KARMEN WILLIAMS

SAVE THE DATE

OCT 7 ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION

OCT 30-NOV 3 AMIA ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM 2021

NOV 30 CIC SUBMISSION DEADLINE

REACH OUT TO US

AMIASTUDENTWG.SLACK.COM
Send us a request to join our slack channel!

@AMIASTWG

Email the Co-Editor
MXH2000@CUMC.COLUMBIA.EDU

PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF STWG NEWSLETTER AT:
AMIA.ORG/COMMUNITY/WORKING-GROUPS/STUDENT/
STUDENT-WORKING-GROUP-NEWSLETTER

AN INTRODUCTION TO US:

Welcome to the AMIA student working group newsletter: September edition! We are multidisciplinary informatics students who are interested in connecting other students with opportunities to develop skills in informatics research.

FOR YOUR INFORMATICS PODCAST

In 2018, the "For Your Informatics" podcast originated as a Women in AMIA initiative to explore medical informatics and showcase the diverse paths of people involved in biomedical and health informatics. This podcast brings together interdisciplinary voices in the AMIA community and reveal the limitless opportunities of informatics.

https://amia.org/news-publications/podcasts
Follow @FYInformatics on Twitter, LinkedIn,, and Facebook; Listen on iTunes, Spotify, Amazon Music, SoundCloud, iHeartRadio; Contact for information: ForYourInformaticsPodcast@gmail.com

In the newest episode, hosts Karmen S. Williams, DrPH, and Meera Subash, MD, discuss the history of mentorship in medical informatics with special guest, the Director of the National Library of Medicine, Patricia Flatley Brennan, RN, PhD.

AMIA FIRST LOOK PROGRAM

AMIA First Look program is sponsored by the Women in AMIA steering committee and aims to to expose undergraduate women with an interest in informatics and/or STEM at the AMIA Annual Symposium. Through key events, networking receptions, and assigned mentored guides, students are equipped with the opportunity to learn about informatics and resources for internship and post-graduate career "next-steps".

Support the First Look Program at the Annual Symposium as a mentor, attend receptions, and represent AMIA to new and upcoming informaticians. More details: amia.org/education-events/ amia-2021-annual-symposium/first-look-program

AMIA ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM HOUSING SHARE

Please reach out or enter your details in the spreadsheet if you are looking for hotel sharing options at the Annual Symposium: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/ 1JK9-fsW2PLrVsW0ATc4EfmN-iW_ e8ji5Vw-zeV5fXRA/edit?usp=sharing

SPOTLIGHTS

AMELIA J AVERITT, MPH, MA, PHD

KARMEN S WILLIAMS, DRPH, MBA, MSPH, MA, CPH

AMIA DISSERTATION AWARD 2021 HONORABLE MENTION

How did you become interested in informatics?
I became interested in informatics during my Masters in epidemiology and biostatistics. It was clear that technology, big data, and methodologies played a role in these disciplines; but were missing from the curriculum. Informatics allowed me to build on my work, incorporate advanced techniques, and stay at the cutting edge of biomedical research. I work at the Regeneron Genetics Center on the Clinical Informatics team. Here, I develop machine learning methods that help us identify and understand causal relationships between genotypes and phenotypes.

Briefly describe your dissertation work.
I address causal inferences from observational biomedical data. I investigate which data can be used to replicate existing causal effects from randomized data, and present methods that support the generation of new causal knowledge. The new methods include (i) a generative adversarial network (GAN)-based model, and (ii) multivariate latent variable model, to support high-throughput attributable risk estimation.

What advice would you offer to fellow students in informatics?
1) Backup your laptop often and on a schedule.
2) Failure (poor experimental outcomes, rejected papers, etc) is extremely common. But learning from failure is rare and a key to success.

Go-to activities outside work and for de-stressing.
Outside of the office, you'll almost always find me running in Central Park while listening to a true crime podcast. But to really de-stress, I make pasta by hand. The repetitive movement is almost meditative.

Co-Chair, Women in AMIA Pipeline Subcommittee;
Director, For Your Informatics Podcast;
Chair, Dental Informatics Working Group

Dr. Karmen Williams is an Assistant Professor at the City University of New York, USA. As the co-chair of the Women in AMIA (WIA) Pipeline Subcommittee, she works with volunteer groups in AMIA to increase the participation of women in informatics and spotlight women in AMIA. WIA aims to support women interested in informatics through early stages of career development and encourage them to become leaders in the field. Dr. Williams was introduced to AMIA during her doctorate degree, and now leads initiatives to introduce people to informatics early on - such as to high school and undergraduate students through the AMIA First Look program.

GET INVOLVED

Join the Pipeline Subcommittee meetings (contact Kelly@amia.org to be added),

Explore WIA newsletters (amia.org/communities/women_in_amia),

Join WIA at the AMIA Annual Symposium 2021 (https://amia.org/education-events/amia-2021-annual-symposium/career-development-wia)

Contact for information or to join: ForYourInformaticsPodcast@gmail.com or KarmenSWilliams@gmail.com