

Newsletter

Working
Group

Student

March 2025



In this issue:

Student Spotlight:
Victor Borza- Martin Epstein
Award First Place Winner

Student Opportunities

Showcase your research

Want to nominate yourself for a student spotlight?
Let us know about your work

Positions

Interested in running for STWG Chair Elect or
Student Board Representative?
Email nickreid@uw.edu

Apply to be a student volunteer at the Clinical
Informatics Conference- Deadline 4/15

Find a postdoctoral fellowship

Informatics KnowHow: The Trainee Edition #IKnowTE

We're excited to announce that our very own
podcast is coming soon!

Save the date:

Clinical Informatics Conference

May 20-22, 2025
Anaheim, CA

Annual Symposium

November 15-19, 2025
Atlanta, GA

Get connected!



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



[@AMIASTWG](https://twitter.com/AMIASTWG)

Follow the AMIA STWG on [LinkedIn](#)

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Victor Borza

MD/PhD Candidate at Vanderbilt University

Martin Epstein Award First Place Winner 2024



Please briefly describe your Student Paper Competition paper.

In my paper titled “Adaptive Recruitment Resource Allocation to Improve Cohort Representativeness in Participatory Biomedical Datasets”, I propose a new way to approach **recruiting research cohorts** that reflect the intended study population – representative cohorts. Specifically, I develop an algorithm that leverages differences in recruitment site populations to identify what combination of sites would yield the most representative final cohort. My hope is that study designers could use this method to guide their recruitment efforts and achieve their cohort goals.



How did you become interested in informatics?

My undergraduate training was in engineering, but my **capstone** and thesis projects focused on machine learning and sparked my interest in biomedical informatics. Around this time, I also realized how important population-representative study cohorts were to make sure that research findings generalize and apply to everyone.



What was your inspiration, and what key challenges did you encounter?

I was inspired to start this project from a **reinforcement learning class** I took – during that class, I realized how I could extend my previous work in representative subsampling to prospective studies. My first iterations of this project were clunky and way too complicated (not to mention slow!). I thought that I needed to use the latest and most complicated algorithms to get the best results. After quite a few discussions with my co-authors and collaborators, I realized that a **simpler algorithm can achieve the same goal** while being far easier to explain and adapt, if needed.



What advice do you have for students starting in informatics?

This is for every field of science but especially for informatics with how complex it can be – **practice your presentations** with people who aren’t in your lab or your field! They can give unique feedback and make sure that your explanations are clear and sufficient.



How do you see the role of informatics evolving in the next decade, especially in the context of healthcare and data-driven technologies?

I think informaticians will play an increasing role in the next decade, especially as **liaisons** with in-depth knowledge about both technology and the realities of healthcare. Both data sources and the capabilities of artificial intelligence systems are increasing at an unprecedented pace, so I think there will be a great need for informatics to contextualize and apply these developments. I also think informatics has an important role in ensuring that the development and deployment of these new technologies is safe and responsible.