5th Doctoral Consortium on Sociotechnical Issues in Medical Informatics  
October 21, Washington, DC

SPONSORS  
American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA)  
International Medical Informatics Association’s Organizational and Social Issues Working Group  
National Science Foundation

OVERVIEW  
The Doctoral Consortium is a forum in which doctoral students can meet and discuss their work with each other and with a panel of experienced researchers.

We welcome applicants from a broad range of disciplines and approaches that inform medical informatics, including the social sciences, humanities, computer and information sciences, clinical sciences, law, and related fields. Applicants should be past the candidacy stage and near their thesis proposal defense. The Consortium committee will select approximately 10-12 participants who will be expected to give short, informal presentations of their work during the Consortium.

The Consortium will be held in conjunction with the American Medical Informatics (AMIA) 2011 Annual Symposium in Washington DC. Besides the symposium, participants will also be registered for the Workshop on Interactive Systems in Healthcare 2011 (WISH 2011) (https://wish2011.wordpress.com/) which will take place on Oct. 22. Participants will be expected to present their work at the Poster Reception at the workshop.

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN THE DOCTORAL CONSORTIUM  
There are a variety of benefits to students participating in the Consortium including:
1. Students will receive valuable feedback on their research from both their peers and faculty who have been in the field for a number of years.
2. The Consortium will pay the AMIA conference registration whose submissions are accepted. We will also be able to reimburse a portion of the hotel and airfare for domestic (US) participants.
3. Accepted papers will have an extended abstract printed in the AMIA advance and onsite programs. The papers will also be listed on the consortium website.
4. Participants will have the opportunity to meet and network with peers and senior AMIA members.
5. Participants will be able to present their work at the Poster Reception at the pre-conference Workshop on Interactive Systems in Healthcare 2011 (WISH 2011) for feedback from workshop participants.

SCHEDULE  
Final deadline for submission: August 15, 2011  
Notification of acceptance: August 20, 2011  
Camera-ready paper due: August 31, 2011  
AMIA’11: Oct. 23-26, 2011
AIMS & OBJECTIVES
The AMIA Doctoral Consortium aims to support the research done by doctoral students through constructive remarks and feedback from prominent researchers and association with other students. It will be rounded off by a discussion of general questions related to doctoral research. More precisely, the following issues are examined:

- Formulating the problem
- Analyzing and evaluating the state of the project
- Describing research methodologies, including underlying principles of approaches
- Discussing utility of the approach, as well as validation of the results
- Critically evaluating one's own and others’ work, including identifying the target audience and beneficiaries
- Defining the contribution

CONSORTIUM TOPICS
Although a wide variety of topics and interests are welcomed in the consortium, they must revolve or be linked to organizational or social issues. For instance, the issue of knowledge management should be approached from not just a technical but also an organizational perspective.

The topics for submissions include (but are not limited to):

- Technology adoption and use
- Support for cooperative work
- Technology governance and management
- Knowledge management
- Information needs and seeking
- Application implementation issues
- Clinicians' and patients' perceptions and attitudes towards health informatics
- Dynamics of project and evaluation teams
- Evaluation and research methods for studying information systems in health care
- Implications of treating the virtual patient
- Reasons for patterns of acceptance, diffusion, and use of information and communication technologies in health care
- Records and rationalization in health care
- Key ethical, legal, social and policy challenges related healthcare technologies
- Sociotechnical issues related to healthcare technologies

SUBMISSION PROCESS
1) To apply for participation at the Doctoral Consortium, please send
   (a) A letter from your advisor describing the state of your progress
   (b) Approximately 5 pages, in Word or PDF format, that
      • contains an extended abstract suitable for publication. The abstract is limited to 2500 total characters, including spaces and punctuation. (This is to meet AMIA’s guidelines for presentation in the on-site program).
      • formulates the research question;
      • identifies the significant problems in the field of research;
• outlines the current knowledge of the problem domain, as well as the state of existing solutions;
• presents any preliminary ideas, the proposed approach, and the results achieved so far;
• sketches the research methodology that is being applied;
• points out the contributions of the applicant to the solution of the problem, and states in what aspects the suggested solution is different, new, or better as compared to existing approaches to the problem;
• preliminary results, if any; and
• problems you would like the consortium to address.

(c)Mail your submission and letter electronically to Dr. Madhu Reddy at mreddy@ist.psu.edu. Electronic submissions are preferred for review purposes. If an electronic submission is not possible, please contact Dr. Reddy at +1-814-863-6316 to make other arrangements.

2) REVIEW PROCESS
Submitted papers will be reviewed for originality, significance, technical soundness, accuracy, and clarity. Admission is limited to 10-12 doctoral students.

3) Registration
The participants of the doctoral consortium must also register for and attend the AMIA Symposium.

FACULTY MEMBERS
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More information is available the Doctoral Consortium home page:
http://faculty.ist.psu.edu/reddy/amia/

If you have any questions about the Consortium, please contact Dr. Reddy at mreddy@ist.psu.edu or by phone at +1-814-863-6316.