



**Background:**

Annie T. Chen is an Associate Professor in the Department of Biomedical Informatics and Medical Education at University of Washington School of Medicine. My areas of interest are consumer health informatics, including but not limited to digital health; digital humanities; and research methods. With respect to research method, I am particularly interested in the motivations for the use of methods in different disciplines, and reflexivity in research.

**Relevance:**

I am interested in how people engage in tool use, and designing tools to support the *lived experience* of aging. I currently lead several projects that intersect with the workshop themes: research on how persons with fibromyalgia utilize technologies to engage in sense-making and manage their health, and Virtual Online Communities for Aging Life Experiences (VOCALE), an online intervention in which caregivers of persons with Lewy Body Dementias dialogue with other caregivers while practicing problem solving techniques.

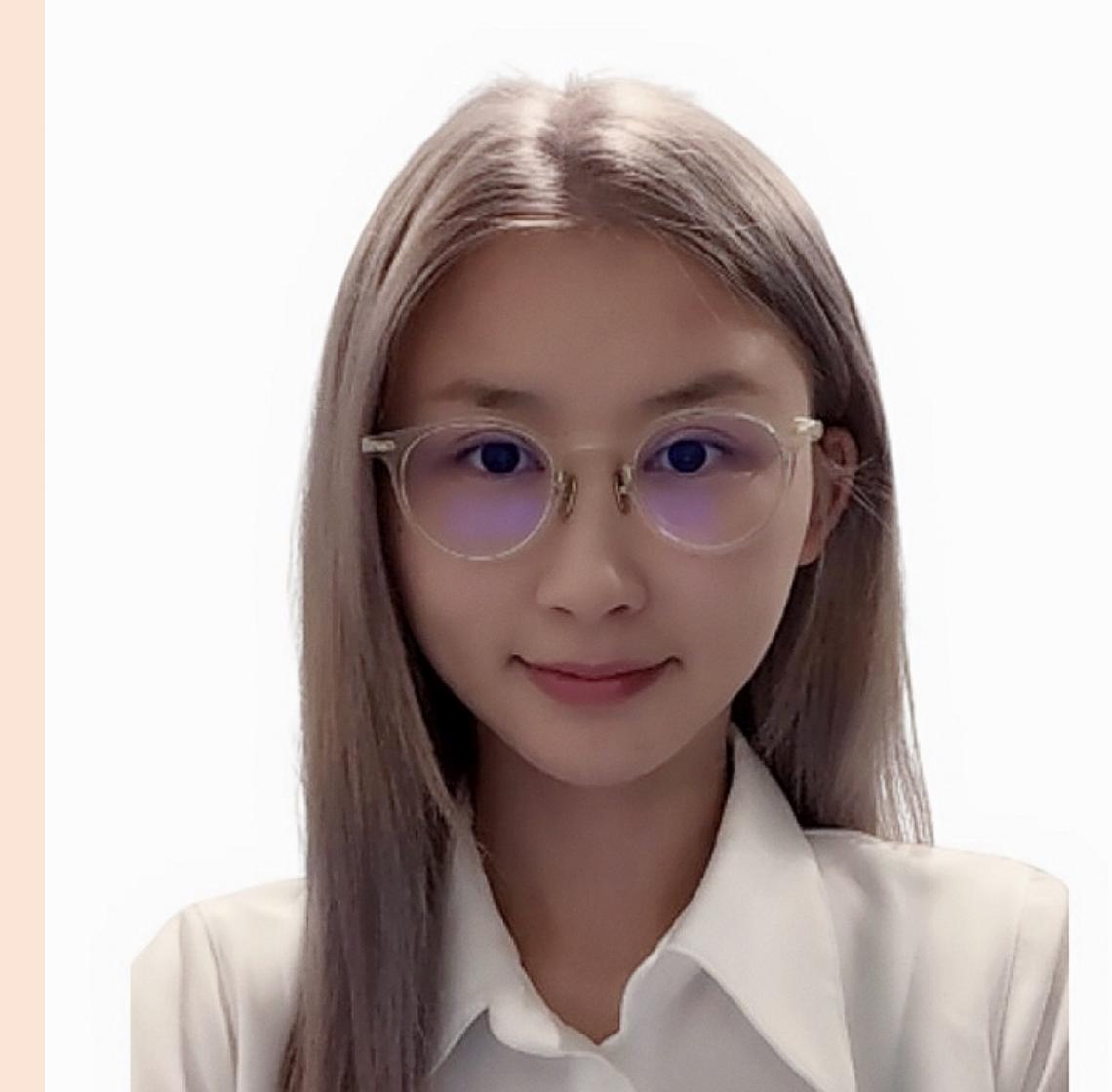


**Background:**

Heather O'Brien is an Associate Professor at the School of Information, University of British Columbia, where she teaches and researches in the area of human information interaction and research methods. Dr. O'Brien is best known for her work in the area of user engagement with technology, and the User Engagement Scale (UES), an experiential questionnaire that is used internationally to understand digitally mediated user experiences.

**Relevance:**

Dr. O'Brien has been collaborating with Dr. Chen on VOCALE, specifically exploring participant engagement with the platform in relation to design features and social interactions. She is co-investigator on Bipolar Bridges: A Digital Health Innovation Targeting Quality of Life in Bipolar Disorder (BD) funded by the Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR). This work is developing and testing an app to support people living with BD. Of specific interest is the role of engagement in supporting app use and its relationship to quality of life outcomes.



**Background:**

Zixuan "Zina" Xu is a PhD student in Biomedical and Health Informatics at UW School of Medicine. Her research interests lie in consumer digital health innovation, personalized health, and patient empowerment. She has conducted research examining stakeholder trust in blockchain applications for information sharing, and worked on the iAGREE project (UC San Diego), to identify stakeholders' requirements for a patient-controlled data sharing system.

**Relevance:**

She is interested in integrating techniques across disciplines and applying human-centered design to improve decision-making and personalize health management. She has conducted an N-of-1 self-experimentation project to identify personalized mental health coping strategies, to gain insights into tool development, data acquisition and analysis processes, user needs, and strategies for overcoming barriers and scaling applications to a wider user base. Currently, she is a member of the VOCALE team.