



# Monthly Newsletter

◆ July 25, 2025

## CHAPTER MISSION:

We are passionate about advancing data-driven, patient-centered care through the power of technology by fostering collaboration among informatics professionals throughout the Northern California region.

## Informatics in Action: Our Inaugural NorCal ANIA Issue

Welcome to the very first edition of the Northern California ANIA Chapter newsletter!

First, thank you to our dedicated members. Your passion for clinical informatics—and your willingness to troubleshoot, improve, and lead change at the front lines—is what moves our profession forward. This newsletter is for you.

We created this space to keep our community informed and connected. Each issue will highlight what's happening across our chapter, from local initiatives to educational opportunities, field notes, and practical tips you can use in your daily work. We'll also share upcoming events, spotlight contributions, and feature real-world insights from informaticists across our region.

Our goal is simple: keep it useful, keep it relevant, and build something that reflects the strength and collaboration of our informatics community. Whether you're rolling out a new workflow, refining documentation, or bridging the gap between clinical and IT teams, we want this to be a space that supports your work—and makes it just a little easier.

We're glad you're here. Thank you for being part of this growing, engaged, and innovative community.

Enjoy this month's edition—and let us know what you'd love to see in the next one.

*Norcal Chapter Board*

### In this newsletter you can expect:

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Connect with Us!

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## Community News

We are thrilled to share that Heather Zuhn, our Regional Director of ANIA West, has been elected as the next National President of the American Nursing Informatics Association (ANIA) Board of Directors. Heather will serve as President-Elect in 2026 and will assume the role of President in 2027, perfectly timed with the national conference being held in San Francisco.

"I am excited to serve as the ANIA national board president for the year of 2027. I put my name in the hat for 2027 because conference will be held in our wonderful Western Region in San Francisco! I am so excited to connect with all of our wonderful chapters of the west to plan the best annual conference yet!"

Heather brings a wealth of experience to this national leadership role. As the Senior Manager of Epic Inpatient Applications at Denver Health, she leads a dynamic team of 16 Epic analysts in a collaborative environment where clinicians and IT professionals work hand-in-hand to advance patient care through technology.

Heather's commitment to mentorship, quality improvement, and the future of healthcare is evident and we look forward to Heather as our future president!



## Upcoming Events

### General Assembly

 **August 1, 2025** |  **12:05 PM** |  **Virtual**

You're invited to our all-hands chapter assembly! Tune in on Zoom for updates on chapter activities, upcoming events, and opportunities to get involved and make an impact: <https://zoom.us/j/99666968550?pwd=sPQUIWFKk8tOLJ4MfiBaOEEc0B7zJH.1>

### **National Cleanup Day**

**September 20, 2025**

Join us in giving back to our communities! Whether it's organizing a local cleanup or participating in a chapter-led event, let's make an impact together. Please visit <https://www.nationalcleanupday.org/> for general details. More info to follow.

### **Chapter Fusion Event: Fall Networking Lunch & Learn**

**October 17, 2025 - Tri-valley area, Pleasanton, CA**

We're planning a hybrid lunch & learn focused on AI: practical tools and inspiring stories from the field. Save the date! More details on educational content and networking opportunities coming soon.



## Toolbox Tips: Building Trust in Informatics

Trust is the foundation of successful informatics work. Without it, even the best solutions fall flat. Here's how to intentionally build and sustain trust with our clinical partners:

- **Show up, don't just show slides**

Be present. Face time matters more than a polished presentation.

- **Speak their language**

Avoid IT jargon. Translate problems and solutions into terms that align with patient care, safety, and efficiency.

- **Don't defend broken systems**

If something doesn't work well, acknowledge it. Then shift to "Here's what we can do about it."

- **Follow up—every time**

Even if there's no update yet, clinicians will trust you more if you close the loop consistently.

- **Bring data, not opinions**

Show the before and after. A 30% reduction in clicks speaks louder than "I think this is better."

- **Celebrate quick wins**

Small improvements build momentum. Don't wait for the perfect fix—highlight progress.



## Link Lab: Virtual Journal Club

Looking for bite-sized brain fuel and fresh informatics insights?

ANIA recently launched a Virtual Journal Club—a new way to connect, discuss, and dive into the latest in clinical informatics without ever leaving your desk (or your coffee).

- ✓ Live discussions with article authors
- ✓ Timely, relevant topics
- ✓ Free for ANIA members

Grab your spot, see what's coming up, and join the conversation:

➡ [Visit the Journal Club page](#)



## Field Notes: Fixing Sepsis Alerts That Were Wasting Everyone's Time

*"Nurses were overloaded. Physicians stopped trusting the system. Sepsis alerts were failing."*

That's when our informatics team stepped in.

### What We Did:

The local clinical informatics team led a targeted initiative to redesign the alert logic. Their approach was grounded in real-world insights and clinical collaboration:

- Shadowed frontline workflows to understand how alerts were being experienced in practice.
- Analyzed real-time alert and response data to assess sensitivity, specificity, and timing.
- Facilitated cross-disciplinary sessions with nursing, providers, and IT to align on clinical relevance and feasibility.
- Proposed changes to clinical decision support rules—without requiring a major EHR rebuild—to fine-tune alert criteria.

### The Impact:

- ▼ 42% decrease in sepsis alert volume, reducing noise across clinical roles.
- ⌚ Improved time to intervention for patients meeting sepsis criteria.
- ✓ Restored clinician confidence, with users reporting the alerts were more meaningful and actionable.

### Key Takeaways for Clinical Informaticists:

- Start with the frontline experience. Observing real workflows helps uncover gaps that data alone may miss.
- Use data to build credibility. Alert analysis provided a shared foundation to drive consensus among stakeholders.
- Small changes can have big impact. Optimizing existing logic—without overhauling the system—led to rapid, sustainable improvement.
- Collaboration is key. Engaging users in the redesign process built ownership and trust in the revised tool.

If you or your team have insights, successes, or lessons learned from the field, please email us at [NorcalANIA@gmail.com](mailto:NorcalANIA@gmail.com) to be featured in a future newsletter.

*Stay tuned for more!*





## Volunteer Opportunities

We're seeking passionate volunteers to support our chapter's efforts.

If you have experience in communication, event planning, marketing or logistics, we'd love to have you on the team.

👉 [Click here](#) to view roles and submit interest.



## NorCal ANIA Board

Meet the current board members of the NorCal ANIA Chapter.  
Connect with us on LinkedIn to stay in touch, collaborate, and grow your professional network.



**Karen Hunter, President**

[Connect on LinkedIn](#)



**Jenny Yiu, Treasurer**

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**Lulette Infante, Vice President**

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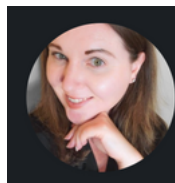
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