



VCLIC News and Happenings, Volume 50

Welcome to the September VCLIC Newsletter! We are in the thick of our fall semester and hope everyone is enjoying the slightly cooler weather. For the last several weeks we have been in hosting mode, and we are excited to share with you some of the wrap up items from our **InformaticCon** event, which occurred on 9/4, as well as our upcoming (10/1) workshop on **Epic Build Capabilities** with **Allison McCoy, PhD**.

We are also recapping VCLIC's UGM experience and reminding everyone of our "Data In" and "Data Out" of the EHR short course option.

This month's featured member is **Katherine Schafer, PhD**, and we are excited to share her work and clinical informatics aspirations with you!

Finally, and per usual, we have several Center members who have **received awards**, been mentioned in the **news**, presented **lectures** and at conferences, **published papers**, have had **abstracts** accepted to conferences, and had **honors or fellowships** bestowed on them.

If you have any questions or would like to engage with our team, please email Elise (elise.russo@vumc.org).

VCLIC Events:

First, thank you SO much to **Aileen Wright, MD, MS** for conducting such a fantastic Introduction to Epic for Non-Clinicians workshop on 9/10. The room was packed, and the feedback we have received has been fantastic! If you missed this workshop or are unable to attend Allison's on October 1st (will include more information below), you can always watch the VCLIPS related to these sessions, which are [here](#).

Intro to Epic Build Capabilities Workshop with Dr. Allison B. McCoy



VCLIC PRESENTS

INTRO TO EPIC BUILD

Allison B. McCoy, PhD
Director, Clinical Informatics Core
Associate Professor, Biomedical Informatics

 October 1st, 2024
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

 In Person at 2525 West End
Room 802

[Join Us >>> https://www.vumc.org/vcllic/events](https://www.vumc.org/vcllic/events)

Join Dr. McCoy for a workshop exploring the various build capabilities available in Epic! She will lead the group through a few demonstrations and a few follow-along exercises, and if you are interested in pursuing Clinical Content or Physician Builder training after, we will give you the information on how to go about that as well.

Sign up here: <https://redcap.link/x14hyurd>

Note: Before you finalize your sign up, please determine if you have access to Epic's Playground Environment (PLY) using the [instructions found here](#). (you will need to be onsite or on the VPN for this link to work)

If you do not, there will be a place for you to leave your VUMCnetID such that we can request this for you before the session.

Stay tuned for more information about our November workshop “Data Resources at VUMC,” which will be co-taught by **Allison McCoy, PhD**, and **Bryan Steitz, PhD** on 11/18 from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm. This workshop will be offered hybrid via Zoom and at 2525 West End, 8110.

UGM Recap

VCLIC members **Allison McCoy, PhD**, and **Yaa Kumah-Crystal, MD, MS, MPH**, had a fabulous time representing VCLIC at Epic’s User Group Meeting (UGM) last month. Allison gave 3 separate presentations (“Cockroach Alerts and CDS Stewardship”; “Predictive Analytics Misses That Should Have Been Predicted”; and she spoke as part of a panel on “Using an Internal Clinical Informatics Conference to Showcase Your Applied Informatics Projects”), and Yaa was part of a panel “Physician Executive Forum Panel, Leadership Strategies for Physician Informaticists.”



Of course, they also enjoyed visiting Madison, catching up with colleagues from other institutions, and the general atmosphere that only an Epic conference can provide.

Abstracts for Epic’s Expert Group Meeting (XGM) are due November 11 (xgm.epic.com); please feel free to reach out to Allison (allison.b.mccoy@vumc.org) if you are considering submitting and need guidance!

InformaticCon Wrap Up



As most readers of this newsletter will know, we hosted our Third Annual InformaticCon event on Wednesday, September 4th. We had a fantastic turnout, and so far the feedback has all been pretty great! We hope you were able to make it, but we are also working on creating a repository of all the posters, presentations, and panel speakers on our [website](#) for those wishing to catch up asynchronously!

For the first time this year, we also had judges roaming the poster session and awarded 6 Distinguished Poster Awards:

Kristen Whelchel, PharmD, CSP: Implementation of a flowsheet to track patients with inflammatory bowel disease initiating a biologic with complex dosing regimens

Sabrina Carro, MD and Mert Sekmen: Evaluating the Antibiotic Spectrum Index as an Outcome in the Context of a Randomized Clinical Trial

Eva Dye, DNP, APRN, NNP-BC: The Integration of a Neonatal Multiuse Clinical Database Within the Electronic Health Records

Hyunjoon Lee, MS: Assessing the need for a clinical decision support tool to improve random urine drug screening for patients on chronic opioid therapy

Jacob Franklin, MD and Thomas Ueland: eVisit then what? A Patient-level Analysis of Care Utilization and Messages

Megan Wang: Delinking Cephalosporin Cross Sensitivity Alerts in Patients with PAL

Congratulations to all the winners, and to everyone else who came and presented that day! You were all fantastic! Thank you to our community for really showing up and showing out with their projects. We can and are accomplishing some incredible Clinical Informatics things at VU and VUMC!

VCLIC Short Course in “Data in” and “Data out” of the EHR

In July, several VCLIC Members, including **Adam Wright, PhD; Allison McCoy, PhD; Eddie Qian, MD, MS; Donnie Sengstack, MS; Megan Salwei, PhD** (and **Emily Burnell, on behalf of Justin Bachmann, MD**) taught a short-form course on Clinical Informatics to the Otolaryngology Residents, focusing one morning on how to get data out of the EHR (including an Intro to Clinical Informatics, Data Resources at VUMC, Using Epic to Support Clinical Research, and Address Geocoding) and the other morning on how to build interventions into the EHR (including Epic Build Capabilities, Training and Implementing Predictive Models in Epic, Human-Centered Design Principles and Processes, and Patient-Reported Outcome Measures).

This course stemmed from an inquiry by the ENT Research Director, Dr. Gelbard, who wanted his new residents to have familiarity with the Clinical Informatics offerings at VUMC. The course has resulted in at least 4 residents starting Physician Builder training, and a continued partnership with the Clinical Informatics Core to help with data extraction and build for the department in the meantime. We hope to continue offering courses like this in the future—if you or your department would be interested, please let us know! This was about 6 hours of instruction spread over 2 days.

Featured Member: Katherine Schafer, PhD



Katherine Musacchio Schafer, PhD is a licensed clinical psychologist and new faculty with the VUMC Department of Biomedical Informatics and Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. She has training in suicide prevention, PTSD treatment, and health systems quality improvement. As an assistant professor, she is currently funded via the

LHS-RAPID P30 grant which has a focus on relieving operational pressures and studying enterprise-level solutions to costly healthcare expenditures. She is currently working on a project meant to identify root causes of excessive lengths of stay in the hospital and she is working to provide informatics-rich solutions to this problem. She is excited to work with other VCLIC members on projects at the intersection of informatics and mental health.

Upcoming Conference Submission Deadlines

[American Society of Clinical Oncology \(ASCO\) Annual Meeting](#): Chicago, IL : May 30th –June 3rd 2025

- Abstract Submissions Open November 2024 and close January 28th, 2025

[International Medical Informatics Association \(IMIA\) Medinfo](#) Taipei, Taiwan: August 9-13, 2025

- Submissions open: April 1, 2024- December 4, 2024 (Open now!)

[American Nursing Informatics Association \(ANIA\) 2025](#), New Orleans, Louisiana: March 29, 2025

- Poster abstracts due November 15, 2024

[Symposium on Artificial Intelligence for Learning Health Systems \(SAIL\)](#): Rio Grande, Puerto Rico: May 6-9, 2025

- Abstract Submissions Open in November and close January 2025

[Epic XGM](#): Verona, Wisconsin: April 28 – May 9

- Call for presentations will close at 11:59pm Central on Monday, November 11.

For those of you attending conferences and presenting posters, we have a template on our [Confluence page](#) that we would encourage you to use.

VUMC in the News

[Becker's names VUMC a leading health system in AI](#)

Becker's Healthcare and the Joan and Irwin Jacobs Center for Health Innovation at the University of California San Diego recently compiled a list of 11 health systems and named VUMC as one of those pioneering "demonstrated, outcomes-based AI solutions" thanks to the leadership of Vanderbilt's Department of Biomedical Informatics (DBMI).

Congratulations to Peter Embi, MD, MS; Brad Malin, PhD; Susannah Rose, PhD; **Laurie Novak, PhD**; and **Adam Wright, PhD** for their involvement in the ADVANCE Center and [VUMC AI Technology Committee](#).

Patty Sengstack Retires



Congratulations to **Patty Sengstack, DNP, RN-BC, FAAN** on an absolutely amazing career! Join us in congratulating Patty on her retirement and 13 years of service to Vanderbilt. A fantastic leader, educator, and friend—you will be sorely missed!

Conferences and Other Presentations

Jamie Robinson, MD, MS, PhD will be giving an exciting talk about AI in Surgical Education at the Alliance of Pediatric Surgeons Growing and Advancing Representation (APGAR) Pod Reunion and Virtual Event on October 15th, 7:30pm (EST). Don't miss out!

Dara Mize, MD was featured in VUMC's latest Discoveries in Medicine article, in which she discusses the AI-powered assistant tool, DAX Copilot. [Read about it here!](#)

Alvin Jeffery, PhD, Lyndsay Nelson, PhD and Julie Bastarache, hosted The Edge for Scholars Newman Seminar: “Staying Organized in Academic Research.”

Publications

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BD. [The seasonal distribution of immune thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura is influenced by geography: Epidemiologic findings from a multi-center analysis of 719 disease episodes.](#) Am J Hematol (2024).

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Reminder to Send Updates for Recognition

If you (or another VCLIC Member) publishes a paper; has an abstract accepted at a conference; are interviewed for or written up in a news article; receive any awards, accolades, or honors; or completed/are currently undertaking any projects you would like to highlight, please email me with or forward this information:

- Names of VCLIC members/VUMC staff who participated in or worked on the project, paper, or abstract (or who received the award/honor)
- The title of the Project, Paper, Abstract, Article, or Award
- The journal, conference, or news publication (this can be podcasts, radio, or more “traditional,” news mediums)

Nothing is too big or too small to celebrate, and this information will be featured on the [News section of our website](#) as well. As time goes on, I am hoping to also improve our Twitter/X presence, so feel free to add, tag, or tweet/post us at [@VUMC_VCLIC](#) too!

Thank you, and see you soon!