

9. MEDINFO 92

- 9.1 MEDINFO 92 Organizing Cee Progress Report
- 9.2 MEDINFO 92 Scientific Program Cee Report
- 9.3 MEDINFO 92 Editorial Cee Report

PLEASE CONSULT THE CALL TO PARTICIPATE
WHICH WAS RECENTLY
SENT OUT BY THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE



**7th World Congress
on Medical Informatics**
Palais de Geneve, Switzerland
27-30 September 1992

25 September 1991

Re: NEXT SPC MEETING AT WHO/HQ 27-30 JANUARY 1992

Dear Colleague,

This is to inform you that the 2nd Meeting of the Scientific Programme Committee of MEDINFO-92 is scheduled to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, in Room G, 8th Floor of WHO/HQ premises, from 27 to 30 January 1992. Please note that we will require the full four working days starting at 09:00 am on Monday 27th January and ending at 17:30 pm on Thursday 30th January 1992. We trust that these dates are convenient to you, as it is to the other members of the SPC, since we did agree on "toward the end of January 1992" for the meeting.

Closer to the meeting's dates, and after consultations with all SPC Members, I shall send you a "Proposed Agenda" and related working paper(s).

Submissions:

We have so far received just over 900 intentions to submit papers. About 575 of the 900 intentions have so far been entered, through the clerical support provided by Symporg, into the computerised information system we have developed for this purpose. An initial analysis of these 575 intentions provides a number of interesting pointers which I wish to share with you at this relatively early stage:

- Submissions are being received from over 42 different countries; I believe that if these lead to actual submissions, this could be the most international MEDINFO yet;
- About 45% are "Research" papers and 35% are "Descriptive" papers; the remainder roughly evenly spread between the other categories. Interestingly, over 40 submissions for "Workshops" have been received so far;
- About 40% of the submissions address the "medical informatician" as the principle or secondary audience, and about 20% address the "practicing clinician" in a similar manner. The remainder appear to be evenly spread between the various other "audience" groups;
- About 20% relate to "interenal medicine", and the rest is reasonably spread between the other areas; (it appears that "pharmacy" was somehow missed when the forms were being finalised, but an examination of the "others" category confirms that "pharmacy" has also been specifically addressed in a number of intended submissions);
- The "technical domains" of Ethics, Economics, BioMed Engineering, Graphics and Standardization, are still rather poorly addressed in the intended submissions. The other areas are evenly spread.

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Switzerland

Scientific Programme Committee
Chairman:

Saïah H. MANDIL, Ph.D.,
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Even though we must not believe that the "intentions" and the "actual" submissions will exactly or even largely compare, the above early analysis could already point to some issues which the Scientific Programme Committee is to begin to think of. For example, those substantive areas that are not adequately covered through the normal process of submissions/reviews and for which we, at the SPC, should work out ways of bridging such gaps, e.g. solicit new papers, speakers, workshops, etc..., in order to ensure a reasonable coverage of the field of Health Informatics.

As per the procedures we agreed to, when the full submissions are received by 31 October 1991 (and about 30/40 have already been received and we hope a lot more is on the way), I shall be sending these to the Reviewers, according to their stated substantive areas and to the limit of papers they indicated they were ready to review. As an SPC Member, you will of course be receiving quite a number of papers to also review and for which you will act as the relevant SPC "resource person". That is essential help for the SPC to resolve any marginal issues/papers as they arise.

Invited Speakers:

I wish to thank those of you who "communicated suggestions for topics/speakers to Chairman SPC" and their other opinions re specific proposals for Keynote and other plenary and semi-plenary sessions. There are still quite a number of SPC Members who have not done so; please do so soonest possible. I wish to hear from you specifically on the topics to be covered and whether you know of any outstanding speaker who could do it. You will recall that the MEDINFO-92 Programme is anticipated to have two full plenary and four semi-plenary sessions.

Administrative Matters:

The "rules and regulations", of which you have a copy and which includes a definition of your privileges and obligations as an SPC Member, do apply and there are a few current points which we have to bring to your attention.

- 1) As we have informed you at the first meeting, it might not be possible to fund the travel of all members and you were requested to explore other means of doing so. Unfortunately, and despite valiant past and ongoing efforts by the Organising Committee, the funding obtained for MEDINFO-92 so far is about 30% of what was hoped. The OC Finance Committee is not ready to seek a financial loan with interest. Whereas we do hope that the ongoing efforts will be fruitful, we are asking you to let us know if you are able to fund your own travel to Geneva. The Geneva per diem would then be met by the OC.
- 2) Eventually, please confirm your travel arrangements, accommodation requirements and ways of settling any financial claims directly with Symporg at their usual address. You will be getting an additional communication direct from Symporg on these matters.
- 3) My attention has just been drawn to the fact that this meeting is rather close to "Albertville 92", hence your bookings IN and OUT of Geneva should be made as soon as possible.

This coming second meeting of the SPC is in fact the one that will shape the Scientific Programme of MEDINFO-92. In this regard, I wish to recall what we have all stressed at our first meeting: that the declared objective of the SPC is to ensure a scientific programme for state-of-the-art of Health Informatics, technically and internationally. I am counting on each SPC Member to play their fullest role to achieve this objective.

Please acknowledge to me soonest possible your receipt of this letter.

With best regards,

Salah MANDIL
Chairman SPC
(signed in his absence by P. NICOLE)

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'P. Nicole', written in dark ink.

Encl: