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IMIA Annual Report

IMIA REPORT TO IFIP GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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IMIA has made further progress since the last report issued to the General Assembly in September 1984. The IMIA Latin America regional group is now established and the South-East Asia regional group which we expected to be in operation now has not yet been established. The financial problems are still severe because the MEDINFO-83 was a financial loss. Thanks to a financial guarantee by the Dutch government IMIA still expects its loan and interest back. The activities of IMIA over the last year can be summarized as follows:

1.0 The secretariat in Almere operated by Mr. Gundersen is closed since Jan 01 1985. Our secretariat has been moved to the office of our treasurer Mr. John Flint, Toronto. A new bank account has been opened in Toronto.

2.0 Working Groups. Currently IMIA has nine Working Groups.

2.1 Working Group 1 - Information Science and Medical Education held a working conference and the proceedings was published late 1983. Chairman is prof. R. Salamon.

2.2 Working Group 3 - E.C.G. Computerized Applications has concentrated their work on guidelines and recommendations for the European Commission. There are other geographical groups considering these problems. The group held a working conference in June 1985.

2.3 Working Group 4 - Data Security and Confidentiality has over the years been very active and has published three books. The work in the future will be concentrated to - monitor the field of data protection - identify new trends and problems - disseminate information - provide advice on issues on request and - commission specialist effort where appropriate.

2.4 Working Group 5 - Computers in the Doctors Office is making a cooperative study of existing systems and is planning for a new working conference in Dec, 1985.

2.5 Working Group 6 - The Role of Informatics in the Classification and Coding of Health Data chaired by prof Cote held a working conference in Ottawa Sept 22-27 1984 in close cooperation with among others WHO. The proceedings are published.

2.6 Working Group 7 - Biomedical Pattern Recognition chaired by prof van Bemmelen organized a working conference in June 1985.

2.7 Working Group 8 - Nursing Information chaired by M. Scholes arranged a working conference and a seminar attended by about 500 participants in Calgary, Canada, May 01-08, 1985.

2.8 Working Group 9 - Medical Informatics in Developing Countries chaired by prof Rienhoff has tried in cooperation with IBI to organize a working conference in Africa. So far this has not been possible. The International Hospital Federation has offered the possibility to organize a working conference together with IMIA. There are plans for a working conference in Cuba in March, 1986.

2.9 Working Group 10 - Hospital Information Systems chaired by prof Bakker has just started their work and the first meeting will be held in Helsinki in Aug, 1985.

3.0 Working Conferences. This is a good number taking into account that no financial support can be given by IMIA. Some of the working conferences gave a small financial surplus that could be transferred to IMIA. They were as follows:

3.1 IMIA held five working conferences during 1984.

3.1.1 Role of Informatics in Health Data Coding and Classification Systems, Ottawa Canada September 24-29 1984 in cooperation with WHO.

The conference was attended by more than 100 participants and the work resulted in recommendations which will definitely influence upon the coming classification systems for Health Data. The proceedings have been published.

3.1.2 Nursing and Computers, Calgary, Canada, May 5-8, 1985. In connection with the working conference was a three day seminar organized. The working conference was attended by 80 persons and the seminar by 500. Both events were a great success. The proceedings will be published in September.

3.1.3 Human-Computer Communication in Health Care. The Second Stockholm Conference on Communication in Health Care. Stockholm, Sweden, June 10-14, 1985. This conference was attended by 70 persons and was a success. The proceedings will be published in October, 1985.

3.2 Planned working conferences.

3.2.1 Computer-Aided Medical Decision Making. Prague Sept 30-Oct 04, 1985.

3.2.2 The Computer in the Doctors office Munich, FRG, Dec 1-4, 1985.

3.2.3 Progress in Functional Analysis by Computer Technologies. Berlin March 17-22, 1986.

3.2.4 Maintaining a Healthy State in the Individual, Kobe, Japan, April 4-8, 1986.

3.2.5 The Role of Information Systems and of Health Informatics in the Reconstruction of Health Care Systems. Brindisi Italy 1986.

4.0 IMIA Administrative Meetings

4.1 IMIA held it's Board Meeting in Cairo, Egypt, March 10-11, 1985. In connection the Egyptian hosts arranged a small seminar in which the IMIA officers contributed.

4.2 The next IMIA Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Lisbon, Portugal, Oct 22-23, 1985. There will be a seminar following and IMIA officers and National representatives will participate.

4.3 The 1986 Board Meeting is proposed for Beijing, Peoples Republic of China in April.

4.4 The 1986 IMIA Assembly will take place in connection with the MEDINFO-86 Oct 26-30, 1986 in Washington DC.

5.0 IMIA Publications. The sales of the proceedings from the Working Conferences have not been very successful. The books are of good scientific quality but are not sold in high volumes as the price is very high. The chairman of the IMIA Publications Committee will explore alternative ways of getting these publications a wider distribution.

6.0 International Relationships

6.1 World Health Organization (WHO) sponsored MEDBIFO-83 and will sponsor MEDINFO-86. The relations between the two organizations are now closer and Dr Mandil participates in the efforts to organize a Working Conference or Seminar somewhere in a developing country.

6.2 Intergovernmental Bureau for Informatics (IBI) Several attempts has been made to jointly organize a seminar in a developing country but no success so far.

6.3 World Medical Association (WMA). The relations with this organization is good.

6.4 Council for International Organizations of Medical Science (CIOMS). The membership has been terminated due to financial problems.

6.5 International Hospital Federation (IHF). A bilateral affiliation is now established and IMIA has been offered to organize a seminar in conjunction with the next IHF congress 1987. The IMIA President will participated in the 1985 congress in San Juan, Puerto Rico and declared IMIA:s willingness to initiate an even closer cooperation.

7.0 MEDINFO

7.1 MEDINFO-83 The financial outcome was not what IMIA expected, and it is not yet clear if IMIA will be payed back the loan and the interest on that loan.

7.2 MEDINFO-86. The preparation for MEDINFO-86 in Washington Oct 26-30, 1986 is well under way. The chairman of the American Council for MEDINFO-86 is Mr. R. Tanaka. The chairman for the Organizing committee is Prof. D. Lindberg and for the Scientific Program Committee is Prof. J. van Bommel Chairman of the Editorial Board is Prof. R. Salamon. The Americans expect between 3-4000 participants and the program will have eight parallel sessions. IMIA expects a surplus that will give the organization a solid financial situation for the first time. The call for paper have been distributed.

8.0 National Membership. There are currently 37 member countries and two Regional Members, the European Federation for Medical Informatics (EFMI) and the IMIA in the Latin American Countries (IMIA-LAC).

9.0 Finances (see appendix)

10.0 Conclusion. IMIA has for the moment a difficult financial situation but the officers are convinced that IMIA will survive until 1987 whereafter the problems hopefully will have disappeared.

I wish to thank the IFIP General Assembly, and particularly the IFIP Council and it's offices, for their help and support of IMIA over the past year. I would also like to especially thank Mr. Jim Finch, the Cognizant Officer for IMIA, for his continued encouragement and support.

All of the above respectfully submitted.

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IMIA President