In this issue:

1. Student Spotlight:
   - Sarvesh Soni

2. JAMIA Student Publications

Save the date:

AMIA Annual Symposium
November 11-15
New Orleans, LA

Journal of Biomedical Informatics Call for Submissions
Do you have something to submit to JBI's special issue on fairness and inclusion in biomedical informatics research? Submit your research papers, special communications, methodological reviews, and commentaries on how researchers can be more mindful and inclusive. More information can be found here. Submit by October 1

AMIA Webinars
Check out upcoming free webinars that may be of interest to you. Unable to attend? Recordings are posted here so you can watch at your convenience!

Congratulations to the 2023 LEAD Fund Trainee Awardees!

- Derek Shu - Medical Student, University of Cincinnati
- Anindita Rajamani - Undergraduate Student, University of Minnesota Computer Science
- Alexander Chang - MD-PhD Student, University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Melon University
- Lu He - PhD Candidate, University of California Irvine
- Brian Douthit - Post-doctoral Fellow, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Navpreet Kamboj - PhD Candidate, University of Toronto
1. Please share your research interests.
My research interests lie under the umbrella of clinical natural language processing. I am specifically excited about question answering (QA) from electronic health records (EHRs), which is also the main theme of my dissertation work.

2. What are Clinical QA systems and why is it important?
EHRs contain a wealth of useful patient information and are frequently used by clinicians to provide care. However, due to many usability issues associated with EHRs, accessing the required information is often complicated and time-consuming. A more organic way of interacting with the EHRs is by posing natural language questions and getting exact answers back from the records, or in other words, QA from EHRs.

3. What are the main results and findings of your dissertation?
My dissertation proposes three novel representative datasets for EHR QA: builds an end-to-end framework that goes from questions all the way to their exact answers in structured EHR data, implements methods to automatically generate paraphrases of clinical questions and improve EHR QA, and designs systems to automatically retrieve EHR text documents and underlying exact answer spans for a given information need.

4. What are some of the skills or tools that you used or learned during your research?
I harnessed the knowledge of computer science that I learned during my undergraduate and Masters to speed up several projects during the PhD. Specifically, the ability to implement or code solutions for informatics problems was crucial. I have learned much more about the nuances of natural language processing (NLP) while pursuing my PhD. This has happened through the course of multiple projects with several failures and successes.

5. What advice would you give to junior Ph.D. students who are interested in Clinical QA systems?
To understand the field, join the informatics community and expand your horizon. The AMIA Student Working Group is a good start. To advance clinical QA, understand the real world challenges of human-computer interactions in care provision and think creatively to solve the problems of accessing information from EHRs. Remember the “Fundamental Theorem” of Biomedical Informatics, which says that a human with information resources performs better than a human without.
Bing Xue - Washington University in St. Louis, MO, United States


Brian D Tran - University of California, Irvine, CA, United States


Myron Anthony Godinho – University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia


Kylie Dougherty, Columbia University, NY, United States


Maryam Eslami Jahromi - Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran


Mitchell J Winkie – Harvard University, MA, United States


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