April was the World Oral Cancer Awareness month. Oral cancer is a highly preventable cancer, yet one of the sixth most common cancers globally, causing a major public health problem [1]. According to the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, approximately 8,000 individuals in the US die of oral cancer annually [2].

Several studies have established causal links between tobacco products (in any form), alcohol and Human Papilloma Viruses and development of oral and oro-pharyngeal cancers [2].

The majority of the time, oral cancers are asymptomatic and oral signs and symptoms may include dysplasia, leukoplakia, erythroplakia, lichen planus and submucous fibrosis [3]. Other signs and symptoms include swellings, eroded areas on the lips and gingivae, unexplained bleeding or numbness in mouth, difficulty in chewing and swallowing, change in the way dentures fit or unexplained weight loss [4].

Now is the time to spread the word about the importance of oral screening for this highly preventable oral cancer.

Dental informatics can play a significant role in improving prevention and early diagnosis of these cancers. On behalf of DI-WG, we would like to thank all the DI members who have been focusing on oral cancer informatics and working on leveraging scientific approaches in prevention, management, treatment of oral and oro-pharyngeal cancers.
We are excited to have new members to help advance the goals and awareness of dental informatics throughout AMIA and beyond.

Mission of DI-WG
The Dental Informatics-Working Group has a mission to serve individuals and organizations who are interested or involved in health informatics with an emphasis on dental informatics. Our goals are to continue to collaborate with other healthcare and informatics specialties to improve healthcare applications, and to share expertise and experiences in the use of dental information systems, computer technology, and communications to improve patient care, research and education.

Milestones Achieved
Since August of 2018, DI-WG has assessed membership for goals of the 2018-2019 year, increasing participation, and ways to include the upcoming generation of dental informaticians. We also hosted a working group meeting at the 2018 AMIA Annual Symposium in San Francisco, CA, sponsored by FraudLens, Inc.

Additionally, we have hosted a webinar entitled "Dental Informatics Year-in-Review" assessing the trends of dental informatics research, and highlighting DI-WG member publications.

2019 AMIA Symposium Abstracts
As a working group, we submitted 4 abstracts for the 2019 AMIA Annual Symposium, including a half-day pre-symposium workshop, a panel, and 2 posters on dental informatics trends. We expect to present November 16-20, 2019 in Washington, DC.

Upcoming DI-WG Webinars
We are looking forward to upcoming webinars, "Teledentistry" on May 21st. This webinar aims to provide an overview of teledentistry, discuss the importance of teledentistry to public health and dental informatics, and provide useful approaches and methods of teledentistry. Also "Using a Consumer-Controlled HL7 FHIR Mobile App to Streamline Dental and Medical Practice (coming soon).

CONTACT
If you have any questions, please reach out to the Chair, Neel Shimpi, Shimpi.Neel@MarshfieldResearch.org or Vice-Chair, Karmen Williams, KarSWill@iu.edu. We look forward to working with you!
To ensure dissemination of information and successful communication, the AMIA sponsored phone meeting will be hosted every other month.

1st Wednesday
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm EST

For 2019, phone meetings held on:
August 7, October 2, & December 4

Join by computer, tablet or smartphone.
https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/759251021

Or Phone:
United States: +1 (669) 224-3319
Access Code: 759-251-021

DENTAL INFORMATICS
2019-2020 OFFICERS
CHAIR:
Neel Shimpi
BDS, MM, PhD

CHAIR-ELECT:
Karmen S. Williams
DrPH, MBA, MA

VICE-CHAIR:
Position Open

To nominate yourself or others, click on "Position Open" or email Neel Shimpi at Shimpi.Neel@MarshfieldResearch.org
AMIA EVENTS

AMIA ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM
WASHINGTON, DC
NOVEMBER 16 - 20, 2019

WEBINAR:
2019 MAY JAMIA JOURNAL CLUB
MAY 9, 2019 | 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM EDT

CONFERENCE:
AMIA 2019 INFORMATICS EDUCATION FORUM
JUNE 18-20, 2019

WEBINAR:
UNDERSTANDING FDA'S REAL-WORLD EVIDENCE PROGRAM: A PRESENTATION OF THE AMIA PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE
JUNE 21, 2019 | 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM EDT

WEBINAR:
CHANGING THE LANDSCAPE OF CANCER IO
JUNE 26, 2019 | 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM EDT
REFERENCES


Calling all Dental Informatics Researchers!!!
The DI-WG would like to highlight your recent, dental informatics work in the next quarter newsletter.

Contact Neel Shimpi at Shimpi.Neel@MarshfieldResearch.org or Karmen Williams at KarSWill@iu.edu with any questions, feedback, or items to be featured in the upcoming newsletters.