



2023 Election for Board Director

Candidate

Tiffany Leung

Professional Title And Affiliation

Scientific Editorial Director, JMIR Publications

Personal Statement

In all my professional, and even my personal pursuits, I value clear and effective communication, authenticity, and honesty. I believe my strongest features which I live by daily are being direct while also being considerate, and engaging in active listening. My professional journey has been an unusual one, given I started as an academic primary care general internal medicine physician: I am in a different primary profession and country than I would have expected 10 years ago when I was a brand new AMIA member. The AMIA communities have grown and evolved during the past decade and so have I, with AMIA having a role in that journey. AMIA offers me a stable professional home for clinical informatics, where I have a sense of belonging moreso than my memberships or participation in other informatics communities of practice. I recognize the various ways that each community, including AMIA, can contribute to my own professional pathway. Through service on the AMIA Board of Directors, I would look forward to the opportunity to work closely with others to continue to innovate and offer ways to foster this same sense of belonging and growth for AMIA members in the upcoming years.

Bio

Tiffany I. Leung, MD, MPH, FACP, FAMIA, FEFIM is Adjunct Clinical Associate Professor at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine and Scientific Editor for JMIR Publications. Dr. Leung is a practicing telemedicine physician with U.S. board certifications in Internal Medicine and Clinical Informatics. She is also a registered physician in The Netherlands. Dr. Leung is past Editor-in-Chief of the Society of General Internal Medicine's monthly newsletter, SGIM Forum (2020-23), co-chair of the Women in American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) Steering Committee (2021-present) and past chair of the American College of Physicians' Council of Early Career Physicians (2020-21). She was also Co-executive Producer of a podcast to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in medicine, called The DEI Shift. Dr. Leung is the 2022 recipient of the American College of Physicians' Walter J. McDonald Award for Early Career Physicians and 2020 recipient of the Women in Medicine Summit's #IStandWithHer #SheForShe Award.

Leadership Skills

In all my professional, and even my personal pursuits, I value clear and effective communication, authenticity, and honesty. I believe my strongest features which I live by daily are being direct while also being considerate and engaging in active listening. Through both my

daily professional responsibilities as a department director, and also my past engagements serving on the equivalent of a Board of Directors in other professional societies in leadership roles, I recognize the vital and unique leadership functions that Board members contribute to a society's advancement and maintenance of relevance and value for its members (current, past, and prospective members). Balanced and inclusive viewpoints in dialogue and decision-making are essential in such roles, and I believe I have the experiences and competencies necessary to do so in such a position for AMIA.

Reputation for Excellence (in informatics)

I primarily identify as a clinical informatician, given my origin story begins with working as an academic Primary Care General Internist during a time of feverish pursuit of optimizing electronic health records to meet Meaningful Use criteria, as well as developing primary care workflows and quality measures to achieve NCQA Patient-Centered Medical Home recognition. Since then, I completed a VA Postdoctoral Fellowship in Medical Informatics, served as Physician Lead in a hybrid telemedicine "bricks-and-clicks" primary care practice (pre-COVID in 2015-2016) which received the AMIA Provider Innovation in Informatics (Pi2) Award at a time when AMIA CIC was known as the iHealth conference then became ABPM CI board certified, and was inducted to Fellowship of AMIA. As a member of AMIA, and serving in WIA, during a time when I began shifting from early to mid-career as a physician-informatician, I started learning that sponsorship and amplification have key roles in influencing the trajectory of one's career and the value of having a communities of peers and colleagues outside of my primary work setting. Over the past I have served as a presenter, moderator, and co-faculty on numerous sessions at AMIA conferences (12 in the last four years); beyond AMIA, I have already served on other society Boards, given invited talks internationally, and received national award recognitions as well. I believe that these, among many others, are indicators that I have developed a reputation for core values of maturity, integrity, and honesty that also align with those of AMIA.

Perspective Add

I learned early in my informatics career that one informatics career does not fit all and I have a deep appreciation for this vast professional diversity in our field. This became personal for me in 2021, when both my personal and professional circumstances led to a change off the traditional track of being an academic physician to full-time work in scientific publishing. Presented the opportunity to facilitate publishing high-quality scientific work and perspectives in informatics, I have experienced rapid professional transitions first from dominantly academia to dominantly (publishing) industry, then from "front line" work as editorial staff to directorship (all remote or virtual work) in under 1.5 years. All of this took place while also navigating the journey of being a leader and senior manager from an underrepresented group (the extremely leaky pipeline appears to apply in scientific publishing as well) and transitioning from early career to mid-career as a physician-informatician. As an American, based internationally (in the Netherlands), I also carry a global perspective and network, for example, serving on the European Federation of Internal Medicine's Telemedicine and Digital Technologies Working Group. I look forward to an opportunity to meaningfully contribute my unique perspectives

derived from the intersections of my experiences in diverse professional work settings/roles and my personal experiences and traits to the AMIA Board of Directors.

Team Player

Unquestionably, I have a thorough understanding of the responsibilities of a professional society's Board of Directors, having served on the American College of Physicians' Board of Regents for one year while I was Chair of the ACP Council of Early Career Physicians (2020-2021), and also served as an ex officio member on the Society of General Internal Medicine's Leadership Council (2020-2023). In my routine professional work, I also am a department director, serving as the direct supervisor and report for all department staff and also as one (only female) member of the senior management team in my organization. I am well-versed in many of the challenges, careful deliberations, and sometimes hard decisions required of and unique to a professional society, whose vision and values are strongly shaped and influenced by its members and leaders. Furthermore, I recognize the value and substantial contributions of strong and capable society staff and leaders employed by a society to drive the vision and strategic priorities towards tangible fruition. Beyond these traits, communication is core to my professions. It always has been: my MPH emphasized promoting health literacy among patients with chronic disease, my clinical work involves patient education and counseling as a primary care general internist, and my current full-time profession is scientific publishing. I know deeply the importance and influence (both positive and negative, including implicit biases and hidden curricula) of language in team dynamics and communication, and strive to continuously learn, role model, and engage with peers in more mindful and meaningful interactions towards common goals.

AMIA Engagement and Participation

AMIA member: 10-20 years

As current co-chair of the Women in AMIA Steering Committee, I continue into my 10th year of AMIA membership. My first year of AMIA membership was during my first post-residency Primary Care General Internal Medicine faculty position, when I completed Bill Hersh's 10x10 on Introduction to Biomedical Informatics. Since then, I have gone on to present posters and papers, and moderate and participate in panels, at various AMIA Annual Symposia, been an award recipient of the Pi2 Award in the last year of the iHealth Conference (2015), and served as a member and then Chair of the Women in AMIA Subcommittee on Awards and Leadership, during which I co-authored a JAMIA article examining the gender proportions of women recipients of AMIA signature awards and in leadership roles of informatics training programs [Published during term as Chair of Subcommittee: Griffin AC, Leung TI, Tenenbaum JD, Chung AE. Gender representation in U.S. biomedical informatics leadership and recognition. JAMIA. February 8, 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jamia/ocaa344>]. I was also inducted to Fellowship of AMIA in 2017 and served on the Careers in Informatics Task Force as a subject matter expert and member. I also am a member of several AMIA Working Groups, most continuously and actively in the Primary Care Informatics Working Group.

Informatics Interests

Clinical Care; Clinical Research; Health Services Research; Internal Medicine; Medicine; Mobile Health; Preventative Medicine; Primary Care; Research; Telehealth; Workforce Development