



INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL INFORMATICS ASSOCIATION
The International Federation for Information Processing

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Our Ref LY290501

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To: IMIA Working Group 4

Dear Colleague

PROPOSED IMIA WORKING GROUP 4 CONFERENCE

About a month ago I started drafting some thoughts on the activities of IMIA Working Group 4 since I became Chairman at the end of 1987. During that time we ran a successful Workshop in conjunction with the Council of Europe during Medical Informatics Europe (MIE 88) in Oslo and these papers were subsequently published in Medical Informatics. In addition we ran a Workshop at MEDINFO in Singapore in 1989 and have helped to set up the activities of the European Federation of Medical Informatics Working Group (EFMI WG2) handling Data Protection and Information Systems Security. This led to one of the proposals for handling Data Protection activities during the first phase of the European Community's Advanced Informatics in Medicine Programme of AIM and although it was not funded by the Commission we were able to assist in the development of an AIM working Conference on "Handling Health Information in the Future" which proved to be a very successful venture filling a gap in the activities of AIM. As we are now in the process of trying to put together another proposal for the next phase, it seemed important that we should look to the wider context and set in place arrangements for an IMIA WG4 Working Conference which would bring together all the various strands of activity that have a bearing on Data Protection since the last WG4 Conference. I used the attached paper as a means of exploring some of these issues and thinking through what an appropriate timing might be, as a result of this it would appear that we should be thinking in terms of a meeting in the Spring of 1993 and the most likely ways of arranging this meeting would be to run it in conjunction with the UK National Conference that year which will be probably held in Harrogate or to arrange a special purpose meeting at a convenient place in Holland where President Bakker could handle the administration. In contrast to some of the more glamorous activities of Medical Informatics, Data Protection and Information Systems Security are not likely to attract the volume of sponsorship that other meetings can attract so we shall need to be fairly careful about our arrangements if we are to ensure that we have a financial success as well as a scientific success.

I am continuing to explore the possibilities of handling the meeting in the UK but in the meantime I thought it would be helpful if we could organise a meeting of IMIA WG4 to be held on Friday 23rd August in Vienna in association with MIE 91 to act as an initial Programme Committee. The volume of activities during the congress makes it impossible to find a suitable time during the meeting but I thought that in selecting the day after the meeting



finishes this would give us the opportunity of handling our business on the Friday as well as allowing participants to attend the congress. It also means that we could meet for dinner the previous evening (Thursday 22nd August) for informal discussion which might assist our discussions the following day. I would expect that the meeting itself would close around mid afternoon to enable colleagues to get planes home that evening. This letter is designed to advise you of our intention to hold a meeting to so that you can fit it in your schedule. A detailed full agenda will be sent to those who advise me that they wish to participate, but the key issues for discussion will be those relating to the scientific content of the proposed conference and to its location and organisation. Although I do not wish to pre-empt many of the decisions of the Working Group, I fully realise that the Spring of 1993 is not a long way ahead. If discussions and negotiations I have before then allow me, I shall try to produce a Conference programme/brochure which will begin to give the meeting an identity and image. If we decide to go ahead we should need to secure the agreement of the IMIA AGM in November so I should make sure that the President, Professor Willems, afdeling Medische Informatica, Univ Hospital Gasthuisberg, 49, Herestraat, 3000 LEUVAN, BELGIUM is kept fully in touch with developments.

I look forward to hearing any comments or suggestions that you may have and in particular please advise me whether you will be able to attend the meeting in Vienna. I am enclosing a form for that purpose.

Yours sincerely

W. J. Hodge

BARRY BARBER
Chairman IMIA Working Group 4

cc Professor Willems
Hans-Peterson - for information