**For Your Informatics Podcast**

Episode 25: Meet Your AMIA Working Groups

**Host:** Hello and welcome to for your Informatics Podcast, where we explore the limitless world of biomedical Informatics. My name is Dr. Wendy Marie Ingram, and I'll be your host today. Our podcast is being sponsored by the Women in AMIA Leadership received grantees thanks goes to our sponsors and thank you for joining us.

Today we have a special podcast where we will be featuring a few of AMIA's 23 working groups. What are AMIA Working Groups? The working groups serve as networks in which current AMIA members can exchange information on a particular area of special interest in biomedical and health Informatics. Working groups provide a way for members old and new to collaborate, meet new colleagues, and become involved in the development of positions, issues, white papers, programs, and other activities that benefit the Informatics community. Each working group extends to an online community in which members discuss key issues and developments in the field. And as you're about to hear, working groups are constantly evolving and offer so much more than that. Each working group featured in today's episode was given the same prompt. So you'll be hearing from members of a variety of groups who will introduce themselves and their working group and then highlight new opportunities and a few who will share a little bit more.

To start, I'll kick us off because, as I mentioned, I'm Dr. Wendy Ingram, but I'm not just your host. I'm also the current chair of the Mental Health Informatics Working Group. This working group is relatively new compared with some of the others. It was started only about five years ago, but I do have to say that we have accomplished quite a bit in just that short period of time. Our working group aims to promote and facilitate opportunities to develop and apply Informatics methods and approaches in the context of mental health research and care. We have monthly, 1-hour virtual meetings where working group members gather to share personal research updates and opportunities to collaborate. Quarterly, we host one preeminent speaker from a different industry rotating through academia, health care delivery, government and nonprofit spaces over the last couple of years, yes, during COVID, we were led by our fearless leaders, Jessie Tannenbaum and Piper Ranallo in writing and publishing the first textbook on mental health Informatics titled Mental Health Informatics Enabling a Learning Mental Healthcare System. This was released in November 2021, and I highly encourage anyone interested in mental health Informatics to check it out.

Now we're excited to share that we're looking into creating a course based on this textbook, so if that sounds exciting to you, please reach out and join our next meeting, which is held on the second Friday of each month. Except June and July, we do take a summer break. The last thing I'll add is that Mental Health Informatics Working Group is very welcoming. We want people who have interest or expertise. So if you're brand new and just curious, please, please do not feel like you have to be a mental health expert or an Informatics guru in order to join us and contribute. We have a lot of fun at the conferences, and we really enjoy collaborating and coming up with new and exciting ways to push forward the field of mental health Informatics.

**WG Steering Committee:** Hi, my name is Vicky Tiase, and I'm a nurse informaticist at New York Presbyterian Hospital. I'm also an AMIA Board member, and I've been serving as a chair of the Working Group Steering Committee for the last two years. The Working Group Steering Committee was set up to help to support and guide the working groups in their efforts as AMIA members. We're the center of this volunteer organization and the reason why AMIA is truly leading the way in transforming healthcare through science education and the practice of Informatics. The working groups serve as our core AMIA units, so through these we engage deeply in the association and share expertise and energies and also creates opportunities for leadership and participation by starting out with the working groups.

Our 23 working groups promote the objectives of AMIA and a forum for increasing professional knowledge and interaction for members with similar interests in both biomedical and health Informatics. The other nice feature is that the working groups provide a way for members, both old and new, to collaborate, to meet new colleagues and become involved in the development of position papers, white papers, comment on issues, create new programs, and other activities that benefit the entire Informatics community. In addition, each of the working groups extend to an online community in which the members discuss key issues and other developments in the field.

Over the past two years, we have seen an increase in working groups, cross collaborating within AMIA, and also forming alliances with other Informatics related organizations external to AMIA. So this serves as a great way to extend the reach of AMIA and provide broader thought leadership. So the working group volunteer structure ultimately enables all of us with opportunities to lead and participate in the ongoing development of the field with our peers, share our passion and expertise in informatics and advance the profession while doing so. So, to learn more about each of the 23 working groups, please check out our AMIA website at AMIA.org/communities/working-groups to join us.

**Education WG:** I'm Kris Alpi, and I'm the chair of the Education Working Group here at AMIA. I'm also a librarian and an associate professor at Oregon Health and Science University in Portland. I think the biggest thing is that we all have a role in educating people about Informatics. And so while many of the Education Working Group members teach academic courses or direct training programs for health profession students or future informaticists, we also want to learn together kind of how to facilitate learning for audiences as diverse as colleagues in your own institutions, in clinics, in companies, in public health agencies, as well as consumers, patients, and families who use Informatics tools.

So our focus in the Education Working Group for next year will be on opportunities to learn together across professional disciplines. We're going to continue to invite collaborations with other AMIA working groups, as well as associations like the Medical Library Association and our global colleagues in the International Medical Informatics Association. We're going to be offering more Journal club type sessions, and we anticipate a publication that's going to advance the dialogue on Informatics and interprofessional education and practice.

Honestly, we hope that members who are hearing this podcast will think about the mentoring and teaching roles that you have in your own areas of expertise and consider joining in the conversation that our working group is trying to facilitate. So thank you.

**Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues WG:** I am Melissa Clarkson, the chair of the LC Working Group, and I am an assistant professor at the University of Kentucky. Well first, ELSI is an acronym E-L-S-I, which stands for Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues. Our group is focused on helping to raise awareness of ethical, legal, and social issues in biomedical and health Informatics so that people can see the connections to their own work and then make informed decisions related to these issues. We have an active discussion forum on AMIA Connect, so anyone curious about this area should sign up for that. Also, we're starting a new quarterly Webinar panel called Health Tech Views and Voices. In each session, we will assemble a panel to discuss an issue that is of interest to both the AMIA community and wider audiences, such as patient advocates or members of other professional organizations. And to put these together, we're reaching out to other organizations to help organize sessions so that we can hear from people beyond AMIA and academia. And these webinar panels are freely available to anyone who registers, and we post the videos to our new YouTube channel.

**Consumer Health Informatics WG:** I'm Katherine Kim, and I'm the chair of the Consumer Health Informatics Working Group. We're the go-to Working Group in AMIA. If you're dedicated to the inclusion of diverse consumer and community perspective, and you want to generate new knowledge as well as solutions that improve health in everyday settings and the continuum of healthcare. So you should join us if you want resources to build your leadership in this field or you want to network with other researchers, professionals, and community members, we have lots of opportunities to be involved at whatever level is comfortable for you. You could run for office and be an elected leader of our working group, or you could actually just be a member of our Open leadership group and attend our meetings and participate at whatever level you want. You could be a student and be a student representative. We also have lots of ad hoc opportunities. So let's say you want to be part of our group writing a systematic review or a scoping review on a topic in consumer health Informatics. You could do that. You could organize a sponsored workshop or panel for the annual symposium or the Clinical Informatics conference, or you could propose your own idea and let us help you find collaborators to make that a reality.

AMIA is a society of professionals, but all of us in health Informatics are trying to make the world better. So when we design solutions that are supposed to work for a community, we really want to get engaged with that community. And I joined AMIA and this working group because I wanted to make sure that everything that I do in my research is really going to benefit community. So if that's how you feel and you want to use your expertise to develop solutions that really work in the real world, then this is the group for you.

**Dental Health Informatics WG:** Hi. My name is Karmen Williams and I am the chair of the Dental Informatics Working Group. I would like AMIA members to know that we are not all dentists, that we are people working in the dental field trying to raise awareness about Informatics, as well as build the gap between Informatics and dentistry. Okay, we have a few different opportunities. Right now, we have a Dental Informatics Working Group board, which has a chair, the vice chair, it has representatives from industry, academia, student, and a research representative. And these people are going to come together and decide really what should the Dental Informatics Working Group do moving forward, how we could make different waves in private practice as well as government as well as academia.

Additionally, we are looking at building a dental Informatics curriculum. And so we've been working with different working groups, including the Education Working Group, to try to build that curriculum and make that available for dental schools as well as other schools of Informatics, have modules available for anybody who's just interested in learning more.

I would like to say that students, you are welcome. And again, you don't have to be an expert in dentistry. You can come from any walk of life. It is really about bringing more Informatics and more awareness of Informatics in dentistry.

**Nursing Informatics WG:** My name is Karen Dunn Lopez, and I am the chair of the Nursing Informatics Work Group. So we're a group of nurses that have an Informatics focus, people who study nurses or friends of Nursing Informatics. We have over 300 members, so there are just a lot of opportunities to participate.

Well, I'll talk about some of the existing opportunities. One is we host an annual Sunday morning session that's full of great information and networking for NIWG members, and that includes our famous Nursing Informatics Year in Review. That's patterned after the annual Informatics Year in Review, we have a policy committee that stays on the cutting edge and contributes to national policy areas that impact nurses. Our Digital Communities Committee is one of our newest and really fun committees that uses social media to support NIWG's work and achievement of its members.

And this is really the tip of the iceberg. With a working group of our size, we can do a lot of new things and I'm looking for new members to help us grow ideas. We're beginning to think about as a working group how we contribute to DEI, diversity, equity, inclusion within NWIG, AMIA and our field overall. And, you know, as chair, one of the things that's really important to me is that I engage a broad array of people to volunteer large jobs and small jobs. I want there really to be a place for everyone and I'd be happy to talk to anyone with ideas for getting involved in NIWG, whether it's one of our existing committees or people bringing new ideas.

**Host:** This is Dr. Wendy Murray Ingram, concluding this for your Informatics podcast where we explored together the limitless world of medical Informatics with just a few of AMIA's working groups. Please check out AMIA.org/communities/working-groups to learn more.