



SNAPSHOTS

IMMUNIZATION REGISTRY NEWS *from* AMERICAN IMMUNIZATION REGISTRY ASSOCIATION (AIRA)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Colleagues,

It was great seeing so many members of our community coming together for the 2023 AIRA National Meeting in San Diego. After so much time apart, meeting virtually, the opportunity to spend time together in person was wonderful. This year's National Meeting saw the highest attendance yet, with IIS managers, IIS staff, immunization program managers, IIS implementers, and other partners and members of the community gathering together and sharing ideas and experiences. I hope everyone who was able to attend found the meeting refreshing and beneficial and walked away with new connections made and new ideas for your jurisdiction. I am excited to share the latest issue of *SnapShots* with you, where you can read more about the success of the National Meeting and where you can access the incredible content that was shared.

During the 2023 awards session at the National Meeting, AIRA recognized individuals and teams in the IIS community who have been doing incredible work this past year. The award winners are included in this issue of *SnapShots*. Congratulations to all!

In addition to the National Meeting recap and recognition of our 2023 award winners, this issue highlights the new IIS resources from the Public Health Informatics Institute (PHII). PHII has been hard at work reviewing and revising its IIS workforce classifications and role descriptions that all map to the IIS Core Competency Model. PHII also has staffing tools, training, guidance, toolkits, and more available through its IIS Learning Hub.

Finally, this issue highlights the focus of IIS on improving data quality through Measurement and Improvement (M&I) using the Aggregate Analysis Reporting Tool (AART). This year's National Meeting also gave IIS staff an opportunity to meet with AIRA staff to discuss their jurisdictions' AART reports and to hear more about the Data at Rest (DAR) M&I content area. Those who were not able to schedule an AART clinic at the National Meeting can request a virtual meeting with AIRA's staff. Read on to learn more. **Happy summer, all!**

Regards,

Mary Woinarowicz, MA

Manager, North Dakota Immunization Information System
 AIRA Board President

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Welcome to *SnapShots*, the American Immunization Registry Association's newsletter about the progress, best practices, and accomplishments of immunization information systems (IIS) across the country. We invite you to share news about your IIS. Email us at info@immregistries.org with information about a successful programmatic or technical innovation, major accomplishment, or milestone that your IIS has reached.



DON'T REINVENT THE WHEEL WHEN PLANNING FOR IIS STAFFING!

The complexity of specialized immunization information system (IIS) roles can make hiring and allocating staff uniquely challenging, but your IIS doesn't need to start from scratch when beginning the daunting process of planning for staffing needs!

Public Health Informatics Institute (PHII) recently finalized a full update and refresh of its [12 IIS workforce classifications](#). The in-depth review and revision of the role descriptions began in summer 2022, with close collaboration between PHII and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and ongoing IIS community review. Now that this review is complete, the full set of role descriptions reflects up-to-date language and key considerations for these essential IIS roles.

The sample role descriptions identify typical duties, responsibilities, and competencies for key IIS team members; these roles include IIS managers, interoperability analysts, project managers, business analysts, and trainers, to name a few. Sample role descriptions may be adapted for a number of uses, including planning staffing needs, writing HR job descriptions for recruitment purposes, and reallocating staff to new roles.

The role descriptions map to the [IIS Core Competency Model](#) that PHII developed with CDC. The competency model offers a pathway to align IIS staff performance success with national immunization goals and recognized operational strategies. Used together, the role descriptions and competency model can provide guidance for identifying staffing needs and subsequent recruiting for IIS positions.

Additional IIS resources from PHII

Additional staffing tools, training, guidance, toolkits for working with an IIS, and other related resources can be found on the [IIS Learning Hub](#). The IIS Learning Hub regularly undergoes updates to remain current and relevant in a rapidly evolving immunization world. Some recent updates to the IIS Learning Hub include the following:

- PHII recently developed a new step-by-step guide with resources for aligning IIS with ongoing Data Modernization Initiative (DMI) efforts. [Download the guide here](#). CDC's DMI is a national effort to create modern, integrated, and real-time public health data and surveillance that can protect us from any health threat. Immunization programs and IIS are a vital public health partner to this ongoing work.

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DON'T REINVENT THE WHEEL WHEN PLANNING FOR IIS STAFFING!

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- PHII has recently revamped the IIS training it offers through its [Informatics Academy portal](#). These e-learning courses build skills and competencies for the IIS workforce, support key areas of IIS operations, and provide a foundational understanding of other key areas of public health. PHII's catalog of IIS-specific courses includes the Fundamentals of IIS series (Interoperability for IIS, HL7 for IIS, and Data Quality for IIS) as well as courses on advanced topics, such as Immunization Evaluation and Forecasting and Advanced HL7 for IIS.
- Last year, PHII revamped and relaunched the [Welcome to IIS email course](#), an 18-day orientation to IIS conducted through bite-sized lessons delivered to participants' email inboxes each day.
- The IIS Learning Hub features step-by-step deep-dive guidance into processes such as procuring a new IT solution for an IIS or migrating an IIS to a new platform. Visitors can also benefit from more general guidance on day-to-day [IIS operations and management](#), as well as stories from the world of IIS and in-depth histories of the early years of IIS.

PHII is grateful for ongoing collaborations with the CDC, AIRA, and jurisdictional IIS teams from around the United States in developing and refining these tools. Send questions or follow-up comments on resources in the IIS Learning Hub to iis@phii.org.

- Submitted by Piper Hale, MPH, Public Health Informatics Institute

THE RETURN OF AIRA'S NATIONAL MEETING

After three years of pandemic disruption, this year marked the return to a fully in-person AIRA National Meeting, finally!

The AIRA 2023 National Meeting was held in San Diego, California, and it did not disappoint! Not only did we experience the San Diego sun, but we also experienced a record-breaking year for registration, with a total of 545 attendees.

We knew that many people in our community were experiencing burnout and fatigue due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, so we wanted to provide attendees with a keynote speaker able to give guidance on resilience and rest. With that, we were ecstatic to have Dr. Sandra Dalton-Smith, physician, CEO of Restorasis, author, international thought-leader, and media resource on mind-body-spirit, as the AIRA 2023 keynote speaker. She provided attendees with invaluable science and methods for effective ways to rest. We could not get enough!

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THE RETURN OF AIRA'S NATIONAL MEETING Continued from page 3

Over the course of the two-and-a-half-day meeting, we heard from more than 80 presenters, educating on and discussing various topics, innovations, and issues occurring throughout our community today. AIRA 2023 was a great meeting, filled with valuable content, great fun, and incredible connections.

I don't know about you, but it has left us at AIRA looking forward to AIRA 2024. And on that note, pack your shades because on May 7-9, 2024, we are headed to Orlando, Florida, for #AIRA2024! If you did not get the chance to attend this year's National Meeting, we hope to see you in 2024.



- Submitted by **Gabriella Wagoner, MPH**, American Immunization Registry Association (AIRA)

AIRA 2023 Awards

It is apparent that individuals in our community work tirelessly to ensure that our nation is healthy and safe. At the AIRA National Meetings we make it a point to recognize individuals and teams who persevered through obstacles with enormous fortitude and dedication, used innovative problem-solving in the face of evolving challenges, and were determined in completing the work necessary for success. This year's award recipients were nominated by the community as well as AIRA staff, and it was evident from this year's submissions how resilient our community is. A huge congratulations to this year's award recipients and to those moving on to their retirement adventures!

Award winners:

Consider It Done!

- **Abhinav Nalla**, Michigan Department of Health & Human Services
- **Dora Dumont**, Rhode Island Department of Health
- **Emily Martinez**, NYC Dept of Health & Mental Hygiene
- **Francesca Drisko**, Arizona Department of Health Services
- **Olenka Aguilar**, North Dakota Department of Health
- **Renuka Iccchapurapu**, Texas Department of State Health Services
- **Runa Bakshi**, Louisiana Department of Health
- **Timothy Lo**, California Department of Public Health
- **Vivian Larson**, Oregon Health Authority

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THE RETURN OF AIRA'S NATIONAL MEETING *Continued from page 4*

IIS Data Genius

- Amanda Durante, Connecticut State Department of Public Health
- Andrea May, Kansas Department of Health & Environment
- Cale Seymour, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services
- Jason Geslois, Kansas Department of Health & Environment
- Sydney Kuramoto, Minnesota Department of Health
- Tavio Pirocchi, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment

Superstar Award

- Katie Cruz, New Mexico Department of Health
- Mohan Nagaraja, Philadelphia Department of Public Health
- Noel Danielson, Alaska Department of Health & Social Services
- Prageet Kaang, Texas Department of State Health Services
- Richard Sablan, Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands Public Health Immunization Program

Recognition Award

- Erica Groomes, Philadelphia Department of Public Health
- Kim Gulliver, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment
- Hossam Tamri, National Institute of Standards & Technology

Dream Teams

- Michigan Department of Health & Human Services
- Physician's Computer Company

Exiting in Excellence

- Denise Chrysler, The Network for Public Health Law
- Wendell Gulledge, South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control

Our aim is to recognize individuals each year. We are continuously amazed by the commitment of all IIS staff and partners. We truly appreciate the dedication, hard work, and unrelenting commitment.



- Submitted by Jo Turcotte, American Immunization Registry Association (AIRA)



DISCOVERING THE ART OF MEASUREMENT AND IMPROVEMENT (M&I) THROUGH AART CLINICS AT THE AIRA NATIONAL MEETING

Dean Ornish said, “The need for connection and community is primal, as fundamental as the need for air, water, and food.” Everyone at AIRA was excited to be in person for the AIRA 2023 National Meeting and connect with those within the immunization community.

Once again, we facilitated Aggregate Analysis Reporting Tool (AART) clinics while in San Diego. AART clinics are an opportunity for jurisdictions to participate in personalized, one-on-one discussions about AART results and recommendations for improvement. AART clinics also serve as a venue for jurisdictions to have open conversation about any challenges impacting their program.

The AART clinic attendees represented a diverse group of people including returning individuals as well as new attendees. Topics addressed during these 30-minute sessions included an overview of Measurement and Improvement (M&I) and AART, as well as a brief introduction to Data at Rest (DAR). The main goal of each session was to review IIS-specific M&I results and discuss opportunities for improvement.

AART clinic highlights:

Number of jurisdictions that attended an AART clinic: **36**

Total number of AART clinic hours: **~18 hours**

92%

Percentage of attendees who found AART clinics to be very informative in understanding M&I results

95%

Percentage of attendees likely or very likely to recommend an AART clinic to their colleague

If you missed us during the National Meeting, you can request a virtual AART clinic now. Just visit [www.immregistries.org/request-technical-assistance!](http://www.immregistries.org/request-technical-assistance)

A special “thank you” to all the AART clinic participants for your engagement and feedback.

- Submitted by Tesha Lucas, MA, and Assiatou Diallo, MPH, American Immunization Registry Association (AIRA)