2023 Election for Board Director

Candidate
Aarti Chandawarkar

Professional Title And Affiliation
Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Program Director of Clinical Informatics, Nationwide Children's Hospital/The Ohio State College of Medicine

Personal Statement
As a young kid I always knew that I wanted to go into medicine and pursue pediatrics. My mother, who is a pediatrician had a lot to do with that choice. That was a path that I had chose, planned and worked towards. Not so much with informatics. I think I first heard the term informatics within the healthcare arena in 2008/2009 and as many others stumbled in that field without knowing the full impact of what it was. I had a strong peer mentor who directed me and opened this world of clinical informatics for me. My initial work being a physician started with Electronic Medical records and that drew me to op erational and applied informatics. My current area of interests are within physician documentation and decreasing burden, patient engagement and informatics education. My global health perspective having di=one a fellowship and now worked with international adoptees has prepared me for being a strong advocate for others- parents and the children. Being an immigrant and a woman of color I often have had to navigate obstacles but always come out stronger. I have had multiple strong mentors both peer and my faculty who were senior to me and in leadership positions who I could look up to. My own mom who got widowed at the age of 45 when I was 14 years old. She juggled home, single parenting and being a pediatrician and the sole bread winner and did all of that with grace.

I have learnt that through her that hard work, commitment, compassion and focus, there is nothing that an individual cannot achieve.
I owe my resilience to her.

Back to stumbling into informatics and over the decade making it my primary career has been a steep but fun learning curve. Sitting for my informatics boards while balancing being a parent of 2 teenager girls, wife to a busy physician husband and having a full time job was no easy feat, but again I was not alone doing this. I have had role models - starting with my mom and multiple peers going through this same balancing act.

All of these life lessons have taught me humility and realization of how many blessings I have. It is now time for me to be able to serve and give back to the country and profession that has given me so much. I hope I am given the opportunity to serve on the board and take help make AMIA stronger in the coming years.

Bio

I am an Associate Professor of Pediatrics and the Program Director for Clinical Informatics Program at Nationwide Children's Hospital and The Ohio State University. I am a Board-Certified pediatrician and fellowship trained in Global medicine and am the medical director of the international adoption clinic at NCH. I received my Clinical informatics Board Certification in 2019 and was inducted as a fellow into the American College of Medical Informatics in 2020.

Leadership Skills

1) As Associate Program Director for 5 years and now as Program director, I have led a successful CI Fellowship over the last 7 years. Our fellowship is fairly competitively sought after and we have a had a great success rate in recruiting. I have also been in charge of internal didactics that have been very well received and are attended by faculty and fellows of 4 Universities outside of OSU.

2) Within our institution- I have successfully lead a primary care physician builder team. This was peer mentorship in being able to help them optimize their workflows, CDS, patient engagement and decrease documentation burden. Our outcomes over 3 years show that we reduced the documentation burden by our efforts and saved over 6 FTE of pediatrician time. With this success, I am now leading a similar team in our Behavioral Health department.
I am the informaticist lead for our compliance department and help them with all compliance related issues including CMS changes and more.

3) On the National Level, as a Chair elect of AF in 2022, I was in charge of leading the Academic Forum Retreat and the LIEAF conference. The LIEAF conference was a resounding success with a record number of submissions and great attendance. I lead the SPC committee for this meeting.

4) As Chair of AF this year- we are hoping to continue with the retreat and LIEAF successes from last year. The retreat had more than double the number of attendees and this itself speaks for the strength of AF. The community membership targets have been met and we may even cross our target by the end of the year.

Reputation for Excellence (in informatics)

In my leadership role with AF and with a strong executive team , we have successfully built the LIEAF conference. Over the last 2 years the attendance went from 30 in 2021 to over a few hundred in 2022. The interest over the past year with institutions and organizations wanting to be part of AF and AF communities shows that AF is soon regaining its lost glory and adding to AMIA's reputation as a leader organization in the world of informatics. The scientific submissions to LIEAF too more than doubled from 2021 to 2022.

As part of the CIPD community, I was instrumental in starting the Shared Didactic Lecture series for CI fellows. This is one of a kind program where we have national experts in a specific informatics topic volunteer their time for a didactic topic with a total of over 20 lectures per

year covering the CI core content. This is open not only to CI fellows but all AF members. It has been very well received and we successfully completed our second year and planning for the 3rd. This is hosted by AMIA and recorded for fellows for asynchronous viewing. This has put AMIA in the position of being a pioneer in hosting core content lecture series for learners. My hope is to build on these successes and help to find more avenues within AF to further AMIA's reputation.

Perspective Add

Having been a guest of the Board for the past 6 months, I am greatly impressed by the amount of hard work that the Board puts in which from the member perspective just seem to happen. I think my experience as pediatrician in the trenches for over 20 years and working with adoptive children and global health and past decade as an informaticist and now having an understanding of what it takes for AMIA to be successful, I can bring my work ethic, compassion, empathy and global understanding to the board. As an immigrant woman of color (I came to this country in my mid-twenties) I have faced many obstacles but strong work ethic and great mentors have helped shape my career. I am at a point where I feel giving back to my profession which has given me so much, is extremely important. I am a mentor to many learners (Fellows, residents and med students and also some undergrad students) and I want to them to learn about informatics early on in their life and have a steady pipeline to informatics and AMIA. The physician lens to every idea, thinking through a 'differential' for all propositions and making a final executable plan that is a win for all would be the perspective I bring to the Board.

Team Player

Few principles I try to follow as a Team Player and what I can bring to the team:
- Commitment to the team's mission. Focusing on the goal and how we can as a team get to the goal post together efficiently.
- Communication, communication, communication!
- Knowing my personal strengths and areas where I would need help and asking for it. I take pride in my work and responsibility for my work and including when things did not go the expected way. I am not shy in admitting that I made a mistake and ready to accept advice and help.
- I am a glass half full person and always see the brighter side of things.
- Always willing to take on additional work if any team member needs help. I do believe that we make plans and Life happens, so happy to pitch in when I can.
- I am flexible with plans that can change at the last minute.
- Good with deadlines and can deliver on time.
- And above all humility

AMIA Engagement and Participation

AMIA member: 10-20 years
1) AMIA Member for about 10 years
2) AF member for 7 years

3) Part of the executive committee for Academic Forum since 2021- as secretor, then chair elect and currently as Chair.
4) Part of CIPD community since 2016 as Associate Program Director and last 15 months as Program Director.

Attended all CIC meetings since inception and also the prior AF meetings- IEF and INSPIRE. Been the 'founding' member for LIEAF conference. Attended multiple AMIA annual symposiums.

Informatics Interests
Clinical Care, Clinical Decision Support, Clinical Workflow, Disease Management, Education, Electronic Health Records, Global Health, Health Information Technology, Implementation, Medicine, Mobile Health, Patient Centered Care, Patient Safety, Primary Care