

Sanya Bathla Taneja

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[Website](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [GitHub](#) | [Semantic Scholar](#)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Biomedical informatics, natural language processing, machine learning, knowledge representation, knowledge graphs, biomedical ontologies

EDUCATION

PhD Intelligent Systems

University of Pittsburgh | 2020-Present

Pittsburgh, PA

Major: Artificial Intelligence

MS Intelligent Systems

University of Pittsburgh | 2018-20

Pittsburgh, PA

B.Tech. Computer Science and Engineering

Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women | 2014-18

Delhi, India

EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Researcher | February 2021 – Present

University of Pittsburgh, Intelligent Systems Program

- Developed a large-scale knowledge graph combining literature-based discovery, machine reading of full texts of scientific articles, and biomedical ontologies for discovery and generation of mechanistic hypotheses for natural product-drug interactions (NPDIs) and related adverse events.
- Extended knowledge representation in biomedical ontologies to include natural products and constituents to facilitate computational research using OWL and RDF.
- Standardization of and generation of signals to identify NPDIs from adverse event reporting systems and embedding methods for vocabulary standardization and identification of natural product reports.
- Part of the informatics core of the [NaPDI Center](#) created by the National Institutes of Health National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH).

Graduate Student Researcher | February 2020 – 2021

University of Pittsburgh, Intelligent Systems Program

- Responsible for longitudinal EHR data extraction, cleaning, and primary technical development of analyses with OMOP Common Data Model.
- Implemented and tested machine learning and case-control epidemiological analyses for Alzheimer's disease onset and risk factors using OHDSI methods in R and Python.
- Supported development of knowledge graph using biomedical ontologies and machine reading to discover novel associations to prevent the onset of Alzheimer's disease. Funded by the Pitt Momentum Teaming Grant (2020).

Research Assistant | September 2018 – February 2020

University of Pittsburgh, School of Medicine

- Developed and designed natural language processing and machine learning pipeline for twitter surveillance of vaping at the Center for Research on Media, Technology and Health.
- Responsible for RITHM software framework maintenance, documentation, and upkeep of the GitHub repository. (<https://github.com/CRMTH/RITHM>).
- Performed data extraction and processing for real-time Twitter data mining for public health research and analysis using Python and resources at the Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center.

Research Intern | June – August 2019

University of Pittsburgh, Department of Biomedical Informatics | Malawi, Africa

- Developed Bayesian networks and machine learning models with decision tree analysis to diagnose and manage childhood malaria in Malawi.
- Consulted experts at health centers and Global Health Informatics Institute in Malawi and UPMC Children's Hospital to design the study and implement it as master's thesis.

Software Development Engineer (SDE) Intern | February – July 2018

Amazon India

- Developed backend APIs for the Seller and Retail website using Java, Spring MVC, Coral, JavaScript, and Handlebars. Involved in adding order cancellation details to the Seller dashboard to supplement the seller website.

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Sidani, J.E., Hoffman, B.L., Colditz, J.B., Melcher, E., **Taneja, S.B.**, Shensa, A., Primack, B., Davis, E. and Chu, K.H., 2022. E-Cigarette-Related Nicotine Misinformation on Social Media. *Substance Use & Misuse*, pp.1-7. DOI: [10.1080/10826084.2022.2026963](https://doi.org/10.1080/10826084.2022.2026963)
- **Taneja SB**, Callahan TJ, Brochhausen M, Paine MF, Kane-Gill SL, Boyce RD. Designing potential extensions from G-SRS to ChEBI to identify natural product-drug interactions. *Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology/European Conference on Computational Biology (ISMB/ECCB)*, 2021. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5736386>.
- **Taneja, S.**, Boyce, R., Reynolds, W., & Newman-Griffis, D. "Introducing Information Retrieval for Biomedical Informatics Students." *Proceedings of the Fifth Workshop on Teaching NLP, Association for Computational Linguistics*, 2021, pp. 96–98. *ACLWeb*, <https://www.aclweb.org/anthology/2021.teachingnlp-1.16>.
- **Taneja, S.B.**, Douglas, G.P., Cooper, G.F., Michaels, M.G., Druzdzal, M.J., Visweswaran, S. Bayesian network models with decision tree analysis for management of childhood malaria in Malawi. *BMC Med Inform Decis Mak* 21, 158 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12911-021-01514-w>
- Hoffman BL, Colditz JB, Shensa A, Wolynn R, **Taneja SB**, Felter EM, Wolynn T, Sidani JE. #DoctorsSpeakUp: Lessons learned from a pro-vaccine Twitter event. *Vaccine*. 2021 May 6;39(19):2684-2691. doi: 10.1016/j.vaccine.2021.03.061.

- Visweswaran S, Colditz JB, O'Halloran P, Han NR, **Taneja SB**, Welling J, Chu KH, Sidani JE, Primack BA, Machine Learning Classifiers for Twitter Surveillance of Vaping: Comparative Machine Learning Study, *J Med Internet Res* 2020;22(8):e17478, URL: <https://www.jmir.org/2020/8/e17478>, DOI: 10.2196/17478
- Abhishek, A., **Taneja, S. B.**, Malik, G., Anand, A., & Awekar, A., Fine-grained Entity Recognition with Reduced False Negatives and Large Type Coverage. *Presented at the Automated Knowledge Base Construction (AKBC) Conference, 2019*
- Gupta A, **Taneja SB**, Malik G, Vij S, Tayal DK, Jain A. SLANGZY: a fuzzy logic-based algorithm for English slang meaning selection. *Progress in Artificial Intelligence*. 2019 Apr 1;8(1):111-21.
- Thesis: **Taneja, Sanya Bathla**. Bayesian Networks for Diagnosing Childhood Malaria in Malawi. Master's Thesis, University of Pittsburgh, 2020. Available from: <http://d-scholarship.pitt.edu/38993/>.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- **Taneja SB**, Paine MF, Kane-Gill SL, Boyce RD. Extending the OMOP Standard Vocabulary to Include Botanical Natural Products. *Poster presentation, Observational Health Data Sciences and Informatics (OHDSI) Symposium; October 14-16, 2022.*
- **Taneja SB**, Joachimiak MP, Hegde H, Baumgartner Jr. WA, JH Caufield, Callahan TJ, Mungall CJ, Boyce RD. Evaluation of Named Entity Recognition Systems to Improve Ontology Concept Annotation for Biomedical Knowledge Graphs. *Oral and poster presentation, ISMB Bio-ontologies COSI; July 10-14, 2022.* doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6941350.
- **Taneja SB**, Ndungu PW, Paine MF, Kane-Gill SL, Boyce RD. Relation Extraction from Biomedical Literature on Pharmacokinetic Natural Product-Drug Interactions. *Poster presentation, AMIA Informatics Summit 2022; March 21-24, 2022.*
- Taneja SB, Callahan TJ, Brochhausen M, Paine MF, Kane-Gill SL, Boyce RD. Designing potential extensions from G-SRS to ChEBI to identify natural product-drug interactions. *Oral and poster presentation, ISMB/ECCB Bio-ontologies COSI; July 25-30, 2021.*
- Shaaban CE, **Taneja SB**, Witonsky KF, Malec SA, Karim HT, Pratt S, Levine AS, Munro PW, Boyce RD, Albert SM. Does clinical data capture modifiable midlife risk factors for Alzheimer's disease? *In 2021 Alzheimer's Association International Conference; 2021 Jul 26.*
- **Taneja SB**, Boyce RD, Reynolds WT, Newman-Griffis D. Introducing Information Retrieval to Biomedical Informatics Students. *Poster Presentation, 5th TeachingNLP workshop at NAACL-HLT 2021; June 10-11, 2021.*
- S. Malec, **S. Taneja**, K. Witonsky, C. Shaaban, H. Karim, A. Levine, S. Albert, P. Monro, R. Boyce. Modeling Alzheimer's Disease by Combining Knowledge Extracted from Biomedical Literature with Biomedical Ontologies. *Poster Presentation, AMIA Informatics Summit 2021; March 23, 2021.*
- Hoffman BL, Colditz JB, Sidani JE, Davis EM, **Taneja SB**, James AE, Primack BA, Morris A, Brink L, Lynch M, Rose JJ, Chu KH. Correlation of Twitter Data to Reported Cases Of E-cigarette Or Vaping Product Use-associated Lung Injury (EVALI). *Poster Presentation, 2020 American Thoracic Society International Conference; May 17, 2020 (canceled due to COVID-19).*

PUBLICATIONS IN REVIEW

- **Taneja SB**, Callahan TJ, Paine MF, Kane-Gill SL, Kilicoglu H, Joachimiak MP, Boyce RD. Developing a Knowledge Graph Framework for Pharmacokinetic Natural Product-Drug Interactions. arXiv. 2022. [10.48550/arXiv.2209.11950](https://arxiv.org/abs/10.48550/arXiv.2209.11950).
- Malec SA, **Taneja SB**, Albert SM, Shaaban CE, Karim HT, Levine AS, Munro PW, Callahan TJ, Boyce RD. Causal feature selection using a knowledge graph combining structured knowledge from the biomedical literature and ontologies: a use case studying depression as a risk factor for Alzheimer's disease. (*In Review*). bioRxiv (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1101/2022.07.18.500549>.

TALKS

- Knowledge Graph Framework to Generate Hypotheses for Natural Product-Drug Interactions. *Presented at: Pittsburgh-CMU Medical Informatics Colloquium; December 3, 2021.* <https://pcmic.github.io/>.
- Guest lecture on 'Graph Machine Learning' in Foundations of Biomedical Informatics II, University of Pittsburgh; *January 2021 & 2022.*
- Explaining natural product-drug interactions with biomedical knowledge graphs. *Presented at: Intelligent Systems Program AI Forum, University of Pittsburgh; April 16, 2021.* <http://www.isp.pitt.edu/node/2117>.
- What do you think of vaping? Machine learning methods for Twitter Stance Detection. *Presented at: Intelligent Systems Program AI Forum, University of Pittsburgh; November 8, 2019.* <http://isp.pitt.edu/node/1997>.
- Using Bayesian networks to diagnose childhood illness in low- and middle-income countries: case of malaria in Malawi. *Poster presented at the DBMI Annual Training Program Retreat, University of Pittsburgh; August 22, 2019.*

SKILLS AND INTERESTS

Skills and Interests: Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing, OMOP Common Data Model, ETL of Electronic Health Records data, Clinical Decision Support, Bayesian Networks, Knowledge Graph, Knowledge Representation, Biomedical Ontologies

Technologies: Python, R, SQL, Git, C, C++

Libraries: NLTK, Spacy, Pandas, Scikit-learn, Jupyter Lab, Keras, Networkx, Tensorflow

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Editorial Activities

Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association (JAMIA) Student Editorial Board Member | 2022-2023

Peer Review

BMC Bioinformatics | 2022

Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology (ISMB) Bio-Ontologies Group | 2022

American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) Informatics Summit | 2021

Workshops

Co-organized discussion group on Symbolic AI and Knowledge Graphs with 20 participants and 6 guest speakers | *University of Pittsburgh, June-July 2022*

Volunteering

Translational Bioinformatics Year-in-Review team, AMIA Informatics Summit | 2021 & 2022

Co-editor, AMIA Student Working Group Newsletter | 2021-2022

Student Volunteer, AMIA Annual Symposium 2021

Memberships

American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) | 2020-Present

International Society of Computational Biology (ISCB) | 2021-Present

OHDSI Symposium Study-a-thon | 2020

Participated in phenotype development, data quality assessment, and manuscript preparation for cardiovascular clinical prediction models using OHDSI tools.

AWARDS

- ISMB/ECCB Bio-ontologies Best Poster Award | 2021