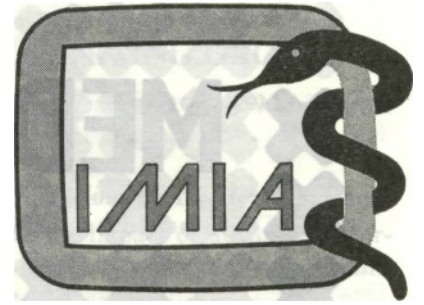


MEDICAL INFORMATICS NEWS LETTER

A Publication of IFIP-IMIA
(International Medical Informatics Association)



IMIA Headquarter: Enschedepad 41-43 NL-1324 GB Almere-Stad, The Netherlands

Vol. 8 No. 1 Editors: S. Kaihara and W.C. Abbott February 1983

IMIA EXTENDS ITS ACTIVITIES TO INDIA AND AUSTRALIA

Seminar in India

Two seminars on medical informatics were held in India. The first seminar was held in Srinagar, and the second one in Delhi in April, 1982. Both seminars were arranged by Colonel Shrivraj Kumar, Chairman of the Delhi Chapter of the Computer Society of India.

David Shires, Hans Peterson and Bud Abbott attended the seminar and informed the attendants about the activities of IMIA and considerable interest was expressed.

The seminar was very well attended by both computing and health care professionals. From the very active participation of the delegates to the seminar, it is clear that the demand for Medical Informatics in India is growing apace.

The second seminar was held in Delhi after the Srinagar seminar. Bud Abbott, IMIA secretary made a presentation as part of the seminar and it was plain that the indications given in Srinagar were endorsed by the larger number of delegates in Delhi. Although Medical Informatics is a relatively new subject for India, it was obvious that there is an expressed need which will have to be met in the future.

Conference in Melbourne

The conference, "International Perspectives in Medical Informatics" was held on Monday the 27th of September, 1982 at the Melbourne Town House, Australia. It was a rare opportunity for the 120 local and interstate delegates to listen to a group of overseas speakers, as well as the activities in various part of Australia.

The conference was opened by Tom Roper, the State Minister of Health. He pointed out that large amounts of money go into the health system, particularly hospitals, with very little idea how it is spent. The government would demand more and more productivity-oriented information as the price of continued funding, he predicted. With a growing workload and no increase in budget or staff, greater use of computers would be essential.

Dr. David Shires, the president of IMIA, provided the keynote address. Dr. Shires took as his theme the role IMIA can play in fostering communications between workers in the field of health and medical computing. He emphasised the assistance which IMIA could give to underdeveloped countries, and in allowing countries such as Australia to benefit from the mistakes of others.

The program for the day was a full one with 14 speakers including H. Petersen, D. A. B. Lindberg, S. Kaihara, J. Roukens and B. Barber.

IMIA GA MET IN MELBOURNE

IMIA held its annual General assembly September 28-29 in Melbourne Australia. This assembly was hosted by Dr. Bennett, Australian representative to IMIA.

Two applications for membership were approved. The new members welcomed into IMIA are Argentina, East Germany. A revised leaflet editing the objectives of IMIA with a discription of the organization was approved. The leaflet is now available from the Secretariat.

The General Assembly received a formal invitation of MEDINFO 86 from Dr. Lindberg, U.S. representative and unanimously approved the plan, (see page 3)

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MEDINFO 83 is Approaching Rapidly

The organizing Committee will leave nothing to chance and is working in top gear. The Scientific Programme Committee and the Editorial Board were surprised at the great number of experts intending to submit papers.

The summary of the Scientific Programme was published in the first MEDINFO 83 News, and in addition to this the organizing committee is pleased to announce that Professor Lee Lusted and Prof. Jan Tinbergen will be the key note speakers at the Opening Session of MEDINFO 83.

Prof. Lee Lusted, a radiologist in the U.S.A., has often been considered the founder of medical informatics. He is well known for his theory on medical diagnostic decision making.

Prof. Jan Tinbergen, a well-known Dutch economist received the Nobel Prize for economics in 1969 for his work on the development of dynamic models and their application at the analysis of the economic problems. He is one of the founder of the econometrics and is specialized in the economical problems of developing countries.

In parallel to the scientific sessions the following Seminars will also be held.

- Planning & Management
- Hospital Information Systems
- pharmacy Automation
- Computer in the Physicians Office
- Computing in Clinical Laboratories
- Nursing Systems

These seminars have been especially developed for such categories as health care professionals and health care managers, policymakers, and planners, hospital administrators, medical specialists and general practitioners, pathologists, pharmacists, nursing managers and nurses.

In conjunction with MEDINFO 83, Exhibition will be held in the lounges of the International Congress &

Exhibition Center RAI. This exhibition will give participants a bird's eye view of the commercial opportunities available in order to realize their ideas.

Further MEDINFO 83 related activities are the Workshops, Poster Sessions, the Film and Video Sessions, Demonstrations and a MEDIMICRO shows, while an altogether different subject, Data Banks, will also be given special attention.

The Organizing Committee is proud to report that a number of organizations have requested the opportunity of reviewing health informatics in their situation in either full or half day sessions. Comprehensive and detailed overviews of this nature will be of interest to Congress participants.

It is perhaps not even necessary to add that a number of other activities will take place before and after the actual Congress. On 27 and 28 August, a workshop on Drug Information Data Bases will be held in Amsterdam for which the introductory discussion will take place on the evening of 24 August and on 29, 30 and 31 August and 1 September the MUMPS User Group Europe will hold its 8th Annual Conference with the theme MUMPS and the Other World.

The Organizing Committee also says that the Social Programme has opened innumerable avenues and hopes that Congress participants will avail themselves of these opportunities for world wide interchange of thoughts and ideas in an informal and relaxed atmosphere. An attractive programme has been arranged for accompanying persons and they will also have the opportunity of exploring scintillating Amsterdam and venturing further afield to discover a surprising country!

There is, therefore, every reason to register now for this Congress organized on a broader base and with a wider scope than those that have gone before.

Meanwhile, the INVITATION TO REGISTER has had world wide distribution, but should you not have received your copy, please request it at:

MEDINFO 83 Congress Office
Enschedepad 41-43
NL-1324 GB Almere-Stad
The Netherlands
Phone: 03240-31341 Telex: 70424 ifsec nl

Some actual figures:

- close to 900 persons have responded to the call for papers
- over 600 have expressed their intention to deliver a paper
- 25,000 copies of the INVITATION TO REGISTER have been distributed world wide
- Flyers of the Seminars are available for distribution with journals. Please contact MEDINFO Congress Office.

MEDINFO 86

Washington D.C. was proposed by U.S.A.

Over the past 18 months, a number of persons, representing major medical and informatics societies, agencies, and educational institutions in the United States, have met both formally and informally to consider the possibility of an invitation to host the Fifth World Conference on Medical Informatics (MEDINFO '86) in the United States.

Recognizing that no single entity among the above could appropriately speak for, or represent, the totality of United States interest in medical informatics, consensus has formed around the creation of an *ad hoc* body for the purpose of tendering the invitation, and assuming the responsibility for planning, organizing, and conducting MEDINFO 86. This organization, known as *U. S. Council for MEDINFO '86* was formed on August 27, 1982 and incorporated in the District of Columbia on September 1.

Membership in the U. S. Council, and the organizations they represent, includes Morris F. Collen, American Association for Medical Systems and Informatics; Richard I. Tanaka, American Federation of Information Processing Societies; Daniel K. Harris, American Medical Association; Pierre W. Keitges, College of American Pathologists; Judith M. S. Prewitt, Computer Society (IEEE); Richard G. Lester, Radiologic Society of North America; and Michael J. Ackerman, Symposium on Computer Applications in Medical Care.

Provision has been made by the Council to include as full members up to 12 appropriate U. S. professional and scientific societies. Verbal notice of agreement to join the U. S. Council for MEDINFO '86 has been received from the American Academy of Dermatology and the American Hospital Association.

Dr. Lindberg, U. S. representative to IMIA, formally submitted the invitation to IMIA General Assembly in September, 1982 to hold MEDINFO 86 in the U. S.

The essence of the plan is as follows.

Place: Sheraton Washington hotel and adjacent Shoreham Hotel Washington D. C., U.S.A.

Time: October 27 through October 30, 1986

The design of the program and the production of the proceedings will be in a manner analogous to the process for prior Medinfo conferences.

It is expected to have 3500 to 4000 attendance for MEDINFO 86 from the experience of 'Computer Applications in Medical Care' which is now annually held also in Washington D.C.

REPORT OF WORKING GROUP

IMIA now has 6 working groups. Two WGs report their recent activities.

WG 2 Information Technologies for Health Care

- 1) Objective: To assess the impact of advanced Information technologies on the application and organization of health care
- 2) Members: The working group has been established recently. Members have not yet been appointed. During MEDINFO 83 the group will actually be launched.
- 3) Activities of the group: its main objective is to publish a series of smaller monographs that assess the future impact of specific Information technologies in Health Care.
Subject that might be covered in this way are: The impact of Local Area networks, Videotex, Distributed data Base Systems, Very Large Storage Devices, Multi-purpose Broadband Transmission, etc.
- 4) Interested? Those who are interested to be connected to this working group, are requested to contact. J. Roukens c/o Commission of the European Communities Wetstraat 200, A-25 3/8 B-1049 Brussels Belgium

WG 5 Ambulatory care Systems

- 1) Objective: To analyze structures, functions and objectives of ambulatory care systems and information technology systems to support such care.
- 2) Members:

J. Roukens (Netherlands)	
H. Miyake (Japan)	H. Peterson (Sweden)
Temmermann (Belgium)	Moehr (FRG)
P. Le Beux (France)	Clayton (UK)
Rienhoff (FRG)-Secretary	P. L. Reicherz (FRG)-chairman
- 3) Recent Activities: The major activity in 1980, besides the formation of the working group, was the working conference: Doctor's Office Computers in Hannover. Since then, some work has been done in defining the scope of the working group and in identifying possible activities for the years to come. At the moment, financial possibilities are being explored to call together a new working conference either in 1984 or 1985. Subject of this working conference will be the structured presentation of aspects of the various ambulatory care systems in the member countries as such and in relation to the possible support by computer systems.
The working Group further intends to discuss ambulatory care information flow and definitions. Surveys are planned in regard to the types of computer support systems available in the member countries.

SUMMARY ON WORKING CONFERENCE

IMIA holds several working conferences each year. The report from the ones held in the second half of 1982.

The Impact of Computers on Nursing September 8-15, 1982 London and Harrogate, U.K.

This conference was divided into two parts, namely an International Open Forum held in London and a closed workshop held at National Health Service training centre, The White Hart, Harrogate.

The objectives of the conference were: (1) to describe the current state of Computer Nursing Systems and other Health Care Systems with which nurses are included. (2) to predict future needs. (3) to comment on the educational needs of nurses involved with computing.

The number of participants were 550 for the International Open Forum and 59 for the closed workshop.

The International Open Forum was opened by Kenneth Clarke M.P., Minister for Health in England and Wales, Daine Catherine Hall gave the Keynote Address and Margo Cook gave the Nursing Times lecture and Daine Phyllis Friend gave the closing address. The programme included a dinner in the Palace of Westminster hosted by Guy Barnett M.P.

The main session titles were as follows:

(a) Closed Workshop

1. Patient Care

Computer technology in health care
Primary health care
Nursing care records and measurements of care
Clinical records, drug prescribing and administration
Patient Monitoring

2. Nursing Education

The implications of computers for nursing education

- Computer aided to learning
Record Keeping, Evaluation and research
- ### 3. Nursing Management
- Computer involvement in planning the nursing service
Computers in the day-to day management of the nursing service.
The use of computers in monitoring the nursing service.
- #### (b) International Open Forum
- Nursing education
Training nurses in computing
Nursing management
Patient care
Data capture in nursing
Surveillance and prevention
- The conference adopted the following recommendations

1. This was the first international conference on nursing informatics.
 2. Workers in this field were rather isolated and were anxious to develop some continuing method of meeting and developing their subject.
Different aspects of the use of computers in nursing have been developed in various countries and the time is opportune to bring these developments together.
 3. There is a definite field of professional activity that is not sufficiently catered for by isolated sessions at medical informatics congresses.
 4. There appeared to be a groundswell of support for developing both national and international activity and for doing so in conjunction with IMIA.
 5. It was agreed that a request should be submitted to the IMIA General Conference in Melbourne that a Working Group on Nursing Informatics should be established under the initial chairmanship of Maureen Scholes.
1. Support was given to both the nursing session at Medinfo and for the nursing seminars (Chairman



Picture:

Participants
of nursing
informatics
conference

Maureen Scholes and Elly Pluyter-Wenting).

7. It was hoped that there would be a first meeting of the nursing working group at Medinfo 1983 in Amsterdam and that plans for a conference in North America 1984/5 would be developed, as well as proposals for activity linked to Medinfo 86.

Proceedings edited by Maureen Scholes, Yvonne Bryant and Barry Barber will be published by North Holland in the first half of 1983.

The members of the organizing committee were: Maureen Scholes (Chairman) Barry Barber (Secretary), W. Abbott (Treasurer). Clare Ashton, Elizabeth Butler, Yvonne Bryant

The members of the program committee were: Brian Hambleton, Ron Hoy, Brian Layzell, Doreen Redmond, Jackie Streeter, Ken Wright

**Communication Network in Health Care
June 14-18, 1982 Stockholm, Sweden**

This conference was held at Ulvsunda Palace in Stockholm. The Objectives of the conference was to describe the present situation both from the communications technology and from the users point of view.

The program consisted of three different items namely a description of the today's available technology, the user's needs, the manufacturers available products and systems. These were followed by a discussion and conclusion session.

In the opening address given by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs the priority to improve the prevention of illness and the necessity of a functioning communications network for exchange of information was stressed. In the key-note speech given by Dr. S. H. Mandil of the World Health Organization the Alma-Ata declaration and the need of communication especially in the developing countries was pointed out. The representative from the Intergovernmental Bureau for Informatics showed how developing countries were trying to deal with their communication problems, and their need for guidance.

The conference was arranged to discuss problems and

possibilities of communication networks within health care. In this perspective there are important questions above pure technology: How can we define our needs and expectations in a realistic way at this stage? What user-competence is needed to understand some of the issues of network communication? Should we accept and allow the manufacturers to provide all the expertise, especially considering mixed equipment communication systems? We can find out answers to these last questions by encouraging our manufacturers to present what their equipment can do and equally important what it cannot do.

Altogether over the five days there were about 85 participants from 15 countries present.

The chairman of the organizing committee was Dr. H. Peterson, Stockholm. The program committee was chaired by Dr. W. Schneider, Uppsala and was composed by the following persons: Dr. A. Isaksson (Stockholm), v. chairman, Prof. P le Beux (Paris), Prof, J. Dudeck (Giessen), Prof. D. Lindberg (Columbia, Mo), Prof. P. Reicherz (Hannover) and Prof. T. Saito (Tokyo).

Proceedings edited by Dr. H. Peterson and Dr. A. Isaksson will be published in Oct 1982.

**Data Protection in Health Information Systems—
where do we stand?
September 7-10, 1982 Kiel F.R.G.**

This conference was held to discuss the current state of the art in the various aspects of Data protection, to publish the results and to decide on the future direction of effort of W. G. 4. The number of participantes was 26.

The members of the Program committee were K. Sauter; A. R. Bakker; G. Griesser; D. J. Kenny; H. Peterson; D. J. Protti; W. Schneider.

The members of the Organizing Committee were G. Griesser (Kiel, FRG)—Chairman J. Danielsson (Stockholm, Sweden) H. D. Purps (Hamburg, FRG) T. H. Steinbrinck (Kiel, FRG)

The proceedings edited by Griesser, Kenny, Jardel, and Sauter is expected to be published in June/July 1983.

The working conferences planned in the future are as follows.

<u>1983</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Title-Organizing Committee-Program Committee Chairman</u>
3/21-25	Paris France	Information Science and midical education Jean-Claude Pages, A. Levy
6/1-4	Madrid Spain	Applications of Computer in Cardiology
<u>1984</u>		
5/ ?	San Francisco U.S.A.	Assessment of medical technology M.F. Collen, F. Gremy
<u>1985</u>		
Spring	Tokyo Japan	Homeostasis in Healthy People T. Yasaka, E. K. Harris

ACTIVITIES OF MEMBER COUNTRIES

British Computer Society

President: HRH The Duke of Kent GCMG GCVO,
ADC

Address: 13 Mansfield Street, LONDON W1M 0BP
The British Computer Society is the principal society in the U.K. and is concerned with computing in all its aspects. Under its aegis specialist groups operate to deal with particular subjects and medical computing (i.e. medical informatics) is a major activity. Indeed the activity is on such a scale as to warrant the support of four such groups—three geographically based in London, Manchester and Scotland and one concerned with General Practice. All four operate their own programmes and also combine for particular events. Additionally the Groups may combine with other Specialist Groups of the British Computer Society e.g. Microprocessor; Expert Systems; etc., or under the overall umbrella of the British Computer Society to participate in other activities. Thus the Groups are able to organise for their members, forums, talks, seminars etc., based on any relevant view of medical informatics. As a result of the recent IMIA Working Conferences a new Specialist Group concerned with Nursing is being formed.

Organisationally, each Group is managed by an elected Committee and is represented at the B.C.S. Specialists Board. The Specialist Board is represented at the B.C.S. Council by its Vice-President and four nominees. Non-members of the B.C.S. may be members of the Specialist Group, but may not be representatives at the Specialist Board or on the B.C.S. Council. The four Medical Specialist Groups have a Coordinating Committee to advise the B.C.S. inter alia on international matters related to medical informatics e.g. representation at I.M.I.A. and I.M.I.A. Working Groups and Conferences.

Currently a Groups activities tend to be mainly centred on seminars lasting from half-day to two-day events. Such seminars are concentrated on a particular subject with three or four speakers to each half-day session and typical attendances are around a hundred. There will be about five single events in a programme which normally runs from September to May each year. Special events such as the I.M.I.A. Working Conference on Nursing obviously have an effect on the local programme. The total number of members of the Groups is about 1,500.

List of Officers concerned with medical computing
Vice President Specialist Board. Dr. Barry Barber,
Coordinating Committee Chairman. Mr. John Bryant.
Medical Specialist Group LONDON. Chairman. Professor John Anderson.

Medical Specialist Group NORTHERN. Chairman.
Dr. David Clark.

Medical Specialist Group SCOTLAND. Chairman.
Dr. John Womersley.

Primary Health Care Specialist Group Chairman.
Dr. Geoffrey Clayton.

I.M.I.A. Representative. Mr. W. Abbott.

New Zealand

Medical Informatics in New Zealand is making slow but steady progress.

In the public sector, most of the developing effort is directed to a National Health Computer System, based upon two large main frames, (one in each Island). This system is designed to provide data-base development for all the major Hospital Boards in the country. Systems being developed include patient admission and discharge, and pathology laboratory.

The private medical development field is in the main related to pathology laboratory systems, some of which are as comprehensive and cost-effective as any seen elsewhere.

Interest in Medical Informatics is not as yet very high, and the New Zealand Computer Society is the parent body who is responsible for this area.

South African Medical Information Group (SAMIGZ)

President: Brig P. J. H. Pansegrouw

Address: SAMS Headquarters

Private Bag X614

Pretoria 0001

Republic of South Africa

At present regional interest groups are being formed to give the society a broader and firmer base.

We have 60 members at present.

The first annual general meeting will be held in February 1983, when the Constitution and other basic matters pertaining to the functioning of SAMIG will be finalised.

In collaboration with the Computer Society of South Africa a very successful conference was held on "Computers in Medical Practice".

Distinguished overseas visitors took part in the Conference, presenting papers and leading discussions. Among them were Prof. Marion Ball, U.S.A., Robert Kukla, U.S.A., Dr. Homer Schmitz, U.S.A., Prof. D. Fenna, Canada and Prof. Peter Reichertz, West Germany.

The programme was directed at both the institution and the medical practitioner. The addresses were highly illuminating and all the delegates agreed that a lot of information was disseminated at a level where maximum benefit could be gained from it by all.

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IMIA PUBLICATION OF MEDICAL INFORMATICS

AVAILABLE FROM NORTH HOLLAND PUBLISHING CO.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Editors</u>		<u>Price</u>
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Health Informatics in developing countries: Experiences and viewpoints	A. Fez Perez-Detalens E. Molino D. B. Shires	1982	US\$42.50
Communication Networks in Health Care	H. Peterson A. I. Isaksson	1982	US\$ 49.00
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Hospital Statistics in Europe	P. H. Lambert F. H. Roger	1982	US\$ 37.25
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