

# NEWSLETTER

JULY 2022



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## SAVE THE DATE:

**Nov 5-9**  
2022 AMIA ANNUAL  
SYMPOSIUM

## REACH OUT TO US:

 [AMIASTUDENTWG.SLACK.COM](https://amiastudentwg.slack.com)

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## SUMMER SMILES

### SUNSHINE, FUN, AND A LITTLE WORK

We hope you have settled into the summer months and that this season has been filled with sunshine, fun, and a little bit of work (haha)!

We congratulate everyone who will be presenting at the AMIA Annual Symposium. We look forward to gathering with you to hear about your informatics passions in Washington D.C. this November!

As always, please feel free to reach out to us if you are interested in joining the Student Working Group Slack or monthly meeting held on the third Friday of the month at 1600 EST.

# PHYSICIANS IN AMIA SPOTLIGHT

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**JODI WACHS**

**MD, FAAPM&R, FAMIA**

**PHYSICAL MEDICINE & REHABILITATION PHYSICIAN**

**BOARD CERTIFIED IN CLINICAL INFORMATICS**

**PAST CHAIRMAN OF PHYSICIANS IN AMIA (PINA)**

## **Briefly describe your background/research interests.**

My career in industry spans a diverse set of informatics job roles including patent submissions, product development, demo sales and departmental EHR implementation/optimizations. My passion lies in creation of disruptive innovative technology and development of knowledge management platforms to drive intelligence. I currently hold the office of Past-Chairman of Physicians in AMIA (PINA).

## **Please tell us about your role in PINA.**

In 2019 I was elected as the first Chair of the Clinical Informatics Community of Practice (CICOP) and continued in that capacity until it was transformed into PINA. CICOP was established by AMIA as a channel of communication with board-certified physician informaticians. CICOP leadership soon realized that we needed to reach a broader group of physicians within AMIA. Thus, in Mar. 2021 Physicians in AMIA (PINA) was established and I continued to serve as Chair of PINA through Dec. 2021. PINA is an inclusive AMIA physician community that services the professional needs of all physicians regardless of certification, schooling, experience, work environment or area of informatics practice.

## **What opportunities does PINA have for students?**

PINA offers students many opportunities to become engaged with both the physician community and informatics areas of interest. PINA has a board member dedicated to career development which we recognize starts in medical school. PINA is happy to connect students to mentors, and resources for undergraduate and residency rotations in Informatics. There are numerous working groups within PINA where you can influence the future.

## **What activities do you recommend for early career medical students interested in informatics?**

The demand for physicians with clinical, technical, and people knowledge is growing with over 2000 board-certified physician informaticians. It is never too early for a medical student interested in informatics to gain experience in the field. Seek out opportunities and mentors in different areas to learn more. Become involved with PINA by introducing yourself at a meeting or to another physician.

## **Who should join PINA?**

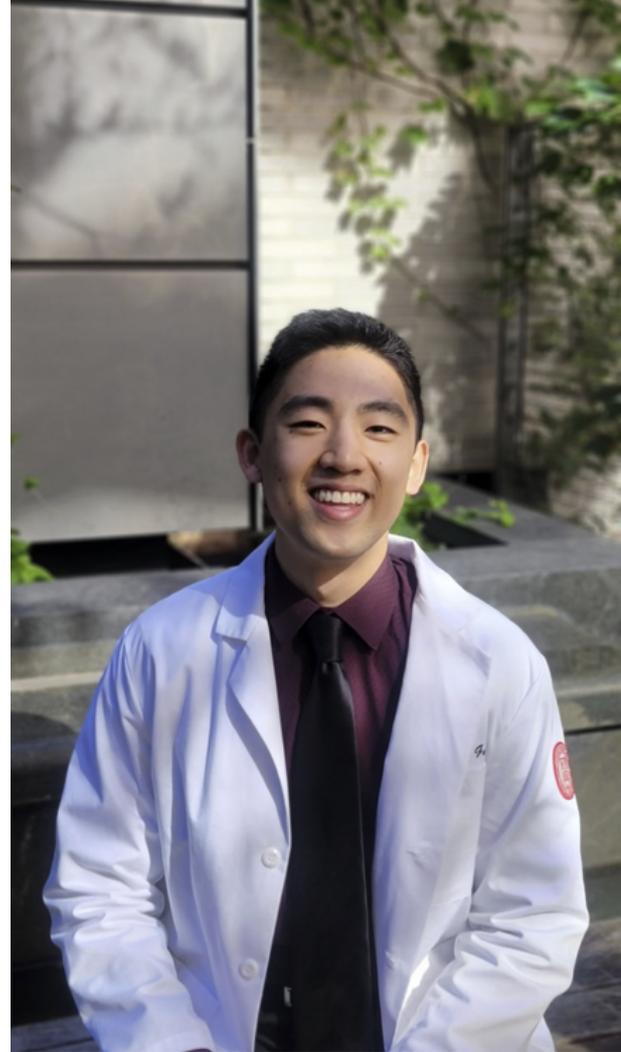
All physicians should join PINA for professional development, connections, and support. Join us the second Friday of every month for an open board meeting. Meeting links are posted on the PINA community boards. Any problems connecting or looking for more information contact RaeLynn Gochnauer at [rgochnauer@amia.org](mailto:rgochnauer@amia.org) to get connected.

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

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## WINSTON GUO

MD CANDIDATE  
WEILL CORNELL MEDICINE



### **1. How did you become interested in informatics?**

I have long been drawn to both medicine and computer science, and when I entered medical school, I realized informatics might allow me to apply both disciplines. The various areas within informatics are exciting; I saw ways in which I could impact multiple specialties (e.g. health informatics), or make discoveries with regard to a specific disease or specialty (e.g. machine learning).

### **2. What areas of informatics excite you about the future of medicine?**

Machine learning and big data are ever-growing, powerful methods for supporting data-driven medicine, and new tools are always in rapid development. I am also excited by technologies that promote healthcare access such as telemedicine.

### **3. How do you balance medical school and your research interests?**

The balance has shifted over time; when I was in the preclinical part of the curriculum (mostly classwork), I made sure to learn the material well but also spent a lot of time exploring and pursuing different projects. But now that I am in my clinical rotations, I prioritize these clinical experiences because they will help me understand the gaps in medicine where informatics can provide support.

### **4. How do you see informatics intersecting with your experience in medical school?**

As I experience different specialties and attempt to make a decision, I am keeping in mind how well informatics meshes with the specialty and what kind of impact I could make through research.

### **5. What advice would you offer to medical students interested in working in informatics?**

Start early and search broadly! There are so many different and fascinating sub-fields of informatics, and by exploring proactively you are more likely to find the field that makes you tick. I personally haven't found that for myself yet, but I think this approach has helped narrow my interests and will continue to do so over the next 2 years.