

GIC HIMSS Board Slate 2021 - 2022

Office	Candidate
President Elect	Nick Del Priore
Treasurer	Robert Milfajt
Membership Director	LaQuita Zheng
Communications Director	Nishat Shaikh
Sponsorship Director	Brad Wittenberg
Educational Programs Dir.	Keis Kostaqi
Advocacy	Lauren Wiseman
Communications	Tony Black
Educational Programs	Rafael Ramirez
Generalist	Terry Karapas
Sponsorship	Dan Shih
Special Projects	Imran Khan
Student Liaison	Laura Vega

Meet the Candidates!

Nick Del Priore
President – Elect



For the last three years, I have had the honor to serve on the Board of Directors in Communications, and for two years before that I volunteered on the Programs Committee. Throughout that time, I was able to learn from some of the most dedicated and knowledgeable leaders and members at GIC HIMSS. Learning about how our hospitals handled COVID-19, and their plans to come out of this pandemic stronger. Listening to our members and affiliate organizations reactions to supply chain, vendor integration, and telehealth seminars showed me the openness to new ideas and strategies that can push the Healthcare IT world through the strategies of the past and into new strategies, methodologies, and technologies that will shape the patient experience, provider engagement, and bring new capabilities throughout the entire organization. As President-elect, I would focus my time on building relationships with our organizational affiliates and expanding our offerings to realize efficiencies made throughout the greater healthcare landscape. I believe that our hospitals, payers, and pharmaceutical companies have much to offer each other in terms of knowledge sharing and cooperation on large initiatives. These opportunities would give GIC HIMSS the opportunity to raise awareness and meet the goals that HIMSS strives for. I am a Principal Consultant at Slalom, specializing in Healthcare and Life Sciences and growing future leaders. I have worked with some of the largest healthcare organizations in Chicago to implement new initiatives, grow their market share, optimize current and new technologies across multiple locations, and bring new ideas to life. Before joining Slalom, I was a Senior Consultant at Guidehouse for five years and held multiple clinical operations roles at Northwestern Medicine for four years. At Northwestern, I worked with the Cancer Center to optimize patient processing, and I partnered to create a Supportive Oncology department with a singular goal of helping patients. At Guidehouse, I worked with hospital leadership to integrate new medical record systems, while optimizing their revenue cycle and leading them through common system upgrade pain points. As a parent of twin girls, tee ball coach, and leader at Slalom, I understand what it takes to be a leader and bring people together to serve a common goal. I have a deep passion for GIC HIMSS, serving the Illinois healthcare community, and believe this organization can have a great impact on all our individual and organizational members. Thank you!

Robert Milfajt
Treasurer



My qualifications include serving as GIC HIMSS Treasurer for six years, two terms in the past and the current term. I need to finish my work and develop comprehensive turn over documentation as well as processes and procedures to my successor in the future.

LaQuita Zheng
Membership Director



I am writing to express my interest in the Membership Director. I currently participate on the GICHIMSS Board as a Generalist and have worked on Advocacy & Professional Development Committee on one event, Women in HIT and am currently leading the new Mentorship Program project. I believe that my current skills would contribute to this opportunity. I lead different projects in my analyst role and have been pulled on different assignments as needed. For example, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, I was pulled to building several types of orderable for the end users to utilize. Also, I adapt well to changes and a quick learner. I know if given this opportunity, I will strive to produce outstanding results.

Nishat Shaikh
Communications Director



I would like to contribute in multiple ways to our GIC HIMSS Chapter. Having served in my past multiple positions with various GIC HIMSS committees and current experience within Communications Committee as a Member at Large with newsletters and publications, I would further want to communicate and expand Chapter business to other professional groups in healthcare IT, as well as promote the Chapter in professional journals, other providers within ancillary groups. It is always an honor to serve our Board and Chairs at GIC HIMSS. Thank you for your consideration in advance.

Brad Wittenberg
Sponsorship Director



It has been a great privilege to serve on the GIC HIMSS Board over the past six years. I believe I have brought innovative ideas to the Chapter and I continually promote the value of HIMSS and the Chapter activities. I am ideal candidate because of my strong organizational skills and experience with the Chapter.

Keis Kostaqi
Education Programs Director



I have been actively involved with the Educational Programs Committee in the last year and I believe this will be a positive and natural transition. I am passionate about what the board does and what the committee does so I would like to be part of it for another 2 years. I am happiest when I am engaging with people and networking, so I think the Educational Programs Director is the right position for me in the GIC HIMSS board. I am a fast learner and I have a huge passion for what I do. I always like to engage with different individuals and help them whenever I can.

Lauren Wiseman
Advocacy Director



Chapter Advocate was my first board position. I was honored to serve both as the Vice Chair of the Midwest Region and Chapter Advocacy Roundtable (CAR) Chair. I have served on the BOD of GICHIMSS for over 9 years and throughout that time, I have continued to participate in the committee and roundtable. I would appreciate the opportunity to lead the Chapter Advocacy effort again.

Tony Black
Member at Large –
Communications



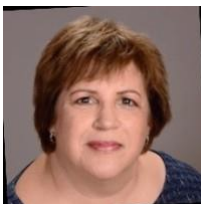
I am a Senior HIMSS member, currently serving on the HIMSS Professional Certification Board as the Vice Chair and have been on that board for 4 years. I am also a member of the HIMSS TIGER International Task Force working on informatics initiatives. Additionally, I am serving on other boards such as NSBE HISIG (National Society of Black Engineers - Healthcare Innovation Special Interest Group) where I am the Communications Chair, Social Media Chair & Secretary, and a member of the Open Group Healthcare Forum. I believe this additional exposure, set of responsibilities and skills empower me to succeed.

Rafael Ramirez
Member at Large –
Education Programs



For consideration, I would express how being a volunteer of the GIC HIMSS Programs committee has been a pleasure over the past two years. I have enjoyed taking part in the efforts to create successful events with a fantastic group of individuals. Although 2020 postponed the widely popular GIC HIMSS in-person events, the team created plentiful virtual sessions that continued to engage the community and professionals. With over twenty years of experience in healthcare, there are so many aspects that I previously knew little about, yet I have learned so much from others. I have a passion for technology, which drives and empowers patient care to new levels, and have assisted with some of the logistics within the transition from GoToMeetings to Zoom. I am always willing to assist in any capacity that can help others, professionally and personally. I look forward to being a part of the committee, sharing ideas, and learning from others, as future GIC HIMSS events are planned and the anticipation of in-person events many anxiously await.

Terry Karapas
Member at Large –
Generalist



I have become more involved with GIC-HIMSS as a volunteer over the last couple of years. I have enjoyed being able to contribute to various projects and events in a meaningful way. As well, I have been able to support colleagues and associates while also building new networking relationships and friendships. I have served in many different leadership positions throughout my life - in professional organizations at the national and chapter levels, within university governance, in my community, and as president/board member for 20 years of a large local chapter of a philanthropic organization. I have the experience and ongoing interest to continue to serve GIC-HIMSS in a more expansive manner as we move forward together.

Dan Shih
Member at Large-
Sponsorship



I am currently serving on the Indiana board which is more centrally located in the middle of our state. I live right in Northwest Indiana bordering Illinois. I would like to be involved on the GICHIMSS Board in a role such as Member At Large.

Imran Khan

Member at Large –
Special Projects



I have 15+ years of experience in healthcare and life sciences (Commercial and Clinical Development) with a strong background in Strategic & Portfolio & Change Management, Biomedical & Health Informatics, Digital & Data Strategies and Capabilities, launching new drugs, supporting on-market therapies, elevating the performance of cross-functional teams, and Business Relationship & Stakeholder Management. Previously, I served on the GIC HIMSS Board of Directors from 2010-2014 as the Professional Development Chair. I have spoken and facilitated several National HIMSS and GIC HIMSS events. Additionally, I teach in the graduate Biomedical and Health Informatics programs at the University of Chicago and Northwestern University. I am passionate about advancing patient care through technology and data.

Laura Vega

Member at Large –
Student Liaison



I am a current member of the GIC HIMSS Advocacy Committee. During my year on the committee, I contributed to and presented advocacy initiatives to GIC HIMSS during a 30-minute Global Health Equity Week (HEW) webinar; promoted HEW and letter-writing campaign in our newsletter; and sent introductory letters to the new IL Speaker of the House and all IL state senators on the Health Committee after the election. I am currently a graduate student in UIC's Master of Science in Health Informatics program, anticipating graduation in Fall 2022. I am interested in the student liaison role because it aligns the most with my primary area of focus outside of work - graduate studies! As a mid-career graduate student, I bring to the table not only my current experience in an HI Master's program, but also the context of how an HI education translates to real world work. With my work experience, I can find new, creative ways to engage universities and colleges in promoting the value of HIMSS membership and, moreover, the value of an HI degree to students. I will also have no trouble supporting the scholarship program, since I have a long history of managing similar programs.