

# John P. Lalor

College of Information and Computer Sciences  
University of Massachusetts  
Amherst, MA 01003  
✉ [lalor@cs.umass.edu](mailto:lalor@cs.umass.edu)  
📄 [jplalor.github.io](https://github.com/jplalor)

## Research Interests

Natural Language Processing, Machine Learning, Health Informatics, Computer Science Education

## Education

- 2019 **Ph.D. Computer Science**, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA.  
(expected) Advisor: Hong Yu
- 2015 **M.S. Computer Science**, DePaul University, Chicago, IL.  
Graduated with Distinction
- 2011 **B.B.A. IT Management**, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN.  
Minor: Irish Language and Literature Graduated Cum Laude

## Professional Experience

- 2018 **Intern**, Amazon Alexa, Cambridge, MA.  
Supervisors: Bill Campbell and Eunah Cho
- 2015 - present **Research Assistant**, BioNLP Group, Amherst, MA.  
Supervisor: Hong Yu
- 2017 **Intern**, Amazon Alexa, Cambridge, MA.  
Supervisors: Imre Kiss and Francois Mairesse
- 2016 **Intern**, ESPN Advanced Technology Group, Bristol, CT.  
Supervisor: Zvi Topol
- 2015 **Teaching Assistant**, Introduction to Computer Science, Amherst College, Amherst, MA.  
Professor: Crystal Valentine
- 2013 - 2015 **Software Developer**, Eze Software Group, Chicago, IL.
- 2011 - 2013 **Advisory Sr. Associate**, KPMG, Philadelphia, PA, Chicago, IL.

## Honors and Awards

- 2018 UMass CICS Travel Grant recipient
- 2015 DePaul University Graduate Assistantship
- 2015 Inducted into the Upsilon Pi Epsilon computer science honor society, DePaul chapter
- 2007 - 2011 Dean's List 4 semesters at Notre Dame

## Publications

### Manuscripts Under Review

- 15 **J.P. Lalor**, B. Woolf, H. Yu. Improving EHR Note Comprehension with NoteAid: A Randomized Trial of EHR Note Comprehension Interventions with Crowdsourced Workers. *JMIR Preprints*. 27/04/2018:10793 DOI: 10.2196/preprints.10793
- 14 J. Chen, **J.P. Lalor**, W. Liu, E. Druhl, H. Yu. Detecting Hypoglycemia Incidents Reported in Patients' Secure Messages: Using Cost-sensitive Learning and Oversampling to Reduce Data Imbalance. *JMIR Preprints*. 21/08/2018:11990 DOI: 10.2196/preprints.11990

## Journal and Conference Publications

- 13 **J.P. Lalor**, H. Wu, T. Munkhdalai, H. Yu. Understanding Deep Learning Performance through an Examination of Test Set Difficulty: A Psychometric Case Study. To appear in *EMNLP 2018: Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing*, 2018.
- 12 **J.P. Lalor**, H. Wu, H. Yu. Soft Label Memorization-Generalization for Natural Language Inference. *Workshop on Uncertainty in Deep Learning. Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence (UAI)*, 2018.
- 11 **J.P. Lalor**, H. Wu, L. Chen, K. Mazor, H. Yu. CompreHENotes, an Instrument for Assessing Patient Electronic Health Record Note Reading Comprehension: Development and Validation. *J Med Internet Res* 2018;20(4):e139. doi:10.2196/jmir.9380
- 10 T. Munkhdalai, **J.P. Lalor**, H. Yu. Citation Analysis with Neural Attention Models. *LOUHI 2016 : The Seventh International Workshop on Health Text Mining and Information Analysis*, Austin, Texas, USA, November 2016.
- 9 **J.P. Lalor**, H. Wu, H. Yu. Building an Evaluation Scale using Item Response Theory. *EMNLP 2016: Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing*, Austin, Texas, USA, November 2016.
- 8 C. Miller, A. Settle, **J.P. Lalor**. Learning Object-Oriented Programming in Python: Towards an Inventory of Difficulties and Testing Pitfalls. *SIGITE 2015: The Special Interest Group for Information Technology Education Conference*, Chicago, Illinois, October 2015
- 7 A. Settle, **J.P. Lalor**, T. Steinbach. Evaluating a Linked-Courses Learning Community for Development Majors. *SIGITE 2015: The Special Interest Group for Information Technology Education Conference*, Chicago, Illinois, October 2015
- 6 A. Settle, **J.P. Lalor**, T. Steinbach. A Computer Science Linked-Courses Learning Community. *ITiCSE 2015: The 20th Annual Conference on Innovation and Technology in Computer Science Education*. Vilnius, Lithuania, July 2015
- 5 A. Settle, **J.P. Lalor**, T. Steinbach. Reconsidering the Impact of CS1 on Novice Attitudes. *SIGCSE 2015: The ACM Special Interest Group on Computer Science Education*. Kansas City, Missouri, March 2015

## Posters and Abstracts

- 4 J. Chen, **J.P. Lalor**, H. Yu. Detecting Hypoglycemia Incidents from Patients' Secure Messages. *American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) Annual Symposium* Poster, 2018
- 3 **J.P. Lalor**, H. Wu, H. Yu. Modeling Difficulty to Understand Deep Learning Performance. *Northern Lights Deep Learning Workshop (NLDL)*, 2018.
- 2 **J.P. Lalor**, H. Wu, H. Yu. CIFT: Crowd-Informed Fine-Tuning to Improve Machine Learning Ability. *Human Computation and Crowdsourcing (HCOMP) Works-in-Progress*, 2017.
- 1 **J.P. Lalor**, H. Wu, L. Chen, K. Mazor, H. Yu. Generating a Test of Electronic Health Record Narrative Comprehension with Item Response Theory. *American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) Annual Symposium* Podium Abstract, 2017.

---

## Tutorials and Invited Talks

- 11/2018 Evaluation and Interpretability in Deep Neural Networks. *American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) Annual Symposium* Instructional Workshop, 2018. With A. Jagannatha and H. Yu.
- 10/2018 CompreHENotes: A New Test of EHR Note Comprehension. *University of Notre Dame Mendoza College of Business*.
- 09/2018 Leveraging Uncertainty for Better DNN Training and Evaluation. *UMass Lowell Data Science Lecture Series*.
- 09/2017 Building Better Evaluations using Item Response Theory. *University of Notre Dame Natural Language Processing Group*.

12/2016 Building Evaluation Scales for NLP using Item Response Theory. *UMass CICS Machine Learning and Friends Lunch series.*

---

## Teaching and Mentoring Experience

Fall 2018 **Instructor**, UMass Lowell Data Science Lecture Series, University of Massachusetts Lowell.  
Prepared and gave three lectures on evaluation and interpretability in deep neural networks

Fall 2018 **Instructor**, CICS First Year Seminar, University of Massachusetts Amherst.  
Seminar topic: Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare

2017-2018 **Research Mentor**, Nikhil Titus, M.S. in Computer Science, University of Massachusetts Amherst.

2018 **Research Mentor**, UMass CICS Industry Mentor Program.

---

## Service

2018 - present Organizer, UMass CICS Machine Learning and Friends Lunch.

2018 - present Reviewer, American Journal of Preventative Medicine (AJPM).

2018 - present Reviewer, American Medical Informatics Association Annual Symposium (AMIA).

2017 - present Reviewer, Journal of Medical Internet Research (JMIR).

2014 - 2015 DePaul University Graduate Ambassador for prospective students

2014 - 2015 DePaul Tutor for undergraduate students