

6. Report from Regional Members

La Habana, 14 July 1992

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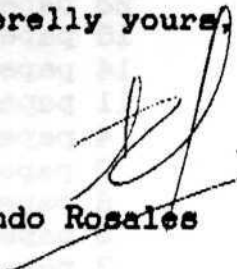
Dear Jos:

Hereby enclosed I am sending you a Summary Report of the activities of the IMIA LAC 92 Congress. Valerio proposed to me make this and send it to you in order to be included in the next AGM documents.

New FAX numbers can be used to contact me and an electronic mail box is also at my disposal.

I look forward seeing you in Geneva next September.

Sincerely yours,



Armando Rosales

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REPORT

" I LATINOAMERICAN CONGRESS ON HEALTH INFORMATICS. IMIA-LAC 92"
HAVANA, CUBA, FEBRUARY 14TH, 1992.

The idea of IMIA LAC 1992 Congress was conceived in 1990 during the INFORMATICA 90 Congress, where an International Medical Informatics Conference was included in each two years edition

The original purpose the Regional Federation (IMIA LAC) was to give to latinamerican and caribbean physicians, computer specialists and other health-related workers the opportunity of exchanging experiences and ideas in order to promote the use of information technologies in the area of health.

The Congress was at the same time the first global scientific activity of the Regional Federation.

Out of 258 papers, 152 were selected and approved to be presented at the scientific sessions. Because of this great amount of papers the Scientific Program Committee had to organize 24 scientific sessions as follows:

Nursing Activities	1 session	8 papers
Health Statistics	1 session	9 papers
Health Services Control	3 sessions	21 papers
Medical Education	3 sessions	23 papers
HIS & Department Systems	4 sessions	23 papers
Decision Making Support Systems	2 sessions	18 papers
Expert Systems	2 sessions	14 papers
Hygiene and Kpidemiology	2 sessions	11 papers
Medical Images	1 session	4 papers
Signal Analysis	2 sessions	9 papers
Primary Health Care	1 session	6 papers
Informatics in Anatopathology	1 session	3 papers
Computer & Psychiatry	1 session	3 papers

Six plenary lectures were delivered by outstanding invited speakers:

Health Decision making Support Systems by D. Sigulem, Brazil.
Telematics and Medicine by R. Salamon, France.
Standards for Medical Data by J. Bou, Spain.
Perspectives of IMIA LAC by V. Jacobsohn, Argentina.
Medical Informatics EC Project by R. Engelbrecht, Germany.
HIS Development and Perspectives, by A. Espinosa, Mexico.

Round tables and panels for discussion were organized at the end of the most important session.

Simultaneously to the scientific sessions an exhibition with 11 booths from different institutions and enterprises was opened during the Meeting.

With the Congress documentation each delegates received a Proceeding with an extended summary(700 words) of the papers presented and the address of every institution involved in those papers.

One of the most important goal achieved by the Meeting was the attendance of 52 foreign delegates from 13 countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, France, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Spain, Uruguay, U.S.A, and Venezuela. A large number of Cuban delegates up to 152 as well as a representation from PAHO/WHO also attended the Meeting.

The Regional Federation held a meeting in order to discuss, among several issues, the way MEDINFO-95 will be supported in Sao Paulo and the strategies to promote the medical informatics in the countries of the subcontinent.

A message to the Director General of PAHO/WHO containing how the Regional Federation considers the official support required was approved by the Plenary Congress during the closing ceremony.

At the same closing ceremony R. Salamon, in name of the IMIA President, made a speech and encouraged the scientific work done during the Congress and the activities performed by the Organizing Committee.

The Meeting was, in short, very useful for the foreigners as well as for the Cuban participants and we are sure that this will be a starting point for a more ambitious purpose in the future.