

# The Women in AMIA Update

*Monthly E-Newsletter*



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## WOMEN IN AMIA NEWS:

Spotlight on an AMIA  
woman working to  
respond to COVID-19 in  
North Carolina - p. 2

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## Informatics and the response to a pandemic

Women in AMIA is happy to introduce Rebecca (Becky) Wilgus of Duke Clinical Research Institute as the new chair of the Career Advancement subcommittee. In this issue of the newsletter, we

- take a look at the role of informatics in addressing pandemics, spotlighting the work of Dr. Jessie Tenenbaum in North Carolina (p. 2).
- present a brief update on and link to the podcast interview of National Library of Medicine Director, Dr. Patti Brennan (p. 3).
- Discuss COVID-19-related cancellations (p. 3).

The first issue of the WIA newsletter can be found [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

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# Spotlight on an AMIA Woman Working on the COVID-19 response

Omolola Ogunyemi

Below is a brief conversation with AMIA member and FACMI, **Jessie Tenenbaum**, former chair of Women in AMIA's Awards and Leadership Committee on her work and the role of informatics in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are grateful to her for taking a moment from her hectic schedule to answer a few questions.

## Jessie Tenenbaum on informatics and public health

### North Carolina's COVID-19 response

*Question:* What is your title and position?

*Answer:* Chief Data Officer, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

*Question:* What are you doing for North Carolina's COVID-19 response?

*Answer:* Identifying data sources, coordinating moving parts, and streamlining workflows to obtain near real-time data re testing, cases, and health system capacity around the state (e.g. beds, respirators, PPE (personal protective equipment)).

*Question:* How does informatics play a role in your work on COVID-19?

*Answer:* Informatics enables data exchange methods and visualization tools to provide the information needs to logistics specialists and policy makers in order to make decisions on how to tackle the outbreak, from where to send sick patients to where to send supplies, to how aggressive state-wide response needs to be. It also makes previously labor-intensive, manual efforts more streamlined and helps avoid data entry errors.

*Question:* Any tips/advice for informaticians doing public health related work?

*Answer:* Think about the questions that people on the ground truly need answered, as opposed to what would make a good publication. Also keep in mind the informatics equivalent of “think horses not zebras”- a well-documented, secure API may be much more useful than the most sophisticated deep learning model.

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## Cancellations

The Women in AMIA Networking Event (WINE) originally scheduled for the AMIA Informatics Summit in Houston Texas was called off due to the COVID-19-related cancellation of the Summit. We remain optimistic about having a WINE event at the 2020 Fall Symposium and are grateful to past sponsors of WINE, including the University of Maryland and Medal, Inc.

The Women in AMIA Leadership Program's in person meeting scheduled for May in Utah has been cancelled. Stay tuned for a future update on the activities that will replace this meeting.

EPISODE 10 NOW AVAILABLE

## WIA Podcast with Dr. Patti Brennan

**"Training the Next Generation of Informaticians"**



## Take part in the COVID-19 BioHackathon

Tiffany Leung

There will be a special COVID-19 virtual biohackathon from April 5 through April 11. To find out how to participate, view the [GitHub](#) page.



## The Women in AMIA Podcast

Karmen Williams

Interested in learning about the next generation of informaticians? Listen to 10th episode of the Women in AMIA Podcast featuring special guest, Dr. Patti Brennan, RN, PhD, Director of the National Library of Medicine. Hosted by Dr. Wendy Marie Ingram, the interview highlights Dr. Brennan's career trajectory and mission of improving health in everyday living, informatics training programs, and the future of informatics. [Click here](#) to listen to this engaging interview and many more. Join us in spreading the word to your committees, working groups, colleagues, and friends via AMIA Connect, email, and social media.