Emerging Leaders Rise to the Top

Nurses and Mentors Linked through Informatics
Professional Development Program

BETHESDA, MD, 4/1/2014 -- A remarkable trio of nursing informatics professionals with pre-nursing backgrounds as diverse history, computer science, and Spanish have been selected by the Alliance for Nursing Informatics (ANI) to participate in an exclusive two-year program designed to develop professionals capable of assuming national leadership positions in informatics-related organizations. Based on competitive criteria, Rebecca Schnall, RN, MPH, PhD; Victoria Tiase, RN, MA and Olivia Vélez, RN, MPH, PhD have been tapped to participate in the Nursing Informatics Emerging Leaders Program.

Rebecca Schnall   **Victoria Tiase**   **Olivia Vélez**

ANI and the Nursing Informatics Emerging Leaders Program are jointly supported by the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) and the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS).

The program provides emerging leaders with invaluable mentorship and opportunities to attend educational industry meetings and events. Each is assigned accomplished mentors to provide dialogue and coaching throughout the process. To succeed in the program, emerging leaders are required to 1) complete a nursing informatics leadership project, 2) attend meetings of the ANI governing directors, 3) participate in the HIMSS Annual Conference & Exhibition, including the Nursing Informatics Symposium and 4) participate in the AMIA Annual Symposium.

Rebecca Schnall serves as an Assistant Professor of Nursing, Columbia University School of Nursing where she earned her doctorate in nursing informatics. "My contributions to nursing and health care focus on the use and development of informatics strategies for improving the health of vulnerable and underserved persons. My work has centered on persons living with or at a high risk for HIV/AIDS (PLWHA)," said Dr. Schnall.

She received two bachelor's degrees—nursing from Pace University, history from Northwestern University—and a master's in Public Health and business administration from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

She will be mentored by Elizabeth Wertz Evans, RN, BSN, MPM, FACMPE, CPHQ, CPHIMS, FHIMSS*, Executive Director, Professional Practice and Programs, Oncology Nursing Society* and Mark Sugrue, RN-BC, FHIMSS, CPHIMS, Chief Nursing Informatics Officer, Lahey Hospital & Medical Center.

Victoria Tiase works as the Director of Informatics Strategy, New York Presbyterian Hospital. She is an advocate for increasing patient engagement in healthcare and is the nursing lead for the design, implementation and rollout of an institution-developed personal health record (PHR), myNYP.org, built on the Microsoft HealthVault and Amalga platforms. Her interest in informatics began early in her career as an OR nurse, "I realized the efficiencies that information technologies could bring and the need to

'bridge the information gap' between nursing practice and health IT." She also mirrors the passion she has for health care in her personal life as an elite competitive triathlete.

Tiase earned a master's in nursing informatics from Columbia University and bachelor's degrees in nursing and Spanish from the University of Virginia, Charlottesville.

She will be mentored by Michelle Troseth, RN, MSN, DPNAP, FAAN, Executive VP & Chief Professional Practice Manager, Elsevier and Susan Hull, RN, MSN, CEO, WellSpring Consulting.

Olivia Vélez is currently Senior mHealth Advisor, Maternal Child Health Integrated Program (MCHIP)/ICF International. At MCHIP, she is leading the strategy for the use of mobile devices to address reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health challenges in the developing world. She designed a mobile clinical decision support tool for Millennium Villages Project midwives in Ghana.   Through the ANI Emerging Leaders Program, Dr. Velez is seeking skills related to forging and leading partnerships, she believes "…working in developing countries really requires integration and support from multiple organizations, governments, donors and institutions."

Prior to joining MCHIP, Vélez was a National Library of Medicine Post-Doctoral Fellow at Columbia University in Biomedical Informatics where she earned her PhD in nursing informatics, a master's in general/public health informatics and bachelor's in nursing. She also has a master's in MIS from Western New England College and a bachelor's in computer science-neuroscience from Mount Holyoke College.

She will be mentored by Catherine Ivory, PhD, RN-BC, Assistant Professor of Nursing Informatics, Vanderbilt University and Judith Warren, PhD, RN, BC, FAAN, FACMI, Consultant at Warren Associates, LLC.

The Alliance for Nursing Informatics (ANI), cosponsored by AMIA & HIMSS, advances nursing informatics leadership, practice, education, policy and research through a

unified voice of nursing informatics organizations. We transform health and healthcare through nursing informatics and innovation. ANI is a collaboration of organizations that represents more than 5,000 nurse informaticists and brings together 30 distinct nursing informatics groups globally. ANI crosses academia, practice, industry, and nursing specialty boundaries and works in collaboration with the more than 4 million nurses in practice today. Website www.allianceni.org

About AMIA

AMIA, the leading professional association for informatics professionals, serves as the voice of the nation's top biomedical and health informatics professionals and plays an important role in medicine, health care, and science, encouraging the use of data, information and knowledge to improve both human health and delivery of healthcare services. Website *amia.org* Twitter @AMIAinformatics

About HIMSS

HIMSS is a global, cause-based, not-for-profit organization focused on better health through information technology (IT). HIMSS leads efforts to optimize health engagements and care outcomes using information technology.

HIMSS is a cause-based, global enterprise producing health IT thought leadership, education, events, market research and media services around the world. Founded in 1961, HIMSS encompasses more than 52,000 individuals, of which more than two-thirds work in healthcare provider, governmental and not-for-profit organizations across the globe, plus over 600 corporations and 250 not-for-profit partner organizations, that share this cause. HIMSS, headquartered in Chicago, serves the global health IT community with additional offices in the United States, Europe, and Asia. Website *himss.org* Twitter @HIMSS

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