AMIA Capitol Hill Day  
September 3, 2014  
Frequently Asked Questions

Introduction
AMIA Hill Day is a prime opportunity for AMIA to educate members of Congress and their staffs about informatics and communicate AMIA’s positions on important health policy issues. 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 congressional staff, and report the results in a debriefing session.

What is Hill Day?
Hill Day is a unique opportunity to speak on behalf of the biomedical and health 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. AMIA tries to set up appointments for all AMIA members coming to Hill Day to visit with your respective Congressional delegation and relevant congressional committee staff members. It is important to represent AMIA and our key messages and positions during AMIA’s Hill Day, not your personal interests that are not related to AMIA. We encourage you to follow up individually with your members on topics that are of interest to you personally.

What are AMIA’s Policy Priorities?
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. The designated topics are developed by the Public Policy Committee (PPC) and reviewed and approved by the AMIA Board of Directors (BOD) after which they become the basis for the year’s overarching public policy and government relations efforts.

For 2014, AMIA will continue to focus on informatics research, practice, and workforce:

- **RESEARCH**: Ongoing funding for informatics research and innovation
- **PRACTICE**: Ongoing focus on the impact of Health IT on workflow, patient safety, and improving quality of care, including EHRs, HIEs, and national infrastructure
- **WORKFORCE**: Ongoing support for informatics scientists and Health IT workforce education and training (researchers, practitioners, and scientists)
Will there be a pre-Hill Day Orientation?
Yes. AMIA will prepare participants for Hill Day via teleconference call and again briefly during breakfast the morning of the 3rd. The pre-Hill Day orientation call 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 and other logistics.

First-time participants are encouraged to take advantage of the more detailed teleconference as the information provided the morning of the 3rd will be very brief to allow more time for speakers from the Energy and Commerce Committee, this year’s sponsor of our visit to the Hill.

What is the schedule for Hill Day?
Hill Day will begin September 3, 2014 at 8:30 am in the Capitol Visitor Center (CVC) and end around 4:30 pm when we will meet for happy hour. Please note that the times for specific activities are approximate, and additional details will be available as the event nears.

At registration you will receive a packet that includes your meeting schedule (including staffer names and office locations), biographical information on the Congressional members, specific AMIA talking points, maps, and contact information for AMIA staff members who are ready to assist you at any time throughout the day. We will also provide you with AMIA information packets to leave behind with each office.

With whom will we meet?
Most likely you will meet with a "health legislative assistant" – a congressional aide who recommends and crafts health care policy for a particular member of Congress or congressional committee. 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. Sometimes we meet with staff for specific and relevant Congressional committees.

How many participants attend each meeting?
Meetings will be scheduled in groups with an effort to place people together from the same state and/or region so you can visit as "delegations."

About AMIA
AMIA is the professional home for more than 4,000 health care practitioners, informatics researchers and thought leaders in biomedicine, health care and science. AMIA is an unbiased, authoritative source within the informatics community and the health care industry. AMIA and its members are transforming health care through trusted science, education and practice in biomedical and health informatics.

www.amia.org

For more information, contact:
Susie Aguirre
Policy and Development Specialist
240-479-2133
susie@amia.org