ABSTRACT: The recent trend toward patient participation in their own healthcare has opened up numerous challenges and opportunities for computing research. Dr. Wilcox’s research focuses on how technology can be designed to foster this participation—in particular, how user interfaces can be designed and developed to facilitate health-related information awareness and understanding. In this talk, she will provide an overview of her work on effective design and use of technology to inform lay people about aspects of their health status and health care.

Dr. Wilcox will describe insights into how computing systems can better support communication with patients in inpatient settings, and discuss emerging work focused on a critical yet under-supported group: teens with complex chronic illnesses. Finally, she will discuss opportunities in the emerging area of consumer-centered health informatics, and describe a future in which transformative interventions will better support communication of multi-faceted health-related information to a variety of end users.

BIO: Lauren Wilcox is an assistant professor in the School of Interactive Computing at Georgia Institute of Technology. Her research focuses on designing, building, and evaluating technology to support the needs of people working both individually and together to achieve health-related goals. In her talk, she will discuss results of a study focused on the impact of a patient-centered information portal that she developed with collaborators in the Department of Biomedical Informatics at Columbia University and NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, to provide hospital patients with access to timely health-related data and electronic note capture tools. She will also report on formative studies focused on the design of technology to support teens with complex chronic illness in communicating health-related information with their parents and their clinical caregivers at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA).

Dr. Wilcox received her PhD in Computer Science from Columbia University in 2013. Her studies related to communicating patient-centered health information have been recognized by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) through a Dissertation Award in 2012 and by the NSF through a CISE Research Initiation Initiative award in 2015. Prior to her academic career, Lauren worked as a Software Engineer at IBM, where she was recognized with an Early Tenure Inventor award. She is a member of the technical program committees for PervasiveHealth 2016 and ACM CHI 2016.