

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

September 18 and 19, 1981 in FLORENCE, ITALY

1. WELCOME

The President opened the Assembly at 10.00 a.m. welcoming all attendees, and especially Fernandez Perez de Talens, the host for this Meeting. Fernandez expressed his thanks that IMIA's General Assembly was called in Italy, and hoped that all present would enjoy their stay and that the Assembly would be successful. He explained the procedure for the rest of the social and scientific programme.

2. AGENDA

The Agenda was approved.

3. MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 1980 IN TOKYO

These were approved with the amendments mentioned in the Appendix.

4. MINUTES OF 1981 COUNCIL MEETING - AMSTERDAM, MARCH 1981.

These were approved in the Council Meeting held the day before the General Assembly. The report will follow on items actioned.

5. REPORT OF IFIP's COUNCIL MEETING

Shires reported on this Meeting as per Appendix. Roukens apologised for not attending the IFIP General Assembly in Melbourne and explained the situation. He congratulated Shires for his well received report to IFIP.

6. REPORT IMIA ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARIAT

See Appendix. It was decided to continue the Secretariat in The Netherlands, through 1982.

7. INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

7.1 W.H.O.

Fernandez de Talens explained the good relationship IMIA-WHO. As IMIA is a SIG of IFIP all official contacts should be made through IFIP.

Berg said that WHO was happy with the relationship with IMIA, and looked forward to an official relationship, but said that this would take quite a long time. It requires formal and informal procedures. Berg regretted that Mandil could not attend and said that WHO approves IMIA's promotion in informatics in health care (especially in developing countries). WHO needs the help of IMIA in order to become more active than passive in the field of informatics. Zywiets suggested that IMIA should collect names of speakers who could give tutorials for WHO in developing countries. Berg welcomed the idea but emphasized the limited budget. Shires proposed a workshop on education and Roukens mentioned the Brussels Conference (one week prior to this General Assembly) gave an example of their collaboration as will also be the case with the Mexico Conference (February 1982).

7.2 CIOMS

This year no actual participation to CIOMS activity and in the CIOMS Manilla Meeting IMIA had no representation. IMIA's name occurs in the CIOMS publications.

7.3 WMA

Schlögell was unable to attend.

7.4 SEARCC

Roukens reported that this is not an international organisation, but a conference. See his report as per Appendix. He suggested (and this was accepted) dropping this item from the Agenda.

7.5 SCAMC

This item was also dropped from the Agenda as no report was received.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 8.1 Sommerfelt reported (see Appendix as well as Roukens (also see Appendix)).
- a. It was decided that The Computer Society of India (which applied for membership) was accepted in category 4 (S.Fr. 250 per year). Dr. Tasker will most probably be the Indian representative to IMIA.
 - b. As to Czechoslovakia it was decided that the 1982 fee invoice will be sent through Sommerfelt as the Czech authorities have not expressed their final decision.

- c. See Rouken's report for the USSR re-presentation.
- d. Shires reported on the contacts he had made (with the help of Kaihara) with the Peoples Republic of China.
Shires will visit Beijing in April 1982 and discuss IMIA affairs with the authorities.
- e. There are a number of contacts with Egypt. The Board discussed a Board Meeting in Cairo in order to establish a closer contact with IMIA.
- f. Molino told the Assembly that Cuba is interested in opening discussions with IMIA. Molino will meet the Cuban representative in Mexico, February 1982.
- g. In the USA a new organisation is being developed and is looking forward to representing USA in IMIA.
- h. Sommerfelt indicated that the transition period TC4/IMIA ends December 31, 1981. It was decided that the Secretary will contact the former TC4 members before the end of this year in order to invite them to join IMIA.
An exception will be made for USA, Cuba, USSR and Czechoslovakia, as other contacts have been made in the meanwhile.

8.2 SCIENTIFIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Abbott roughly explained his paper (see Appendix).

The question was deferred to September 19, 1981 (see item 15.0)

8.3 PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

Shires reads Reichertz' letter (see Appendix). This led to some discussion as to whether all IMIA publications should be in English. With the exception of paragraph 2. Reichertz' letter was accepted and IMIA will speak of "an" official journal and NOT "the" official journal.

8.4 THE NEWSLETTER

Kaihara asked for assistance. Please send photographs also. It is hoped to have enough material for 2 Newsletters per year. Distribution via the official national representatives. Please advise Kaihara of the number required.

8.5 BY-LAWS

Peterson reported that after the General Assembly in Tokyo the by-laws were discussed

in the Board but further discussions are required. After the spring Board Meeting 1982 a proposal will be sent to all members before the General Assembly 1982.

8.6 TREASURER'S REPORT

Deferred to September 19, 1981.

8.7 IMIA-EFMI LIAISON

This relationship will be included with the By-Laws.

8.8 NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Roukens reported - See Appendices.

Adjourned for lunch.

8.9 Abbott proposed that when IMIA appoints a representative to serve on another Committee then IMIA should be prepared to assist in his expenses.

Roukens thought it should not be an open amount but within a limited budget. Perez de Talens agreed with Roukens, that expenses must be agreed with the Treasurer for each separate occasion. It was agreed that expenses for IMIA representatives to other Committees should be agreed between the representative and the Treasurer.

9.0 MEDINFO 80 REPORT

Kaihara stated that the full report for Medinfo 80 was now available and members could apply direct to him if a copy was required. It was a fully successful meeting both nationally and internationally with over 1000 final attendees. The substantial amount due to IMIA from the profit that was made has been paid to the Secretariat.

10.0 MEDINFO 83 REPORT

The report was deferred to 19/9-1981. (See item 19.0).

11.0 MEDINFO 86 REPORT

The report from Lindberg was presented by Kaihara who indicated that he was in close contact with Lindberg and would be able to pass on any comments. The President stated the arrangements being made represented the only proposal for Medinfo 86 and as yet no alternatives have been received. The final decision must be made at the next General

Assembly. Kaihara referred to the next conference of SCAMC, the establishment of the AMIA and the general situation in the U.S.

12.0 WORKING GROUPS

12.1 WORKING GROUP 1 - INFORMATION SCIENCES AND
MEDICAL INFORMATION

Salamon stated that it intended to establish a Working Conference that is being discussed under Item 14.4.

12.2 WORKING GROUP 2 - REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERFACE
FOR INPUT AND OUTPUT PROCEDURES IN
MEDICAL COMPUTER APPLICATIONS.

Roukens introduced the proposal to redefine the aims and scope of the Working Group, together with a different method of operation. After some points of clarification it was agreed to defer the decision on this matter until 19th September. (See Item 22.0).

12.3 WORKING GROUP 3 - TESTING AND VALIDATION OF
ECG ANALYSES PROGRAMS.

Zywietz reported that a working project is being sponsored by the E.E.C. Several meetings have been held and now the database is being established under the guidance of Willems (Belgium), and common standards are being discussed. A question was asked by Gell, as to how the Working Group members are appointed and it was stated that the By-Laws 4.6 covered the point. It was agreed that a report from each of the Working Groups should be circulated to all members and that the Secretary should obtain the information from all Chairmen of the Working Groups.

The President welcomed the arrival of Agbalajobi (the representative from Nigeria) who had been delayed.

12.4 WORKING GROUP 4 - DATA PROTECTION IN HEALTH
INFORMATION SYSTEMS.

Abbott presented the report from the Chairman of the Working Group and the meeting commended the progress that had been achieved. It was noted that a Working Conference to be held in Kiel, September '82, is being arranged.

12.5 WORKING GROUP 5 - AMBULATORY CARE INFORMATION

Perez de Talens presented apologies from the Chairman of the Working Group and although a

report is not available, some work is progressing albeit cooperation has not been as forthcoming as had been hoped. The General Assembly felt that this work should be helped, and asked members to assist wherever possible.

12.6 WORKING GROUP 6 - BIOMEDICAL PATTERN RECOGNITION

A report was received and it was noted that negotiations were still progressing to formulate a proposal for the establishment of this Working Group.

12.7 WORKING GROUP 7 - THE CODING AND CLASSIFICATION OF HEALTH DATA.

Shires presented this proposal pointing out the needed collaboration with WHO. It was pointed out that Manuila is no longer a staff member of WHO but is still a consultant to that organisation. It was agreed that the decision be deferred until 19th September. (See Item 20.0).

13.0 WORKING CONFERENCES (PAST)

13.1 HOSPITAL STATISTICS FOR PUPULATION BASED HEALTH CARE AND EPIDEMIOLOGY (BELGIUM).

Roukens reported on their Working Conference. He stated that this was very successful and certain recommendations were discussed. A publication is being prepared from the proceedings and the expected publication date is December. Dr. Roger was the prime organiser of this Conference.

14.0 WORKING CONFERENCES (FUTURE)

14.1 THE IMPACT OF COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY ON DRUG INFORMATION (UPPSALA) .

Peterson presented the programme of the Working Conference stating this was an Open Conference being held on 26th - 28th October, 1981.

14.2 USES OF COMPUTERS IN AIDING THE DISABLED (HAIFA) .

In the absence of Raviv no report was available for this Conference.

14.3 MEDICAL INFORMATICS AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (MEXICO) .

Molino reported progress on this Conference which is now being held on 7th - 12th February, 1982, in Mexico. The Programme Committee has a complete plan for the Conference and expects to publish the collected papers

immediately prior to the Conference. Additionally, it is hoped to publish another book (North Holland Pub.Co.) derived from the experience of the Conference containing guidelines for the benefit of the developing countries. Berg stated that the WHO are participating in this Conference and expressed some concern as to the progress of the organisation - Perez de Talens stated that these points were being attended to. Agbalajobi commented on the problems of communication and information relating to the somewhat decentralised nature of WHO. Berg explained that communications should go to the Central Office in Geneva, with copies to the Regional Directors. Salamon asked what was the ratio between the papers from developing and non-developed countries. Perez de Talens replied that from the early papers the ratio was 60:40. Salamon also asked if a third language (French) could be used at the Conference. However, it was not thought possible to consider such a change at this stage. Roukens asked for as much support as possible to be given to this Conference particularly asking for members to look for funds from official sources to support attendees.

14.4 INFORMATION SCIENCE AND MEDICAL EDUCATION
(PARIS).

Salamon presented the proposal for this Conference. He asked the General Conference to approve the format and budget, in particular noting the requirement for a contribution from IMIA of 5000 Swiss Francs. Proposed by Salamon, seconded by Roukens, the proposal be accepted, agreed nem. con.

14.5 COMMUNICATION NETWORK IN HEALTH CARE
(STOCKHOLM).

Peterson presented the report on this Conference noting that there would be room for up to 15 fee paying observers.

14.6 THE ROLE OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND OF HEALTH
INFORMATICS IN THE RECONSTRUCTION OF HEALTH
CARE SYSTEMS (BRINDISI).

Perez de Talens reported the progress of this Conference scheduled for May 1983. A contribution from IMIA of up to 5000 Swiss Francs, as agreed previously, may be required and this was agreed subject to the review of the 1982 financial situation. (See Item 16.0).

14.7 HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT AND MEDICAL INFORMATICS
(GEILO).

Sommerfelt stated he had not been able to get

any further information from Hansen. After some discussion it was agreed that it may be possible for the Conference to be hosted in another country and that new proposals be sought for the next Board Meeting.

NURSING CONFERENCE

- 14.8 Abbott presented a report on the progress of this Conference. It was not expected that IMIA would contribute to the budget but a loan may be needed.
- 14.9 The proposal of Working Group 4 to hold a Working Conference at Kiel was agreed. It was observed by Dr. Gell that several Working Conferences are now clashing in the timetable and dates of other events already agreed should be taken into account when accepting dates of new meetings. It was stated that the Board had agreed that the Secretariat should provide a diary of events to help in future planning.

At 17.30 the Meeting was adjourned to 19/9-1981.

The President welcomed the Belgian representative, Willems, and the Agenda for this session was agreed.

15.0 THE SCIENTIFIC POLICY

This paper was discussed and Abbott will circulate a revised version as soon as possible. All members are invited to send comments within two weeks for the revised version so that the final version can be circulated after one month and finally presented at the next Board Meeting.

16.0 TREASURER'S REPORT (Item 8.6 deferred previously)

Perez de Talens presented the financial statements. He pointed out the rise in administrative costs and the need to reach financial independence by the end of 1983 when the IFIP grant ends. He suggested that IMIA should change its policy to making loans rather than grants to Working Conferences. This would enable IMIA to recover its contributions from such Conferences and participate in the profits. Member countries are very late in the payment of their dues and he urged prompt attention to this matter. Grants to Working Conferences can now be met in 1982. Expenses for attendance at meetings by IMIA members can be met if approval to such expenses is given at the time of the appointment and an appropriate

allowance made in the budget. Expenses of the new Working Groups can also be covered by the budget in 1982. (List of this expenditure in detail to be provided by Perez de Talens).

Proposed by the Treasurer that the policy be accepted that all monies be loaned to Working Conferences. Seconded by Gell. After some discussion the motion was carried with only 1 negative vote.

Proposed by Perez de Talens seconded by Peterson, that the budget for 1982 be accepted, carried by nem.con.

17.0 THE ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Report was presented by the President and he stated that he would be updating this for presentation at IFIP's Dublin next week. The report was accepted.

18.0 REGISTRATION OF IMIA

Registration of the name of IMIA was agreed by Members of the Committee. IMIA representatives of the national members should have the right to attend working conferences. Agreed - nem. con.

19.0 MEDINFO '83 (Item 10.0 deferred previously)

Roukens introduced the progress report of Medinfo 83. He informed the General Assembly who had accepted invitations from the members of the Programme Committee, Lodwick - USA, Boulay - UK, Furukawa - Japan, Hirel - France, Lindberg - USA, Mandil - Sudan/WHO, Molino - Mexico, Reichertz -FRG, Willems - Belgium, and this membership was approved. It is still possible that a member from Eastern Europe could be appointed. He also referred to the appointment of the editors as being Van Bommel - The Netherlands, Ball - USA, and Wigertz - Sweden. The Organising Committee is Roukens, Smith, Hasman, Van Gelderen, Gundersen, Helder, Klap, Van der Leer, Van Mil, Saliez and Wilbrink, and the Steering Committee is Shires, Abbott, Peterson, Kaihara and ex officio Chairmen of the Organising and Programme Committees. Roukens then explained the format of the programme with some new features and changes of emphasis. WHO has agreed to sponsor Medinfo 83 at an early stage which will be of considerable benefit. Schedules have been arranged for the various activities, (editorial, organisation, call for papers, etc.).

The budget was reviewed - the Board had already expressed anxiety about the high number of participants needed to break-even. Revisions have been made to cover this point. Roukens stated that the expenditure on the Programme Committee is causing some difficulty but some effort is being made to reduce these costs. Also endeavours are being made to reduce the costs of the Organising Committee, by reducing the involvement of the professional consultants. It was also proposed to use a variable rate of registration fees for each year before 1983.

Roukens also asked for the help and cooperation of national members (both representatives and societies). After some discussion the report was accepted and Roukens was congratulated on the progress that has been made.

Kaihara asked about another Conference in Munich at about the same time as Medinfo. Roukens explained that after some negotiation that this Conference will now be held in 1984. The full documentation will be circulated with the minutes.

20.0 WORKING GROUP 7 (Item 12.7 deferred previously)

The President introduced this Item. Gell asked if some more appropriate title including the reference to ICD10 could be found. Berg did not think this was possible and after some further discussion it was agreed that the aim of the group should be better expressed in its title. The title agreed was "The Coding and Classification of Health Data". Members were invited to nominate members for this group. The revised aims of the group will be circulated to all members with the minutes.

21.0 WORKING CONFERENCE - MEDICAL DECISION MAKING

Gell introduced a proposal to establish a Conference on medical decision making - Oct/Nov 1983. It was agreed that a formal proposal should be presented to the Board for final approval.

22.0 WORKING GROUP 2 (Item deferred previously)

Roukens put the proposal to the meeting. Gell did not think the Working Group was precise enough in its aims. The general terms used would be more correctly attached to IFIP. It was also felt that the title was also too broad, indeed the work of the group almost covers the whole field of IMIA. Roukens pointed out that this was not the intention, but referred to the need to form a bridge between information technicians and those concerned with the development of health care.

Berg suggested a change of title to "the application of new technology to health care applications". It was agreed by the General Conference nem con.

23.0 WORKING CONFERENCE - ASSESSMENT OF MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY.

A proposal for a Working Conference on assessment of medical technology was proposed by Salamon. It was agreed that the date should be May 1984, but Salamon has agreed to redraft his title to take into account committee comments. Proposed by Salamon seconded by De Soto that the Conference be approved.

24.0 NEXT MEETING

The Australian representative has wrtiiien to declare an interest in hosting the next General Conference in October. Canada was suggested an an alternative. The President was empowered to negotiate over the next two months, the place of the next meeting.

The meeting closed.