Hi all, Happy Summer, and welcome back to VCLIC News—as you may have noticed, we took a brief hiatus in May. As a result, we have a lot to report on this month, and please bear with us if we leave anything out (also: please email us if we leave anything out, and we’ll include in the July publication).

The majority of this newsletter is dedicated to the outstanding work our members have been doing over the past several months, but we are also excited to feature Yaa Kumah-Crystal, MD, MPH, MS, and her work as well as to include information on how to apply to become a Fellow of AMIA and upcoming conferences, competitions, and conference deadlines. The Honors, Awards, Publications, and Presentations section of this newsletter is lengthy—congratulations to all our members on a fabulous year and start to summer!

If you have any questions or would like to engage with our team, please email Elise (elise.russo@vumc.org).

FAMIA 2021 Applications Now Open
The application period for candidates who wish to apply to be Fellows of AMIA opened on May 18th, 2021 and will be active through July 19th, 2021 at 11:59 pm ET. FAMIA was established by the AMIA board in 2018 in order to recognize members who apply informatics skills and knowledge within their professional setting, who have demonstrated professional achievement and leadership, and who have a sustained commitment to the betterment of AMIA.

To review the eligibility criteria, see here. To apply, visit here.

AMIA/HL7 FHIR Applications Competition Call for Submissions Open
AMIA and HL7 are sponsoring a competition at the AMIA 2021 Annual Symposium (October 30-November 3rd) for anyone who is working on FHIR and has a software application to present. They are interested in health-related FHIR software applications that:

1. Are deployed in a real-world setting, and in use with clinicians, caregivers, patients or people;
2. Address a real-world need or problem in an innovative, efficient and effective way; and
3. Provide value for the clinic, research, education and administration. If you have one or more evaluation studies, so much the better!

In order to participate, you will submit answers to a series of questions, available here. A panel of FHIR experts and developers from HL7 and AMIA will review the submissions and select 10 for presentation at the AMIA 2021 Annual Symposium. More information can be found on the website.
Member Spotlight: Yaa Kumah-Crystal, MD, MPH, MS

Like many kids in the 90s, I secretly wanted to learn that I was a wizard just like Harry Potter and could command all the candles in the dining hall to ignite by simply declaring "Lumos."

Alas, my train ticket to Hogwarts never materialized. But I can turn on and off all the lights in my house by simply asking Alexa. Close enough I guess.

I want to practice medicine in a world that can take every advantage of the existing magic in the science we have available to us. Can it be science and magic at the same time? Imagine a hospital where doctors are commanding inanimate tools with their voice to care for their patients, have the ability to predict the future and determine if a patient is going to deteriorate, and administer potions that can help the body create antibodies to ward off a pandemic. It’s unbelievable how far basic computer science principles leveraged in medicine have allowed us to come. The fact that we have principles and the scientific premise to understand why it all comes together doesn’t make it any less magical.

I’m particularly interested in the way doctors work and think and arrive at decisions to help patients get better. Because speaking is the most natural way we as humans communicate, I want to help design a care experience where doctors and patients can simply use their words to request and share information with each other and their environment. Computers can be oracles for care delivery and the way we choose to leverage these technologies is revealing about our humanity. I want to work with anyone who is inspired by the possibility of what if and has ever dreamt of being a wizard.

Upcoming Conferences

- [International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)](https://icml.cc/): July 18-24th, 2021, Virtual
- [Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) Annual Meeting](https://www.siam.org/meetings/annual/): July 19-23, 2021, Virtual
• Association for Computing Machinery Conference on Bioinformatics, Computational Biology, and Health Informatics: August 1-4th, 2021, Virtual
• Machine Learning for Healthcare: August 6-7th, 2021, Virtual
• Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS): August 9-13th, 2021, Las Vegas, NV (hybrid)
• Epic UGM: August 23-26th, 2021, Verona, WI

Details on upcoming conferences and conference deadlines can be found on our Confluence page, here.

Publications, Presentations, Interviews, and Awards

Awards and Honors

Kevin Johnson, MD, MS Named IAHSI Fellow

Kevin Johnson, MD, MS, has been elected to the International Academy of Health Sciences Informatics (IAHSI) in the 2021 Class of Academy Fellows. The Academy is part of the International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA), and election to IAHSI fellowship is a prestigious honor, recognizing expertise in biomedical and health informatics internationally.
Scott Lee, MD, PhD, MPA, MPhil received the Kenneth J. Arrow Award for health economics research given by the International Health Economics Association. Dr. Lee and colleagues were awarded this honor for their 2020 paper published in the American Economic Review, describing a study about the recruitment of health practitioners in Zambia and its relationship to significant improvement in measured health outcomes. This award is the highest honor given annually for health economics research. Congratulations, Dr. Lee!

Trent Rosenbloom, MD, MPH appointed to NLM BILDS Review Committee

Trent Rosenbloom, MD, MPH, was appointed to the National Library of Medicine’s (NLM) Biomedical Informatics, Library, and Data Sciences (BILDS) Review Committee for the term between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2025. The BILDS committee is the leading study section for the NLM, and members are
chosen for their individual expertise, academic ranking, research background, and experience with peer review processes, among other criteria.

Inaugural Physician Builder Award Winners: Chetan Aher, MD, and Wael Alrifai, MD, MS

Chetan Aher, MD, and Wael Alrifai, MD, MS, were awarded the first Physician Builder Awards for VUMC Physician Builder program participants. This award recognizes physician builders who have made outstanding contributions to eStar via devising and implementing new content and tools for the system. Dr. Alrifai was recognized for his work on a neonatal sequential organ failure assessment (nSOFA) score calculator, which provides an index of how sick a patient is. Dr. Aher received his award for his work on the bariatric procedure pass, which allows teams to track surgical weight loss patients as they progress through the presurgical checklist, as well as for his work on a post-operative checklist, which ensures that teams promptly notify VUMC insurance authorization staff when retro-authorization is needed for a procedure. Drs. Aher (second from right) and Alrifai (second from left) are pictured with Adam Wright, PhD (far left), VCLIC Center Director and award sponsor, and Jonathan Wanderer (far right), MD, MPhil, Physician Builder Program Director. Their accomplishment was recognized in the VUMC Reporter.
Dave Johnson, MD, Elected to Academy for Excellence in Education

Congratulations to Dave Johnson, MD, who was elected to the Academy for Excellence in Education, which was established in November of 2006 and is a collective of outstanding faculty educators in Vanderbilt University School of Medicine who are highly engaged in the educational mission.

Additional Accolades

- Allison McCoy, PhD, completed VUMC’s site implementation of GUARRD-US CDS, a germline disease-risk genetic CDS VUMC is currently running.
- Martha Shepherd, DO, MPH, graduated from Dartmouth with her Master’s of Public Health on June 11, 2021. Congratulations, Dr. Shepherd!
- Alvin Jeffery, PhD, co-facilitated a workshop at the 2021 Nursing Knowledge: Big Data Science pre-conference titled “Data Science Hands-On.”
- Wael Alrifai, MD, MS, received the VUMC Turners-Hazinski Award, which is two years of grant funding for the project Operationalizing Provider Workload Assessment in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

In The News since 4/15/21

- 4/19/2021: Extracting accurate COVID data from scanned forms: Trent Rosenbloom, MD, MPH is a coinvestigator on this project, where the team used optical mark/character recognition software (OMR/OCR) to extract data from the scanned paper forms used for COVID patient intake.
- 5/3/21: VUMC’s Lee among group to earn Kenneth J. Arrow Award for health economics research: This article recognizes Scott Lee, MD, PhD, MPA, MPhil, professor of Medicine, who has received the Kenneth J. Arrow Award for health economics research given by the International Health Economics Association.
- 5/18/21: Rosenbloom appointed to National Library of Medicine’s Biomedical Informatics, Library and Data Sciences Review Committee: And this article covers Trent Rosenbloom, MD, MPH’s appointment to the NLM BILDS review committee.
5/18/21: **Clinical informatics program named HIMSS Approved Education Partner:** The Master of Science in Applied Clinical Informatics program (MSACI) was recently named an Approved Education Partner (AEP) by the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS). **Scott Nelson, PharmD, MS**, is the program director for the MSACI at VUMC.

5/26/21: **Predicting blood clots before they happen in pediatric patients:** **Kevin Johnson, MD, MS** is executive sponsor of AVAIL (Advanced Vanderbilt Artificial Intelligence Laboratory), which made this project possible.

6/3/21: **Predictive model identifies patients for genetic testing:** This article quotes **Josh Peterson, MD, MPH**, whose Center for Precision Medicine supports several of the researchers on this project.

6/9/21: **Award recognizes hands-on contributions to health IT at VUMC:** **Chetan Aher, MD**, and **Wael Alrifai, MD, MS** were announced as the inaugural winners of the VCLIC-sponsored Physician Builder Award. **Jon Wanderer, MD, MPhil**, is the director of the eStar Physician Builder Program.

6/16/21: **Academy for Excellence in Education elects 28 new members:** Among these new members is VCLIC member, **Dave Johnson, MD**!

Other news outlets featuring VCLIC Members:

- 5/7/21: **Christine Smith, MD**, was interviewed for the NIH “Cancer Currents” Blog: [Brentuximab May Mean Less Radiation for Children, Teens with Hodgkin Lymphoma](#)

- 6/3/21: **Melissa McPheeters, PhD**, was quoted in *The Verge* “The Pandemic Showed that Big Tech Isn’t a Public Health Savior”

**Accepted Abstracts**

**Alrifai W.** Fetal Care – Deliver Baby’s Plan at Delivery! Epic UGM, August 2021.

**Kumah-Crystal Y.** Hey Epic Tell Me a Story. Epic UGM, August 2021.


Carroll AR, **McCoy A**, Krehnbrink M, Starne L, Frost PA, **Johnson DP**. “Decreasing Pre-Procedural Fasting Times in Hospitalized Children.” Presented May 2, 2021 at the Pediatric Academic Societies Annual meeting (virtual due to COVID)


**Conover KR, Loats B, Binkley J, Johnson DP, Herndon A.** “Sustainable Quality Improvement Measures to Improve Nursing Presence on Pediatric Hospitalist Rounds at a Large Academic Center.” Presented May 3, 2021 at the Pediatric Academic Societies Annual meeting (virtual due to COVID)

- Project named as 1 of the 4 best abstracts at the recent Academic Pediatric Association Annual Conference on Advancing Quality Improvement in Healthcare

Editor’s note: We solicited publications from members prior to receipt of AMIA acceptance notifications, so we will make sure to collect and include AMIA acceptances in our next newsletter.

Accepted Publications

May


June


Reminder to Send Updates for Recognition

If you (or another VCLIC Member) publishes a paper; has an abstract accepted at a conference; are interviewed for or written up in a news article; receive any awards, accolades, or honors; or completed/are currently undertaking any projects you would like to highlight, please email me with or forward this information:

- Names of VCLIC members/VUMC staff who participated in or worked on the project, paper, or abstract (or who received the award/honor)
- The title of the Project, Paper, Abstract, Article, or Award
- The journal, conference, or news publication (this can be podcasts, radio, or more “traditional,” news mediums)
Nothing is too big or too small to celebrate, and this information will be featured on the News section of our website as well. As time goes on, I am hoping to also improve our Twitter presence, so feel free to add, tag, or tweet us at @VUMC_VCLIC too!

Thank you, and see you next month!