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President's Corner

by *Alexandra Sarkozy, MIS*

It's officially the holiday season, and I hope yours are off to great start! I'm grateful for all the hard work that went into planning last's October's successful conference, and the MHSLA community that was built and strengthened there. I'm grateful for the continued service of long-time and of new MHSLA board and committee members, who provide continuing education, administrative work, and outreach that keeps our organization vital and thriving. I'm especially grateful for all of the activity and thought of our task force that has gone into planning the future of our organization: how, when, and where we hold our conference, how we engage as a board and together as members, and the way we provide value and meet the needs of MHSLA members is all undergoing continued discussion in the upcoming year. Changes across the multiple landscapes of institutional funding of health sciences libraries, hospital mergers and health service provisioning, medical education, and distance-crossing technology all provide challenges and opportunities for MHSLA to tweak and rethink how we support each other as librarians and informationists, share ideas, and provide opportunities for learning and growth to our membership in the coming years.

To this end, the MHSLA board would love to hear your thoughts about how MHSLA fits into your professional life. While we regularly send out surveys to inform our decision making and idea generation, we are always open to suggestions about what works for you, and what doesn't work, about MHSLA. There are many questions we will continue to discuss this year, but some important ones that we'd love to hear your thoughts about include: How can MHSLA provide greater consortial benefit to its members beyond shared subscription pricing? Do you prefer face-to-face



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and CE's, or should we be exploring more interactive online options? Is your travel budget decreasing or staying the same, making it harder for you to attend the MHSLA conference? Would you appreciate/benefit from online or recorded conference sessions? Do you prefer a MHSLA-only conference, or would you be open to/welcome partnering with other organizations to decrease costs and increase opportunities for learning and sharing work? How can we make MHSLA more diverse, inclusive, and respectful of differences? What barriers in your day-to-day work could MHSLA help you overcome? Are there barriers to your serving on the MHSLA board or on a committee that we can help with? What topics are most interesting or valuable to you that MHSLA could sponsor education about? We will be experimenting with new models for holding meetings, CEs and conferences in the upcoming years, and I for one am excited try out new ways of communicating, interacting, and building our organization. Please feel free to reach out directly to me or another board member to share your thoughts and ideas, individual views and contexts- we are in a time of change, and the diversity of your ideas makes MHSLA stronger. I'm looking forward to serving MSHLA this year, and seeing what 2020 brings.

With gratitude and openness,
Alexandra Sarkozy
MSHLA President 2019-2020

MHSLA 2019 Annual Conference Reports

Student Scholarship Recipient

Betty Adams, Wayne State University School of Information Sciences

This year I was the MHSLA Student Scholarship recipient with the honor of attending MHSLA's Annual Conference for the first time. I feel fortunate for the opportunity to come to our beautiful Capitol and to learn from other Health Science library staff. I enjoyed networking with others in the field of medical librarianship and with the vendors (I especially liked Journal of Experimental Medicine's puzzle pack).

I was excited to learn from the Continuing Education Courses offered on October 3. I attended On Beyond Searching: Librarians' Roles in Resident Research with William Corser and Samuel J. Wisniewski from Michigan State University and Introduction to Licensing Electronic Resources with Stephanie Davis from Midwest Collaborative for Library Services. The first was beneficial because it provided research timelines and the reality of how long to expect to work on a research project, including preliminary study design and especially that the Institutional Review Board Approvals are mandatory before the pilot and data collection. The second was an introduction to negotiating licenses for electronic resources and understanding license terminology. Both will assist me in advising and assisting medical students in the future at Shiffman Medical Library at Wayne State University.

The R.E. Olds Transportation Museum event sponsored by Michigan Academic Libraries Association was a wonderful treat. Experiencing the museum in an intimate setting while participating in the scavenger hunt with colleagues was memorable. Because of that positive occasion I have initiated a scavenger hunt for Reuther Library during our Noel Night exhibition.

Having Shannon Jones as the Keynote Speaker was a delight. Her insights into diversity, equity, inclusion, and especially apathy, were practical and well delivered. At the Welcome Event of the conference I did not know that I chose to sit next to such an influential and prominent figure in our field, but her openness and welcoming demeanor there only aided in making the conference a joy to attend. Since the conference I've attended a virtual panel she was a part of and hope to learn more from her in future settings.

Thank you MHSLA for selecting me for the Student Scholarship; the Annual Conference was an experience I won't soon forget.

New Member Scholarship Recipient

Michelle Rau, Wayne State University School of Information Sciences



Feeling Connected at the 2019 MHSLA Conference

Regardless of how experienced you are or how long you've been in the profession, everyone can learn something new. The value in conferences comes from the human connections that occur. Often the serendipitous 'table conversations' lead to productive discussions that encourage us to grow professionally. I can vouch for this. The MHSLA conference provided an excellent opportunity to mingle with representatives from other sectors and reaffirm relationships with existing contacts. As one of the scholarship winners attending, I found being amongst a professional network of health librarians offered a deeper pool of expertise and exposure to a wider health sciences landscape.

First up, *Librarian's Role in Facilitating Residents' Projects* presented by Scholarly Activity

Consultants: Bill Corser and Sam Wisniewski of Michigan State University (Go Green!). Bill and Sam understand the role librarians play in developing projects and meld that together with what they do. They requested examples of our frustrations, in an effort to gain a better understanding of our experiences. Here is some of the feedback:

- Students are not prepared for how underwhelming their results might be
- After providing a list of citations and conducting an extensive literature search, it is not uncommon to never hear back from the resident
- Residents will request references *after* they have completed their project
- Residents are not inclined to go back to the literature or sit down with someone with a non-clinician perspective to interpret their results
- Changing one part of a project may require recreating or re-developing the entire design
- Students include references that are not scholarly
- Residents think of the library as more of a final drive-thru
- Residents do a literature search and claim they have found “everything”

We also discussed the flow of research, IRB (Institutional Review Board) approvals, protected health information, quality improvement vs. research based, feasibility and the importance of taking field notes. Bill and Sam’s advice was grounded in practical examples applicable to all. Their presentation was informative, moving and at times hilarious.

Following this, I attended the *Finding Free Evidence-Based Public Health Resources* CE presented by Cecelia Vernes where we discussed search strategies, the World Health Organization, global health threats, the concept of One Health, rising costs of insulin, the water crisis, open-access resources, alternatives to Google and how policies affect the publication of data. Public health is not medicine, but it still connects everyone. There is a theme here...

There were also discussions about LibGuides and Stephanie Swanberg presented about a MHSLA – MiALA joint conference. Shannon Jones, Director of Libraries at MUSC presented on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion that I thoroughly enjoyed. Her talk was inclusive, informative and really spoke to me and the need to cultivate a healthy workplace milieu. Everyone deserves to work in an environment where they feel valued and respected.

A lot goes into planning, coordinating and executing an event like this. It is more of an art than a science. What really impressed me was the overall organization of the conference. From the welcoming crew, perfectly timed schedule, venue location, accommodating dietary preferences and the attention to detail, I felt they really nailed it. Thank you for all of the hard work that was evident in overseeing the entire production.

Overall, I found the whole experience rejuvenating. Spending time with other enthusiastic professionals left me feeling inspired. Thank you for this amazing opportunity! From the initial email to the final goodbyes, the entire experience exceeded my expectations.



I captured this picture of Nancy Bulgarelli and Barb Platts (long-time friends sharing a scarf) while Stephanie Swanberg presented. This picture seemed to reiterate my theme of connecting and friendship. - Michelle Rau

**Diane LeBar Memorial Scholarship Recipient
Lori Mills, McLaren Macomb**

I am so grateful to have been awarded the Diane LeBar scholarship to attend MHSLA 2019 this October. My experience at the conference was a breath of fresh air and a welcome retreat. This was my first time attending the conference as I only became a medical librarian at McLaren Macomb hospital in November of 2018. Before that, I was an academic librarian, though I have also worked in public and special libraries.

On Thursday, I attended education sessions for Research During Residency and Electronic Resource Licensing. The panel discussion about Digital Knowledge Infrastructure was especially relevant, as I am currently designing a new library home page. We will be switching discovery tools from Primo to EDS (EBSCO Discovery Service), and we are currently using the Primo home page as our library's home page. I decided to use LibGuides to design a user-friendly page but received some much-needed reminders about making sure the page actually makes sense to users. Following a full day of learning, I attended the Special Event at the RE Olds Transportation Museum. We enjoyed a delicious dinner while talking and laughing about our library experiences, then spent some time learning about the founder of Oldsmobile during a scavenger hunt. Did you know that the REO Speedwagon was a fire truck?!



1938 Bainbridge Fire Company REO Speed Wagon, image by Michael Barera [CC BY-SA 4.0], via [Wikimedia Commons](#)

Friday's sessions were mainly about equity, diversity, and inclusion. Although I do not work with other librarians in my library, I did reflect upon hospital employees outside of physicians and nurses who may benefit from library access. I realized that although we set up remote access with OpenAthens so that any employee can log in with their work email account, I have been gradually discovering different sets of employees who do not have institutional email accounts. It looks like I have a lot of outreach to do in order to work towards equitable access at my institution.

I found that each change in location at the conference allowed me to speak with someone new. I started the conference knowing two other attendees and left with a sense of belonging that I had not yet felt as a new solo medical librarian. I look forward to seeing everyone again next year in Detroit!

Member Scholarship Recipient

Betsy Williams, Grand Valley State University

I was honored to receive the Member Scholarship to attend the MHSLA conference this year. Scholarship winners write an article for the MHSLA newsletter, and these are usually stories about learning and networking. My story is different this year—told from the perspective of a volunteer who helped with conference planning.

I served as Vendor Relations Chair, which means my committee and I were responsible for recruiting vendors to exhibit and sponsor meals and events. The income we receive from vendors helps offset the expense of putting on the conference and helps keep registration fees relatively low. No pressure! The work starts in January, contacting over 80 vendors with “Save the Date” emails. The work continues over the next 8-10 months, following up with vendors and tracking details such as who has registered and paid, what audio/visual requirements are needed—even dietary restrictions for meals. It sounds like a lot, but there were peaks and valleys, and even the peak times were manageable.

For me, the best part about volunteering on conference planning—in any capacity—is the reward when the conference takes place and seeing all of the attendees. I'm so proud of the work we all do to put on a successful conference, and the feedback we receive confirms we did most things right.

So...rather than tell you what I learned at the conference and how much I enjoyed catching up with colleagues from all over the state, I hope you will be inspired to volunteer for our small-but-mighty organization. How we do conferences in the future may change, but we will always need—and value—your time and unique expertise.



Applying for MLA Webinar Sponsorships

Barb Platts, MHSLA GMR Representative

New application process!

The application process to apply for MLA webinar sponsorships has changed! After completing and signing the application form, it can be sent directly to the GMR office for approval. Applications should be sent to Sam Watson at samuel-watson@uiowa.edu. For more information, visit the [GMR webpage](#).



MiALA Health Sciences Interest Group

Jessica Sender, MiALA Health Sciences IG Chair

Another opportunity to get involved!

As discussed at the MHSLA 2019 Annual Conference, the MHSLA/MiALA task force continues their work towards our combined 2021 conference, led by Stephanie Swanberg. There are a number of opportunities to participate- planning, webinars, programming, and outreach, and we are looking at ways to continue building the partnership between MHSLA and MiALA over the next couple of years. Additionally, there is also a new interest group in MiALA, the Health Sciences Interest Group. This interest groups' description is:

“The Health Sciences IG was created to provide programming, educational opportunities, and professional development for librarians, library staff, library students, and those interested in health sciences librarianship. The Health Sciences IG will serve as a place for librarians from a variety of backgrounds and disciplines to discuss health sciences librarianship and advance and support the goals of health sciences librarianship in the state of Michigan.”

As chair of the interest group, I am looking forward to continuing our conversations about health sciences librarianship throughout the state. Many thanks to vice-chair Andrea Kepsel, and secretary Sandy McCarthy for being willing to navigate new waters. Joining the interest group is free to all MiALA members (MiALA membership is \$40.00/year). This is a great opportunity to get involved, continue to network with health sciences librarians, and work to grow health sciences librarianship in the state of Michigan.

Great Lakes Science Boot Camp Barbara Harvey, WMHSLA President

Are you new to health sciences librarianship (or any STEM field)? Looking for a fun, affordable way to learn more about current research topics and practices? Want to network with other STEM librarians in the Midwest? If you answered yes to any of these questions, the Great Lakes Science Boot Camp (GLSBC) is for you! The science boot camp, which includes health/biomedical sciences, is a two-and-a-half-day conference held annually at different campuses throughout the Midwest. The sixth annual boot camp will be at The Ohio State University in Columbus, OH, July 15 – 17, 2020. You can read more about the GLSBC in this article I wrote for the [JOVE Librarian Blog](#) last spring.

If your institution is low on professional development funds, the boot camp is a great return on investment. We stay in dorms, and the cost for the entire conference, including room and all meals is under \$300! MLA CE credits are available! We are currently in the planning stage for the 2020 boot camp, so the website/registration is not yet available, but feel free to contact me for more info. You can also view [last year's website](#). I will share the details with the MHSLA listserv as they develop!

Member Publications

The latest publications from members of MHSLA. Take a look and learn more about what our colleagues around the state are doing.

Eldermire, E.R.B., Fricke, S., Alpi, K.M., Davies, E., Kepsel, A.C., & Norton, H.F. (2019). Information seeking and evaluation: A multi-institutional survey of veterinary students. *Journal of the Medical Library Association*, 107(4), 515-526. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5195/jmla.2019.674>

Kepsel, A.C. (2019). Finding, interpreting, and communicating scientific information. In L. M. Young & E. G. Hinton (Eds.), *Framing Health Care Instruction: An Information Literacy Handbook for the Health Sciences* (1st ed., pp. 129-132). Rowman and Littlefield.

Kraus-Friedberg, C. (2019). Evaluating consumer health information online. In L. M. Young & E. G. Hinton (Eds.), *Framing Health Care Instruction: An Information Literacy Handbook for the Health Sciences* (1st ed., pp. 16-19). Rowman and Littlefield.

Sender, J.S. (2019). ECRI Institute Guidelines Trust. *Journal of the Medical Library Association*, 107(3), 462. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5195/jmla.2019.693>

Shipman, S.A., Wendling, A., Jones, K.C., Kovar-Gough, I., Orłowski, J.M., & Phillips, J. (2019). The decline in rural medical students: A growing gap in geographic diversity threatens

the rural physician workforce. *Health Affairs*, 38(12), 2011-2018. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1377/hlthaff.2019.00924>

Wyatt, G. K., Lehto, R. H., & Sender, J. (2019). The prevalence and types of complementary and integrative health therapies used by caregivers of patients with cancer. *Seminars in Oncology Nursing*, 35(4), 342–347. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.soncn.2019.06.005>

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