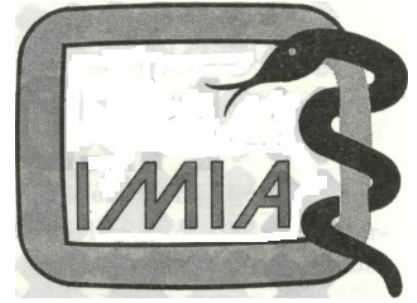


MEDICAL INFORMATICS NEWS LETTER

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



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

Vol. 9 No. 1 Editors: S. Kaihara and W.C. Abbott May 1984

1983 MEDINFO World Conference Crowned with Success

MEDINFO 83, the fourth World Conference on Medical Informatics, was held in Amsterdam from



Picture 1. HRH Princes Margriet receives flower with Dr. Jan Roukens, Chairman of the Organizing committee.

August 8 to 14, 1983. At the opening ceremony, conference delegates were honored by the presence of the HRH Princess Margriet of the Netherlands, who opened the conference, (see Picture 1).

The conference attracted 1,900 people, including MEDINFO Seminar participants and 400 scientific papers and posters were presented. Two keynote speeches were presented: "Design for Decisions—A 25-year Perspective," by Prof. Lee Lusted of the United States; and "The Relevance of Economic Policy and Informatics to Health Care," by Prof. Jan Tinbergen (Picture 2), Nobel Laureate in Economics from the Netherlands. Conference proceedings are available from the North Holland Publishing Company.



Picture 2. Nobel Laureate Dr. Jan Tinbergen delivering the key note speech.

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Dr. Hans Peterson was elected as IMIA President

At the sixth General Assembly of the IMIA held in Amsterdam on August 21 and 22, 1983, Dr. Hans Peterson, director of the Medical Information System in Stockholm County, Sweden, was elected IMIA's new president. Succeeding Dr. David Shires, Dr. Peterson will lead IMIA for the next three years.

At the closing ceremony of MEDINFO '83, Dr. Peterson presented the following message:

* * *

I want to thank you, David, for your nice words and for the times we have spent together. You have always been very helpful and encouraging, not only to me, but to all people around you. IMIA is a very new organization, and it is always difficult without a long tradition to please many people and to find acceptable solutions. You have always done that in a very gentle and intelligent way.

I am personally very pleased that we have changed the bylaws so that we now have a past president (serving in an advisory capacity to the new president). We shall have the pleasure of working with you and shall have your experience available to us.

I also want to thank the national representatives to the IMIA General Assembly for selecting me as the next president.

As a new organization, IMIA has its problems. To solve some of these I think that my efforts should be concentrated on getting more national societies to join our association, to improve our financial position, and to make the management procedures smoother and more effective.

IMIA's activities, apart from organizing MEDINFO conferences, include trying to solve problems in our area by setting up working groups and working conferences. It is my great pleasure to tell you that three new working groups have been approved by the General Assembly namely, groups on Nursing Informatics, Coding Systems, and Health Informatics and Developing Countries.

During the next two years, there are going to be five working conferences per year. This is the maximum we can have and not conflict with other activities.

As most of you already know, our next MEDINFO (world conference) will take place in Washington, D. C., in October 1986. I hope that all of you will be there; but to make this possible, you have to start planning for it, not next year, but on Monday. I am convinced that our American friends will make the MEDINFO '86 a most outstanding conference and I wish you all welcome to Washington D. C.

SUMMARY OF IMIA's 1983 ACTIVITIES

IMIA Membership Grows

Argentina (SADIO), the Peoples' Republic of China (CMIA), Brazil (SUCESU), and Italy (AICA) were recently admitted to IMIA as full members.

Japan has formed a new medical informatics society and IMIA membership has been switched to this new society, whose name is the Japan Association for Medical Informatics.

The names of these organizations and their representatives to IMIA are listed on the last page of this newsletter.

Election of New Officers

The following officers were elected at the 1983 meeting of the IMIA General Assembly:

President:	Dr. Hans Peterson
Vice President:	Dr. Shigekoto Kaihara
Past President:	Dr. David Shires
Treasurer:	Mr. John Flint
Secretary:	Mr. William Abbott.

Regional Organization

Every year IMIA Europe (EFMI) holds a conference. This year's conference is scheduled for Brussels, Belgium, and in 1985 for Helsinki, Finland.

After being established by the IMIA General Assembly, IMIA-LAC (the Latin American and Caribbean branch of IMIA) extended an invitation to IMIA to hold its General Assembly in Buenos Aires—an invitation that was gratefully accepted.

Dr. van Bommel Elected as MEDINFO Program Committee Chairman

MEDINFO '86 will be held in Washington, D. C., from October 26 through 31, 1986. The sponsoring organization is the U.S. Council for MEDINFO '86, an umbrella organization of U.S. medical and medical informatics societies. The Organizing Committee chairman is Dr. Donald A. B. Lindberg, of Missouri, and the Program Committee Chairman is Dr. Jan van Bommel, of the Free University, Amsterdam.

Working Groups

Four new working groups were approved at the General Assembly in Amsterdam. IMIA now has ten working groups, the newest of which are

- WG 7 Biomedical Pattern Recognition
- WG 8 Nursing Informatics
- WG 9 Medical Informatics in Developing Countries
- WG 10 Hospital Information Systems

Working Conferences

Two working conferences were held in 1983. A report of those conferences, together with a list of forthcoming conferences, their dates and venues, appear on page 3.

WORKING CONFERENCES SUMMARY

IMIA holds several working conferences every year. This report, however, covers the highlights of only one of the conferences held in 1983, since information could not be obtained on the other conferences.

Information Science and Medical Education March 21-25, 1983, Chamonix, France

This working conference was held by IMIA Working Group number one, the name of which is the same as the title of this conference. Thanks to the efforts by Dr. A. Levy, of the USA and Dr. J. C. Pages, of France, who together did such an excellent job of organizing the program, the conference was a great success. The lectures, discussions, and recommendations of the conference have been published by the North Holland Publishing Company.

More than forty conference delegates gathered from twelve countries: from Belgium, 1; Canada, 2; Cuba, 1; France, 21; the United States, 3; the United Kingdom, 3; the Federal Republic of Germany, 4; Ireland, 1; the Netherlands, 2; Morocco, 1; Sweden, 1; and Switzerland, 1;

IMIA Working Group number one will continue to facilitate the exchange of the professional experiences of

representatives among the member countries, as well as to update the recommendations issued at each conference.

Invitation to SCAMC

The Eighth Annual Symposium on Computer Applications in Medical Care will be held on November 4-7, 1984 at Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C.

IMIA is one of the sponsors of this conference. It will offer an opportunity for physicians, nurses and administrators to share with computer and information scientist, engineers and mathematicians ideas and experiences in applying computer technology to problems in health care delivery, research and policy. The program will include both theoretical and practical treatment of the art and science of applying and using information technology in health care, the current problems being experienced, the alternative approaches being pursued, the innovative applications being implemented and tested, and the professional and institutional programs promoting and supporting the improvement and dissemination of computer applications in health care.

All inquiries are to be sent to
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2300 K Street N. W., Washington D. C. 20037
Tel. 202/676-8928

FUTURE WORKING CONFERENCES

	Place	Conference Theme and Names of Chairmen of the OC and PC
<u>1984</u>		
9/26-28	Ottawa, Canada	The Role of informatics in health data coding and classification systems
October	Brindisi, Italy	The Role of Informatics in the Reconstruction of Health care Systems
<u>1985</u>		
Spring	Brussels, Belgium	Computer ECG Analysis Towards Standardization J. L. Willems, H. V. Pippberger
Spring	Munich, F.R. G.	Ambulatory care information systems WG 5
Spring	Tokyo, Japan	Homeostasis in Healthy People T. Yasaka, E. K. Harris
6/ ?	Stockholm, Sweden	Man Machine communication in Health Care H. Peterson
9/?	Berlin, G.D. R.	Progress in Functional Analysis by Method of Medical Informatics J. Michels
May	Banff, Canada	Nursing Informatics
?	?	Health Informatics in Developing Countries WG9
September	Prague, Czechoslovakia	Support of Medical Care Decision making

ACTIVITIES OF MEMBER COUNTRIES

Irish Computer Society-Health Care Specialist Group

President: Prof. Sean Lavelle,

Address: Faculty of Experimental Medicine,
Galway University, Galway, Ireland.

No. of Members Registered=200

Unregistered/occasional =400

Activities

Representation/Participation: IMIA, on both Council and Chairing sessions. European Federation for Medical Informatics at conferences. Attendance at conferences.

MIE '82: held in Dublin in March 1982. Five hundred twenty-five participants; ten papers submitted by Ireland.

Presentations: Demonstrations of state of the art systems and data technology with sessions on strategic planning, and implementation of health computerisation policies on specialization developments. Workshop and training seminars also.

Book Reviews: Reviews on North Holland Publishing Co.'s publications on medical informatics topics are written and published. A library is being started.

German Society of Medical Informatics and Statistics

(Deutsche Gesellschaft für Medizinische

Dokumentation, Informatik und Statistik—GMDS)

President: Prof. Dr. Victor,

Abt. Biomathematik, Frankfurter Str. 100,
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GMDS Secretary: Haedenkampstrasse 1, D-5000 Köln 41, Telephone: 0221/4004256

The GMDS is Europe's the oldest (first meeting, 1951; foundation, 1956) and largest scientific society in medical documentation, informatics, and statistics. At present there are about 850 members, mainly from the Federal Republic of Germany but also from many other countries. The main activities of the GMDS are the further education of its members in all disciplines of medical informatics and statistics, the presentation of research results, the exchange of experiences, the advancement of teaching and research in connection with governmental and other grant giving institutions, and establishing contact with other national and international scientific societies and institutions.

Every year there are at least one large congress and other smaller meetings, the proceedings of which are published by the Springer Verlag Berlin Heidelberg, New York, in a series entitled *Lecture Notes in Medical Informatics*, edited by Lindberg and Reichertz, and *Medizinische Informatik und Statistik*, edited by Koller, Reichertz, Überla. In the last two years the GMDS has published the following titles: *Follow up and Medical Progress Analysis (Nachsorge-und Krankheitsverlaufanalyse)*, ed. Horbach, Duhme); *Therapy Studies (Therapi-*

estudien, ed. Victor, Dudeck, Broscio); *Quality Assurance in Medicine (Qualitätssicherung in der Medizin)*, ed. Selbmann, van Eimeren); *The Computer and Bloodbanking*, ed. Mohr, Kluge.

The 27th annual congress was held in September 1982 in Hamburg. The main theme was "Methods of Statistics and Informatics in Epidemiology and Diagnostics." More than 400 people participated in the congress and about eighty papers were presented. The proceedings were published and were available in December 1982. The 28th annual congress was held in Heidelberg from September 26 through 29, 1983, under the theme "The Contribution of Information Processing to the Progress of Medicine." The GMDS presents in cooperation with the German Society of Informatics, certificate entitled "Medizinischer Informatiker" (Scientist for Medical Informatics) and, in cooperation with the German Biometric Society, the certificate "Biometrie in der Medizin" (Medical Biometry). Each title certifies the recipients' ability for leadership in his or her respective field. The Paul-Martini-Prize (DM20,000) is presented during the annual GMDS congress for methodological research in clinical pharmacological fields. This prize is sponsored by the Paul-Martini-Foundation, which acts in close cooperation with the GMDS. The GMDS is comprised of different executive, administrative, and working parts. The Executive Board consists of seven members and meets approximately five times a year.

There are also working groups which are open to every GMDS member. Some of these groups are: Surgery, Neurology-Neurosurgery, Pathology, Occupational Medicine, EDP-Application Criteria, Epidemiology, Data-processing in Laboratories, Mathematical Models, Medical Free Text-processing, Health Education, Pattern Recognition, Quality Assurance, Codes and Classification, Statistical Evaluation Systems, Statistical Methods, Systematized Preventive Medicine, Informatics and Intensive Medicine, Systems and System Development, Health Care Research, Terminology, and Therapeutic Research.

INVITATION TO MIE 84

The fifth International MIE (Medical Informatics Europe) Congress will be held in Brussels, Belgium, from 10 through 13, September 1984, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the MIM (the Belgian Society for Medical Informatics.)

J. L. WILLEMS

Chairman, Organizing Committee

F. H. ROGER

Chairman, Program Committee

CONGRESS SECRETARIAT: MIE '84 c/o

Destree Congres

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s—member society; r—representative; c—corresponding member

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IMIA PUBLICATION OF MEDICAL INFORMATICS

AVAILABLE FROM NORTH HOLLAND PUBLISHING CO.

Title	Editors	year	Price
Meeting the Challenge Informatics and Medical Education	J. Page A.H. Levy F. Gremy J. Anderson	1983	US\$ 51.00
The applications of Computers in Cardiology	G.M. Quetglas P.W. Macfarlane A. Fez Peres Detalens J.C. Aguilar	1983	US\$ 68.00
Medinfo83	J.H. van Bommel MJ. Ball O. Wiegert	1983	US\$180.75
Medinfo 83 Seminars	O. Fokkens et al	1983	US\$ 57.50
The Impact of Computers on Nursing An International Review	M. Scholes Y. Bryant B. Barber	1982	US\$ 60.00
Data Protection in Health Information Systems Where do we stand?	G. Griesser J.P. Jardel D.J. Kenny K. Sauter	1982	US\$ 42.50