AMIA Capitol Hill Day
Frequently Asked Questions
April 14, 2011

Introduction
The annual AMIA Capitol Hill Day is your chance to travel to the nation's capitol and let your
elected U.S. senators and representatives know about various legislative and regulatory issues
relevant to advancing biomedical and health informatics. Join us in Washington, D.C., as we
meet with members of Congress and their staffs face-to-face. This is a prime opportunity to
educate members of Congress and their staffs about informatics and communicate AMIA’s
positions on important health policy issues. Participation in this event is important for AMIA
and its members. The time that members spend on Hill Day demonstrates the biomedical and
health informatics community’s dedication to federal policymaking

Prior to the event, participants receive briefing materials on the key issues to be discussed. The
key issues are linked to AMIA’s annual public policy priorities. Once in Washington, members
participate in a morning legislative briefing, attend scheduled meetings with members of
Congress and their staffs, and report the results in a debriefing session.

What is Capitol Hill Day?
Hill Day is a unique opportunity to speak out on behalf of the biomedical and informatics
community. During this important event we build valuable relationships in Congress, spread
awareness about health information technology and informatics and on behalf of AMIA and its
members call for a number of congressional actions. Hill Day is a great opportunity to
represent AMIA; and participation helps you develop ongoing relationships with your elected
policymakers in Washington, D.C. We encourage you to follow-up individually with your
members on topics that are of interest to you personally.

The annual AMIA Hill Day is also an opportunity for AMIA members to tell their stories and urge
greater Congressional interest and investment in biomedical and health informatics and
technology. AMIA tries to set up appointments for all AMIA members coming to Capitol Hill
Day to visit with your respective Congressional delegation. To make the most of your visit, the
priority is to schedule appointments that can be made with members of Congress who
represent both the area where you live (and vote) as well as those who represent the area
where you work, if that is different

What are AMIA’s Topics this Year?
Throughout the year, AMIA tracks and takes action to advance a wide array of policy topics and issues that impact biomedical and health informatics professionals, practitioners, and researchers. AMIA’s public policy activities seek to leverage prior and ongoing AMIA work and to track topics of general interest and concern to AMIA members, such as:

- Biomedical, clinical, translational, population/public health and applied health informatics practice and research
- Comparative effectiveness research
- Data stewardship
- Electronic health records
- Evidenced-based practice
- Health information exchange
- Health information technology
- HIPAA (privacy, confidentiality and security)
- Interoperability
- National health information network
- Personal health records
- Standards

2011-2012 Policy Priorities

On an annual basis AMIA identifies a more focused set of key priority topics, especially for discussions during Hill Day. The designated topics are reviewed and approved by the AMIA Board of Directors and become the basis for the year’s overarching public policy and government relations efforts. For this year AMIA’s focus will be:

- Ongoing Funding for Informatics Research, Innovation, and Development
  - AHRQ
  - NIH
  - NLM
  - ONC
- Impact of Health IT on Patient Safety and Quality of Care
  - MU
  - Ensuring safe, effective use of health IT and EHRs
- Informatics and Health IT Workforce (includes education and training)
  - Informatics competencies
  - Funding for training programs; pipeline of trainees
- EHR Best Practices, Lessons Learned and Successes
  - EHR Evaluation
  - EHR Usability
  - Evolution of Clinical Decision Support

Why Should I Participate?
Capitol Hill Day is a powerful way to have your voice heard by the people who are in a position to make a difference for the biomedical and informatics community. We want as many AMIA members as possible to join us on Capitol Hill.

Your Senators and Representatives need to hear your voice and understand your needs if they are to take action. Through visits with congressional leaders, you educate Congress about issues important to you and AMIA, present yourself as a resource to your Member of Congress, and establish a relationship that will be mutually beneficial over time. Your voice and your opinions are powerful. It’s up to you to raise our ideas and concerns and to make sure your voice is heard. If you take the time to convey your thoughts, our collective message will have a great impact.

**What is Pre-Hill Day Orientation**

AMIA will prepare AMIA members for Hill Day via a pre-Capitol Hill Day orientation teleconference call and again at the Hill Day orientation breakfast the morning of the meeting (April 14, 2011).

AMIA works with Washington Health Strategies Group (WHSG) the government relations firm that represents AMIA in Washington, D.C. and helps us coordinate Capitol Hill Day. The pre-Hill Day orientation call and the breakfast session will include specific tips for conducting a Capitol Hill meeting and a detailed review of our issues, priorities and actions that we are asking of Congress. The session also will cover frequently asked questions and frequently encountered situations on Capitol Hill, other logistics and time for "practice" before your meetings. You will have an opportunity to ask questions and get to know other Capitol Hill Day participants. Participation in the orientation and training meeting is strongly encouraged. During the orientation we will review the legislative issues around which the meetings will focus, and relay any last-minute messages.

**What Happens at Hill Day?**

AMIA will schedule meetings with members of Congress based on registered participants. At registration you will receive your Hill Day packet, including the names of the staffers and office locations, the AMIA agenda (what we are asking of Congress), specific AMIA talking points for your meetings and other information. We will also provide you with AMIA information packets to leave behind with each congressional office.

**How can I prepare for Hill Day?**

Several resources are available on line, such as:

- Government Printing Office [www.access.gpo.gov](http://www.access.gpo.gov)
- Thomas [www.thomas.loc.gov](http://www.thomas.loc.gov)
- U.S. Senate [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)
Who will we meet with?
Most likely you will meet with a "health legislative assistant," a congressional aide who recommends and crafts health care policy for his or her boss-the member of Congress. These staff members are important and the actions they recommend are usually adopted by the member of Congress for whom they work. Some meetings may be held with the legislative director or the chief of staff to the member of Congress, and a few volunteers may actually meet their senator(s) or representative. Since the congressional schedule is fluid, appointments with members of Congress themselves can be difficult to secure.

Will I be in meetings by myself or with other Capitol Hill Day participants?
We schedule meetings in groups-with a focus on placing people together from the same state and/or community so you can visit as "delegations." For example, volunteers from a particular state will visit with their senator(s) together, and volunteers from a particular congressional district (and/or a nearby community) will meet with their representative as a group. If you are the only person from a particular state or district, we do our best to team you up with at least one other volunteer so you have an "advocacy buddy" for your meetings.

Where can I stay during Capitol Hill Day?
You will be responsible for your own travel and accommodations. AMIA suggests that members make reservations at one of the hotels close to Capitol Hill and accessible via Metro. See the attached list.

If I am driving to Capitol Hill, where can I park?
Parking is extremely limited in the Capitol Hill area, and AMIA suggests using the Washington, DC Metro system or utilizing a taxi. For access to the Senate Office Buildings, we recommend parking at Union Station. You can access the parking garage from Massachusetts Avenue, NE using a ramp on the East side of Union Station and from H Street, NE.

For access to the House Office Buildings, we recommend on-street parking between 1st and 7th Street SE. Be careful to follow signs displaying parking rules, which often limit parking to two hours. You will receive a ticket. An alternative to on-street parking is to park at the Washington Design Center parking garage (300 D Street SW) and use the Federal Center metro entrance to travel one stop to Capitol South.

Where can I leave my luggage during the day?
Most AMIA Hill day participants leave their luggage at their hotels.
What is the nearest Washington, DC Metro stop to Capitol Hill?
Union Station (Red Line) is the closest Metro stop to the north side of Capitol Hill. The Senate Office Buildings are located two blocks south of Union Station. Capitol South (Blue and Orange Lines) is the closest Metro stop to the south side of Capitol Hill. The House Office Buildings are located one block north of Capitol South.

Where can I find something to eat or drink on Capitol Hill?
Both the Senate and House office buildings have cafeterias located on the ground or basement floors. On the Senate side the Dirksen has the largest cafeteria on the ground floor. On the House side Longworth has the largest cafeteria on basement level two. Outside the Senate office buildings, Union Station is the closest location for a variety of restaurants. Outside the House office buildings, there is a row of restaurants on 1st Street SE, one block south of the Capitol South Metro stop, or Pennsylvania Avenue, SE between 2nd and 4th Street. Lunch is on your own.

What should I wear to my Congressional meetings?
Whenever possible, Hill Day participants should wear a business suit or equivalent professional dress. We highly recommend comfortable shoes because you will likely do a fair amount of walking between meeting locations. An umbrella is also a good idea, if there is any chance for rain.

What if my plans change?
Please let us know immediately by (see contact information below) if your plans change or you are unable to attend the AMIA Hill Day, as this will affect scheduled meetings.

What is the schedule for Capitol Hill Day?
Hill Day will begin on April 14, 2011 at approximately 8:00 am and end around 5:00 pm. Please note that the times for specific activities are approximate, and additional details will be available as the event nears.

For more Information:
Contact David Padgham (david@amia.org) or Meryl Bloomrosen (meryl@amia.org) or at 301-657-1291.

Hotels in the Area

- **Capitol Hill Suites** - Accommodations only not a full service Hotel
  202 543-5000 or 1-800-53-SUITE Fax 202 547-2608
  200 C Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003

- **Phoenix Park Hotel** (4 block walk to Metro—Union Station Stop
  Red Line.)
202 638-6900 or 1-800-824-5419 Fax 202 393-3236
www.phoenixparkhotel.com
520 North Capitol Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001

- **Hotel George** (3 block walk to Metro—Union Station Stop Red Line)
  202 347-4200 or 1-800-576-8331 Fax 202 347-4213
  www.hotelgeorge.com
  15 E Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001

- **Washington Court Hotel** (4-block walk to Metro – Union Station Stop red Line. ) www.washingtoncourthotel.com
  202 628-2100 or 1-800-321-3010
  525 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20001

- **Hyatt Regency** (4 block walk to Metro—Union Station Stop Red Line)
  202 737-5773 or 1-800-492-8832 Fax 202 393-7927
  www.washington.hyatt.com
  400 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20001

- **Hotel Monaco** (4 block walk to Metro-- Metro Center stop)
  202 628-7177 or 1-800-649-1202 Fax 202 628-7177
  www.monaco-dc.com
  700 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20004

- **Courtyard by Marriott-Convention Center** (3 block walk to Metro-- Metro Center stop)
  202 638-4600 or 1-800-321-2211 Fax 202 638-4501
  www.etraveldc.com
  900 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20004

- **Grand Hyatt** (1 block walk to Metro - Metro Center stop)
  202 582-1234 or 1-800-233-1234 Fax 202 637-4781
  www.washington.grand.hyatt.com
  1000 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001

- **Marriott At Metro Center** (2 block walk to Metro – Metro Center stop)
  202 737-2200 Fax 202 347-5886 www.marriott.com
  775 12th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005
- **Metro Center Metro stop**, SE corner 11th and G Sts., NW; SW corner 12th and F Sts.; SE corner 13th and G Sts.; NE corner 12th and G Sts.

- **JW Marriott** (2 block walk to Metro-- Metro Center stop) 202 393-2000 Fax 202 626-6915 [www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com) 1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

- **Renaissance Mayflower Hotel** (2 block walk to Farragut North stop) 202 347-3000 1-800-HOTELS1 Fax 202 466-9083 [www.renaissancehotels.com/wassh](http://www.renaissancehotels.com/wassh) 1127 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036

- **Holiday Inn Capitol** (2 block walk to Metro-- Federal Center SW stop) 202 479-4000 Fax 202 479-4353 [www.holidayinncapitol.com](http://www.holidayinncapitol.com) 550 C Street, SW, Washington, DC 20024

- **L’Enfant Plaza Hotel** (Metro under hotel- L’Enfant Plaza stop) 202 484-1000 Fax 202 646-4456 [www.lenfantplazahotel.com](http://www.lenfantplazahotel.com) 480 L’Enfant Plaza SW, Washington, DC 20024