

# INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL INFORMATICS ASSOCIATION STATUTES

## 1. ARTICLE 1

### Name

#### 1.1 *The name of the Association*

The name of the Association shall be International Medical Informatics Association. (hereafter "IMIA")

#### 1.2 *Legal Form and Location*

IMIA shall be organized under Swiss law in the form of an association, as defined in the Swiss Civil Code, article 60.

The seat of the association shall be located in the Canton of Geneva, Switzerland. Its first address shall be in the premises of the International Federation for Information Processing (hereafter IFIP) at 16, Place Longemalle, 1204 Geneva.

#### 1.3 *Relation with IFIP*

IFIP is an association organized under Swiss law located in Geneva. Before its formal constitution IMIA was active as a Special Interest Group of IFIP.

(7) In (good) agreement with IFIP, IMIA adopts the present Statutes and shall continue to cooperate with IFIP as an Affiliate Member of IFIP, as defined in section 2.3 of IFIP Statutes and Bylaws, edition of January 1987.

#### 1.4 *Objectives and Purposes*

Since 1978, a group of professionals has been active within the frame of IFIP and under the name of IMIA, with the objective <sup>work</sup> to serve the specific needs of the application of information technology in the field of Health Care and Biomedical Research. <sub>continue</sub>

IMIA, under the form of a Swiss Association shall pursue this activity. In particular, the basic aims of IMIA shall be:

- a) to promote Informatics in Health Care and Biomedical Research;
- b) to advance international cooperation;
- c) to stimulate research, development and routine application;
- d) to further the dissemination and exchange of knowledge, information and technology
- e) to promote education and responsible behaviour;
- f) to seek and maintain a formal channel <sup>to</sup> with (the World Health Organization and) any (other) relevant professional or governmental organization.

#### 1.5 *Language*

English shall be IMIA's working language.

### 3. ARTICLE 3

#### Admission and Termination of Membership

##### 3.1 Admission

The Annual General Meeting shall decide on the admission of National Members, Affiliate Members and Supporting Institutions upon recommendation of the Admissions Committee. All admissions must be accepted by a two-thirds majority vote of the IMIA Annual General Meeting.

##### 3.2 Observers

Representatives from countries who are not members of IMIA, and who are engaged or planning significant medical informatics activities, may, by a majority vote of the Annual General Meeting, be accepted as Observers at IMIA meetings for a maximum period of three years.

##### 3.3 Application for Membership from a Country already represented

If an application is received from a country already represented by a Full Member, the Admissions Committee shall attempt to solve the difficulties by contacting the organizations involved. If the negotiations are not successful, the Committee shall prepare a report to the Annual General meeting recommending one of the following alternatives:

- a) to reject the new application,
- b) to propose to the Annual General Meeting that the applying organization is more representative than the existing Full Member,
- c) to suggest to the organization a mechanism for merging their interests and then to re-examine the matter one year later.

##### 3.4 Corresponding IMIA Members

If a country has an appropriate body eligible for National IMIA Membership it may apply for Corresponding IMIA Membership for the time of the application process. It may retain this name until approval of the National Membership, or when this fails, up to a maximum period of three years.

##### 3.5 Correspondents

Individuals acting in a country that has not an appropriate body eligible for National IMIA Membership may apply to become a Correspondent for a maximum period of three years.

##### 3.6 Termination

A member may withdraw from IMIA at the end of any calendar year, provided he gives timely notice in writing to the President of the Board.

### 4. ARTICLE 4

#### 4.1. Operation

The governing and advisory bodies of the IMIA shall be:

- the Annual General Meeting
- the IMIA Board
- the Executive Committee
- Standing and Ad Hoc Advisory Committees.

The scientific activities of IMIA will be channelled through:

- Scientific and Technical Committees
- Working Groups.

IMIA does not take into any account the political, social or economic aspects of its member organizations, because IMIA is totally dedicated to the transfer of scientific and technical information and experience.

## 4.2 The Annual General Meeting

### 4.2.1 Composition

The Annual General Meeting shall be composed of one representative or an alternate from each National and Regional Member, the Affiliate and Associate Members, the Honorary Fellows and a representative of IFIP. Supporting Institutions are not represented at the Annual General Meeting of IMIA.

The President has the right to appoint a permanent alternate during his term of office.

Members of the IMIA Annual General Meeting should be encouraged to appoint a representative for a period of three years.

### 4.2.2. Voting Rights

*IMIA members have voting rights and each member has*  
*only National and Regional*  
 (The Member countries of the Annual General Meeting have) only one vote, *irrespective* of the number of representatives.

The Annual General Meeting shall be able to conduct business if at least half of the National Members are present or represented by proxy. For a particular Annual General Meeting, a National Member may waive his voting right. In this case, the vote of the National Member shall be counted for the quorum.

### 4.2.3. Quorum

If the quorum is not achieved, another Annual General Meeting shall be convened within six months and only after such a time that all Members can be notified at least one month in advance. This Annual General Meeting shall operate without any quorum restriction. In the meantime, the Board shall conduct the business of the Association.

Decisions of the Annual General Meeting shall be taken by a simple majority of those Members present or represented by proxy who have the right to vote, unless provided otherwise in these Statutes.

In a case where a two-third majority of all National Members is required and there are less than two-thirds of those Members present or represented by proxy, an Annual General Meeting shall be convened within six months for the same purpose, and at this meeting a majority of two-thirds of the National Members present or represented by proxy shall be required. Such an Annual General Meeting shall be, held only after a time such that all members can be notified at least a month in advance. This notification shall state precisely the questions at issue to which the special vote conditions, specified above, shall be applicable.

It may also be convened at the request of the Board or the Executive Committee or by a written request by not less than one fifth (1/5) of all members who are eligible to vote.

### 4.2.4 Authority

Within IMIA, the Annual General Meeting shall be the supreme authority. The Annual General Meeting shall determine fundamental policy, adopt the programme of activity, hear and approve the