

### From The Chair

Happy 2011 to ST-WG members and supporters!

With the New Year comes a change in leadership of the student working group (ST-WG). Muzna Mirza, who has been an admirable chair, becomes the Past-Chair, and I will try to fill her shoes. Thank you, Muzna. Tiffany Kelley will take on the role of Chair-Elect. The executive committee membership and committee leaderships will also change as listed below.

I am looking forward to continuing to increase the involvement of ST-WG members in the committees (Communications, National Meetings, and Nominations). We are seeking members for these important committees: please contact me at [paulina.amia@gmail.com](mailto:paulina.amia@gmail.com). Our Communications Committee is improving the way we convey information and use online platforms. The Nominations Committee organizes the elections for officers and members-at-large representatives during the Fall. The National Meetings Committee will propose the panel and organize the business meeting for the 2011 Fall Symposium, and develop networking events for national meetings.

I am also eager to work with volunteers who are interested in moving ahead with the themes that emerged from our brainstorming session at the AMIA 2010 business meeting. We had wonderful attendance, and the consensus included (1) increasing networking opportunities among students, and (2) further developing resources and avenues for students seeking their first job after receiving their informatics degree. Please let us know of your interest through our website.

With your help, I am looking forward to continuing the work of the past ST-WG chairs of supporting AMIA student members. Here's to 2011!



Take care,  
Paulina  
[Paulina.amia@gmail.com](mailto:Paulina.amia@gmail.com)

### From The Editors

We are very excited to bring you the first issue of our newsletter in 2011. The editorial team is working hard to ensure that the newsletter enhances the network among AMIA student members and supports their professional careers.

We would like to reemphasize that the newsletter is completely member driven. We urge all members to contribute to the content of this newsletter. You can promote your current projects, ideas and interest areas. As the editors, we believe that the newsletter is a great networking and collaboration platform for the members. Please take advantage of this opportunity.

We are continuously looking for your feedback. You can always send email to the editors at [mozkaynak@gmail.com](mailto:mozkaynak@gmail.com) or [ramly@wisc.edu](mailto:ramly@wisc.edu).

We also set up a 2 minute survey that can be accessible at <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22BYFH867K8/>. Your answer to the survey is very important for us and we appreciate your time.

The Editors

The AMIA Working Group News is published 3-4 times a year by the Student Working Group of the American Medical Informatics Association. Visit our web site for more information or to learn how to get involved.

<https://www.amia.org/working-group/student>

Chair..... Paulina Sockolow  
Chair-Elect.....Tiffany Kelley  
Past-Chair.....Muzna Mirza

Member at Large..... Zeshan Rajput  
Member at Large.....Alessandra Ferriero  
Member at Large.....Andrew Nguyen  
Member at Large .....Rupa Valdez  
Member at Large .....Supachai (Kid) Parchariyanon  
ST-Rep to AMIA Board of Directors.....David Kaelber  
Editor-in-chief ..... Mustafa Ozkaynak  
Deputy Editor .....Edmond Ramly

## Member Contributions

### International perspective on HIT policy: Japan

Most of what we do at AMIA is centered on the theory and practice of informatics to support and transform health and health care in the US. Domestically, we have plenty to keep us busy and engaged on those fronts, between the Office of the National Coordinator's meaningful use criteria for health IT, the approaching repercussions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and the recent President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology report on health IT. And then every once in a while, we are reminded of a curious and forgotten phenomenon called "other countries". I would like to take a moment to bring your attention to one such reminder.

This month, the International Journal of Medical Informatics (IJMI) published an article entitled "Transforming healthcare with information technology in Japan: A review of policy, people, and progress". The three authors undertake the sizable task of chronicling and analyzing three decades of Japanese HIT policy, with reference to the US context. The authors' profiles: faculty member in the US, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of the IT Policy Office in Japan, and faculty member in Japan. The study is based on (1) interviews with government officials, health care professionals, and HIT academics, (2) document analysis of government HIT policy reports, and (3) a case study of a regional health information exchange initiative in Japan.

I encourage you to check out the article's discussions of the evolution of the government HIT policy in Japan, health information exchanges in Japan, and Japan's 2009 stimulus package regarding health information exchanges, and well as the case study of the Kyoto Yamashina area health information exchange. Although the HIT contexts in the US and Japan are very different, many of the basic processes are the same, to first order. They just interact in different ways. It can be beneficial and eye opening to understand what worked and what did not in Japan, as well as the similarities and differences with the US.

The article concludes with insights for the refinement of policy to further promote HIT adoption. The insights follow and are as relevant to the American HIT landscape as they are to Japan's. (1) There is a need for leadership and IT knowledge. Over 85% of Japanese hospitals do not have the equivalent of a CIO. I suspect

that figure to be similar in the US, especially in small and rural health care organizations. The government could take measures to ensure organizations have appropriate IT knowledge and training for HIE implementations. (2) The requirements for use of specified standards should be balanced. (3) Incentives for EMRs or regional EHRs should go beyond large hospitals and be aligned with the reality that 90% of all hospitals in Japan are smaller. (4) HIT successes need to be promoted, and clear accountability legislation should be passed. (5) Security, privacy, and confidentiality concerns should be addressed. (6) All users should be included in the design and implementation processes to ensure adoption. (7) A sustainable business model should be created.

I was pleased to see the outside perspective this article brings to issues that are evidently relevant in other countries than the US. I believe we can all learn from each other. I look forward to a comparative review of articles about HIT policy in all the countries where it is relevant. Maybe you could write it!



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## 2010 Member Publications

See below for a sample of publications and presentations by the student working group members. If you would like your 2011 publications to be listed in the next issues please send us ([mozkaynak@gmail.com](mailto:mozkaynak@gmail.com)) the citations.

Cusack CM, Poon EG, Dixon BE. "Evaluating Health IT Projects: A Practical Approach." MEDINFO 2010 - 13th World Congress on Medical Informatics. Cape Town, South Africa; September 12-15, 2010.

Dixon BE, McGowan JJ. Enhancing a taxonomy for health information technology: an exploratory study of user input towards folksonomy. Studies in Health Technology and Informatics. 2010; 160:1055-9.

Dixon BE, Zafar A, Overhage JM. A framework for evaluating the costs, effort, and value of nationwide health information exchange. Journal

of the American Medical Informatics Association. 2010 May-Jun; 17(3):295-301.

Dixon BE, Newlon C. How do future nursing educators perceive of informatics? Advancing the nursing informatics agenda through dialogue. Journal of Professional Nursing. 2010 Mar; 26(2): 82-9.

Dixon BE, Cusack CM, Zafar A, Whipple EC, McGowan JJ. Practical resources for health informatics professionals. MEDINFO 2010 - 13th World Congress on Medical Informatics. Cape Town, South Africa; September 12-15, 2010.

Dixon BE. Getting your health IT project funded: A practical guide. HIMSS Conference and Exhibition. Atlanta, GA; March 1-3, 2010.

Dixon BE. "Bidirectional Communication: Enhancing Situational Awareness in Public Health and Clinical Practice." Interoperability Showcase - HIMSS Conference and Exhibition. Atlanta, GA; March 1-3, 2010.

Fischer SH, Tjia J, Field TS. Impact of health information technology interventions to improve medication laboratory monitoring for ambulatory patients: a systematic review. J Am Med Inform Assoc. 2010 Nov 1;17(6):631-6.

Gamache R, Stevens KC, Merriwether R, Dixon BE, Grannis S. Development and assessment of a public health alert delivered through a community health information exchange. Online Journal of Public Health Informatics [Online]. 2010 Oct 26; 2(2). Available: <http://ojphi.org/htbin/cgiwrap/bin/ojs/index.php/ojphi/article/view/3214/2638>

Jorg Hakenberg, Robert Leaman, Nguyen Ha Vo, Siddhartha Jonnalagadda, Ryan Sullivan, Christopher Miller, Luis Tari, Chitta Baral, Graciela Gonzalez. Efficient extraction of protein-protein interactions from full-text articles. IEEE/ACM TCBB. 2010

Ozkaynak, M., Brennan, P. F., & Haight, D. Do health information exchange technologies cause delay in patient care, AMIA annual symposium, Washington, DC. 2010

Ozkaynak, M., Haight, D., & Brennan, P. F. Unexpected users of a health information exchange technology, AMIA annual symposium, Washington, DC. 2010.

Siddhartha Jonnalagadda, Robert Leaman, Trevor Cohen and Graciela Gonzalez. A distributional semantics approach to simultaneous recognition of multiple classes of named entities. Computational Linguistics and

Intelligent Text Processing, Lecture Notes in Computer Science. 2010

Siddhartha Jonnalagadda, Graciela Gonzalez. BioSimplify: an open source sentence simplification engine to improve recall in automatic biomedical information extraction. In Annual Proceedings of AMIA, Washington D.C., November 13-17, 2010

Siddhartha Jonnalagadda, Philip Topham. NEMO: Extraction and normalization of organization names from PubMed affiliation strings. Journal of Biomedical Discovery and Collaboration. 2010

Zayas-Cabán T, Dixon BE. Considerations for the design of safe and effective consumer health IT applications in the home. Quality and Safety in Health Care. 2010 Oct; 19 Suppl 3:i61-7. doi:10.1136/qshc.2010.041897

## AMIA Educational Meetings

### Joint Summits on Translational Science: TBI/CRI 2011

<https://www.amia.org/2011jointsummits>

March 7-11, 2011

Parc 55 San Francisco  
San Francisco, California

### PHI 2011: Setting the Next Informatics Agenda for Public Health

<http://phi2011.amia.org/>

May 25-27, 2011

Walt Disney World Swan & Dolphin  
Orlando, Florida

### AMIA 2011 Annual Symposium

<https://www.amia.org/amia2011>

October 22-26, 2011

Hilton Washington & Towers  
Washington, District of Columbia

### NI 2012

<http://www.ni2012.org/>

June 23-27, 2012

Hilton Montreal Bonaventure  
Montreal, Canada

### AMIA 2012 Annual Symposium

November 3-7, 2012

Hilton Chicago  
Chicago, Illinois