International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP)
(Special Interest Group)

International Medical Information Association (IMIA)
in collaboration with
Swiss Society for Medical Informatics

INTERNATIONAL WORKING CONFERENCE
ON
"COMPUTING TOOLS FOR MEDICAL ENCODING
INCLUDING PATIENT HISTORIES"

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
SEPTEMBER, 1988
"COMPUTING TOOLS FOR MEDICAL ENCODING INCLUDING PATIENT HISTORIES"

To be held at World Health Organization Headquarters (W.H.O).

Geneva, Switzerland, September 1988 (first half ?)

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Organized by:

- IMIA Working Group on the Role of Informatics in the Classification and Coding of Health Data (IMIA WG6); Roger A. Côté, M.D., chairman.

- Co-sponsored by WHO, contact: Dr Salah Mandil.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:

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OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKING CONFERENCE:

As a follow up to the 1984 Ottawa conference organized by the IMIA WG6, the presently proposed working conference will attempt to evaluate where we stand and where to go about the followings:

- An assessment of the role, the state-of-the-Art and the future trends of natural language interface in health care information systems,

- Identification and description of the various approaches to automatic encoding of natural language in medicine,

- A study of causes of success or failure of systems, where physicians and other health professionals handle the original data entry of medical and related informations,

- Descriptions of and comparisons between data structure in various patient information systems servicing different health areas: tumor and other disease registers, regional medical information systems, ambulatory care and hospital information systems,

- Suggested alterations to be introduced in the different medical nomenclature and classification schemes due to the introduction of data capture as a byproduct of a medically based health information system,

- An assessment of the impact of natural language encoding tools on the quality of medical scientific documentation databases and on users input/output on these.

- Which systems considerations, and how, affect the necessary flexibility and expandability of such systems.

Medical informatics must look to other disciplines for collaboration: Fields such as computer science, artificial intelligence, management science, and linguistics, have much to offer us in terms of techniques and principles.

METHOD OF WORK

For each objectives listed above, experienced speakers will be invited to share their expertise with the attendance. A limited number of free communications will also be accepted within each topics.

Each speaker will receive a few questions to be answered as part of his/her presentation:

- Who are the users?
- What language is used for programming?
- Which nomenclature or classification or coding scheme is used?
- How many local extensions have to be made?
Each speaker will also be asked to comment on other aspects, particularly:
- primary, secondary and tertiary care environment
- public health
- epidemiology
- population control, etc...

Finally rapporteurs, knowledgeable in computer applications and medicine will summarize each presentation for later roundtable discussion and for the Conference's recommendations.