

# MDMLG NEWS

Summer 2019

## President's Message from Juliet Mullenmeister



Metropolitan  
Detroit  
Medical  
Library  
Group

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We have wonderful colleagues. Librarians are known professionally for being the helpful sort. We want to assist and help problem-solve or at the very least offer a supportive ear when there is no easy solution to a situation. I've found this no less in our group. Every time I'm trying to figure out a way to navigate a situation that is stumping me, I have always found someone who would listen, offer some assistance, or at least commiserate so that I didn't feel alone in my dilemma. Some of that has come from having unofficial Mentors, from co-workers, and from those who have diplomatic skills that rival Madeleine Albright's. I've even found myself in the position of offering solutions and advice, and I'm always happy to lend a hand to help. I greatly esteem this professional community for fostering this environment.

It's one of the reasons that I was so interested in hosting and participating in the MDMLG Social Events. Time for networking has been a strong request whenever we survey the membership about what it wants MDMLG to do for members. We try to have lunches built into other meetings so that there's time to get together with other colleagues, and we thought that perhaps some time in the evenings might be helpful for those who are unable get away for day events easily. I've been pleased that the response to the idea has been positive, and I'll continue to try and do them in various locations a couple of times a year.

The next event, the Annual Meeting and Summer Luncheon will take place on June 6<sup>th</sup> at the McGregor Conference Center on WSU campus. If you have registered, I look forward to seeing you there.

Juliet Mullenmeister  
President MDMLG, 2018-2019



From the Otus Supply May Social  
Event (courtesy of Nancy Bulgarelli)

## SUPPORTING OUR PATRONS IN THE VACCINE DEBATE

*by Brianna Andre*

While on the reference desk a few weeks ago, I received a chat asking for a book called “Melanie’s Marvelous Measles.” I looked it up, and immediately, alarm bells rang in my head. This is a self-published anti-vaccination children’s book – not exactly hospital library material. The more I responded to the person on chat, the more it became clear that not only were they not affiliated with our health system, but they were trying to goad me into an argument about what we carried (and didn’t carry) on the topic of measles and vaccination. (“No libraries in the area carry it? Why not? It’s a good book...”)

Collection development controversies are no stranger to the public library world. [A recent Salon article](#) details how the vaccine debate is affecting public libraries. These libraries grapple with what information and materials on the topic to provide their patrons. Should (public) libraries carry anti-vaccination materials because there is demand for it? Are libraries responsible for protecting the public from misinformation? Luckily for our library, and probably most of yours, our policy is much narrower and clearer – we provide evidence-based information for our staff’s research and patient care needs.

I began to think about what our role as medical librarians might be in this debate. Our medical staff need to understand what is driving their patients’ questions in order to help them get accurate information. There are many articles in PubMed on “vaccine hesitancy” that detail what is causing fears and concerns. [The AAP has a page](#) on how best to communicate with parents about vaccines. Books such as “The Vaccine Debate” by Tish Davidson illustrates the argument on both sides, for a deeper understanding of questions raised. The website ProCon.Org also details [both sides of the vaccine debate](#). Pointing to friendly, accessible information from sites such as the [CDC vaccine page](#), [HealthyChildren.org \(from AAP\)](#), [Mayo Clinic](#), or [iVaccinate.org \(Michigan DHHS and the Frannie Strong Foundation\)](#), or even the [Surgeon General’s YouTube videos](#), may help our staff give patients information in a non-threatening way.

Throughout the chat reference transaction, I was determined to be polite and professional, and answer questions to the best of my availability, without giving the mystery chatter any ammunition for their fight. “No, we don’t have the book.” “Our materials on measles are geared toward health care personnel.” “Only employees can check out materials.” “No, you cannot have my personal number” (actually, I blocked the user before I said this). While this chat may be an isolated incident, this debate is not going away any time soon.

*Brianna Andre, MLIS, AHIP  
Sladen Library, Henry Ford Health System  
[BAAndre1@hfhs.org](mailto:BAAndre1@hfhs.org)*

## ANNUAL SUMMER MEETING & LUNCH

**Thursday June 6, 2019**

**11:00 am – 3:00 pm**

McGregor Memorial Conference Center

[Link to the location](#)

Wayne State University

[Jon Cawthorne](#)

Dean of the Wayne State University Library System

and Library School of Information Sciences

Speaking on The Future of WSU Libraries & Library School Programs



Purdy Kresge Library

*[photo from wayne.edu]*

## HOLMES AND WATSON, PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY, MHSLA & MSHLA?

by Jill Turner

The dean of the Wayne State University Library System and Library School of Information Sciences will be addressing the Future of Wayne State University Libraries and Library School Programs at this year's summer luncheon. I am looking forward to hearing what he has to say. According to American Library Association (ALA) statistics, there are an [estimated 116, 867 libraries](#) in the United States including 3,094 academic libraries. The Medical Library Association website cites [2,645 health sciences libraries](#) in the U.S., including academic health centers (e.g. medical, nursing, and dental schools), corporate libraries for pharmaceutical, insurance, and medical device companies, hospital libraries, and "special libraries" that serve places like cancer treatment centers and large physician group practices. The Occupational Outlook Handbook is predicting a 9% increase in librarian jobs from 2016 to 2026. Yet, we have all seen the postings on MedLib-L from librarians whose positions have been cut, their libraries closed, or announcements of librarians retiring but their positions not being filled.

The library landscape is changing, and we need to adapt to the realities of our professional circumstances. This means assessing and modifying the way we do business, not only in our institutions, but also in our professional organizations. MHSLA and MDMLG have experienced the result of the changing landscape for the last decade if not longer. One area in particular that has definitely been affected has been program attendance. As much as we enjoy getting together for in-person CE's, summer luncheons, and conferences, cuts in staffing and budgets have prevented many librarians from being able to attend these events.

MHSLA conference attendance over the last decade has been in a slow decline.

- 2009 conference (Holland, MI) - 59 attendees
- 2010 conference (Kellogg Center, Lansing) – 68 attendees
- 2011 conference (Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth, MI) – 42 attendees
- 2012 conference (Baronette Hotel, Novi) - 68 attendees
- 2013-2015 conferences – no data available
- 2016 conference (Baronette Hotel, Novi) – 52 attendees
- 2018 conference (Park Place, Traverse City) – 48 attendees

Decreasing attendance is just one part of the of the increasing difficulties in planning our annual MHSLA conferences. Our pool of volunteers is also decreasing. When I first joined MHSLA, there were five regional groups: ERHSLA, MDMLG, MMHSL, UPHSLC, and WMSHLA. We are down to three (MDMLG, MMHSL, and WMSHLA). Come 2020, there will be two as Mid-Michigan Health Sciences Libraries (MMHSL) has begun the process of disbanding due to low membership. As anyone who has been part of a conference planning committee knows, it takes a lot of people to put the event together. Now that there are only two remaining regional groups, MDMLG will be responsible for conference planning every other year ... in addition to planning our own meeting and CE programming. In addition to a declining pool of volunteers, conference expenses are rising. For instance, our professional organizations can't afford to continually spend an average of \$2000 per speaker to bring in out of town presenters – not without drastically raising conference fees. The GMR no longer provides free speakers due to their own budgeting issues, so the past several conference planning committees have done an excellent job of recruiting local presenters so as to avoid paying airfare and hotel fees. Librarians are great at stretching a dollar but eventually something has to give. I am sure, if we all had our druthers, MHSLA would continue along as we have been for the last forty-seven years (the 1<sup>st</sup> conference was in 1973!). For many of us, the MHSLA conference is one of the highlights of our year. However, this present paradigm is not sustainable.

For years, various MHSLA members have suggested changing the way we do our conferences. This past year, the MHSLA Board decided it was time to be proactive before circumstances forced us to be reactive. We decided it was time to investigate potential partnerships with other professional library organizations. With Board approval, I put together an eight-member ad hoc task force comprised of both academic and hospital librarians. The task force was responsible for brain-storming ideas for what a partnership might look like and what characteristics MHSLA should look for in a partner organization. We decided to approach the Michigan Academic Library Association (MiALA) as our preferred partner. We chose MiALA for several reasons. The most important reason being that we have a lot of cross over in our membership, indicating that educational needs between the two organizations are very similar. As MHSLA President, I drafted a letter to the MiALA President inquiring into their interest in partnering and proposing our two organizations put together a team to investigate holding a joint conference. Our proposal was met with enthusiasm by the MiALA Board. Since then, the MHSLA ad hoc task force has been absorbed by the Outreach & Advocacy Committee chaired by Stephanie Swanberg. The partnership is still in the “getting to know you” phase and the details are still being worked through. Stephanie has drafted an article with more details that will appear in the next MHSLA Newsletter (coming soon!), so check it out if you are interested in the direction the discussions have taken. There will be plenty of time and opportunity for members to voice their thoughts, concerns, and opinions. One such opportunity is coming soon. A member survey put together by Stephanie Swanberg and Iris Kovar-Gough will go out this summer. Please fill out the survey when it lands in your email. It will help guide the team so they can accurately represent the MHSLA membership.

On May 14-15, I attended the Mi-ALA (Michigan Academic Libraries Association) annual conference. It was well attended with around 200 registrants. During the business meeting, the MiALA President announced that membership in the organization had increased by about 20 new members since last year! In contrast, MHSLA membership has been declining over the last several years; in 2016, we had 129 total memberships and in 2018, we were down to 122. Many of the sessions that were offered at the MiALA conference were general enough that they could appeal to librarians outside of the health sciences. The keynote was delivered by Rebecca Blakiston, user experience (UX) librarian from the University of Arizona Libraries. She presented on *A Human-Centered Strategy for Advancing Library Value*, which examined non-traditional ways libraries could serve their communities or institutions. Other general sessions that were offered included: : *Communicating for Project Management Success: Pro-tips for Accidental Project Managers*; *Promoting Libraries as Partners in Scholarly Publishing: A Needs Assessment for Faculty Knowledge & Attitudes Regarding Predatory Journals*; *Towards High-Empathy Hiring: Implementing Leading Practices for More Inclusive Recruitment*; *Our People Matter Most: Emergency Planning at Central Michigan University Libraries*; *Telling Our Story: Creating a Departmental Annual Report*; *The Art of Questioning: Using Powerful Questions and Appreciative Inquiry Conversations to Understand Values and Needs*; and more. At this point, conference partnership is just in the discussion phase. There are many details that have to be considered and resolved to the satisfaction of both organizations, from conference timing to CE requirements to the logistics of planning the conference itself.

MHSLA is not going away. We are not proposing to merge with MiALA. At this point, we are not even 100% sure that MiALA is the best fit for MHSLA. That remains to be seen as discussions continue. If MHSLA membership decides partnering with another professional organization is something we want to try, it wouldn't happen until the 2021 conference. Change is scary, and change this big is really scary. However, think of this conference partnership as a pilot. We try it, and if it doesn't work or we need to tweak a few things then we can. It is not set in stone.

Jill Turner, BSN, MLIS  
Associate Librarian  
University of Detroit Mercy  
[Turnerjq1@udmercy.edu](mailto:Turnerjq1@udmercy.edu)



## WASHTENAW COMMUNITY COLLEGE (WCC) NURSING PROGRAM

By Sandy McCarthy

In July 2018, Washtenaw Community College's nursing program was named a **Center of Excellence in Nursing Education** by the [National League for Nursing](#), one of just 16 nursing programs nationwide to [earn the honor last year](#). The November 15, 2018 ribbon cutting celebration was attended by many dignitaries to honor the national designation with the Washtenaw Community College community.

This is a great honor for WCC as it is the first Center of Excellence in Michigan and one of only 64 institutions with the designation by NLN that started in 2004. "The NLN **Center of Excellence (COE) in Nursing Education** designation is designed for schools of nursing and health care organizations that have achieved a level of excellence in a specific area. Through public recognition and distinction, the program acknowledges the outstanding innovations, commitment, and sustainability of excellence these organizations convey." To learn more about the program of the NLN **Center of Excellence in Nursing Education** visit the [Purpose and Goals of the CEO Program](#).

The designation came at the same time as the Technical and Industrial Building renovation with a new simulation lab and a six patient beds. The simulation lab includes Gaumard S2200 Victoria, or Victoria for short, a high-tech labor and birthing patient simulator. The new simulator rests alongside the Laerdal SimMan 3G that was purchased in 2017. The lab is equipped with an audio/recording sound system to tape student training which will allow for student-faculty learning. The simulation lab provides real world experiences to nursing students in preparation for their future career.

Washtenaw Community College offers health programs in Computer Tomography, Dental Assisting, Health Sciences, Magnetic Resonance Imaging, Mammography, Physical Therapy Assistant, Radiography, Sterile Processing, and Surgical Technology.

Sandy McCarthy  
WCC Faculty Librarian, Nursing and Allied Health Liaison

### References

Centers of Excellence in Nursing Education. *National League for Nursing*. Retrieved from <http://www.nln.org/recognition-programs/centers-of-excellence-in-nursing-education>

## NEWS

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

MLA Webinar - [Critical Appraisal for Librarians: Evaluating Randomized Controlled Trials](#)

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

MLA Webinar - Critical Contributions: Developing Research Appraisal Skills at Your Institution

[MHSLA Annual Conference](#)

October 2 – 4, 2019

Lansing, MI

[Michigan Library Association Conference](#)

Wednesday October 16 – Friday October 18, 2019

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Fall CE Opportunity: Beyond Pyramids of Evidence: Evaluating Research in the Health Sciences Literature

## Newsletter Committee 2018 - 2019

Marilyn Dow, editor  
[dowmk@udmercy.edu](mailto:dowmk@udmercy.edu)

Jill Turner  
[turnerja1@udmercy.edu](mailto:turnerja1@udmercy.edu)

Brianna Andre  
[Bandre1@hfhs.org](mailto:Bandre1@hfhs.org)

Valerie Reid  
[valerie.reid@beaumont.org](mailto:valerie.reid@beaumont.org)

Laurie Arrick  
[larrick1@hfhs.org](mailto:larrick1@hfhs.org)

Barbara Maynarich  
[Barbara.Maynarich@Beaumont.org](mailto:Barbara.Maynarich@Beaumont.org)