MINUTES OF
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF IMIA

Washington DC, November 16, 1991
(National Library of Medicine)
1. Welcome

J.L. Willems opens the Meeting at 9 h 30 A.M. and thanks our American colleagues for their kind hospitality.

Marion Ball, on behalf of the local organizing committee, is very pleased to welcome everybody in the National Library of Medicine.

2. Apologies and Proxies

Those present are listed in Annex 1.

Apologies were received from:

- Dezelic (Yougoslavia)
- J. Roukens (Honorary Member)
- Barbosa (Portugal) proxy to D. Sigulem
- A. Perez de Talenz (Italy) proxy to J.L. Willems
- J. Zvarova (Czechoslovakia) proxy to R. Salamon
- Rory O'Moore (EFMI)
- Tresling (South Africa) proxy to M. Ball
- B. Barber (WG4 Chairman)

P. Nugawela (Australia) is represented by W. Agnew, Enzo Molino (Mexico) is represented by B. Fedreza.

3. Agenda

After some additional items as:

- **point 13.2.**

  - Medical Informatics and Education
    (Heidelberg, Sept. 92)
  - History of Medical Informatics
  - Informatics and Health Evaluation
    (Open Conference)

the Agenda is unanimously approved (Annex 2).
4. Minutes

No remarks are made for the minutes of Glasgow AGM Meeting which are accepted unanimously.

5. Reports

5.1. Secretariat:

R. Salamon is acting as secretary during this Meeting which is his last one as secretary.

5.2. Medinfo 89

The financial report attached to the Agenda is not yet finished; some problems still remain (taxes in Singapore); S. Kaihara was in Singapore (October) to solve them and the final report will be presented at the next Board Meeting.


6. Regional Members

6.1. EFMI

J.L. Willems, in place of Rory O'Moore, reports on EFMI.

The main activity of EFMI was the organization of the MIE Conference in Vienna (August 1991) which was a great success with 700 attendees.

EFMI has added two working groups on:

- Privacy - Security
- Standards

The next MIE Conference will be in Israel (April 1993).
6.2. IMIA-LAC

V. Yacubsohn reports on the activities of IMIA-LAC
(see Annex 3)

6.3. Asian Pacific Regional Group

A report is made by Zhineng Ouyang. No further progress
has been made since the last AGM Meeting.

Dr. Agnew informs the assembly that a Regional
Conference may be organized in Hong-Kong in the near future.

6.4. AMIA

A report has been jointed to the Agenda.

7. Committee Reports

7.1. Membership Committee

A report was sent by Rory O'Moore.

- We will probably receive individual applications from
  some Republics of the former USSR (such as Georgia for instance).

- Roumania will probably send a formal application in the
  coming months.

- We have received an application for a correspondant
  member from Cyprus.

The decisions on these application will be taken by the
IMIA Board during its spring Meeting in 1992 if the AGM agrees to
delegate its authority to the Board.

This motion, seconded by H. Peterson, is unanimously
adopted.

An application for membership to IMIA has also been
received from Egypt.
S. Mandil presents the Egyptian Society which is a very active and serious society.

Its application will be submitted for voting to the next AGM in September 1992 after a formal analysis by the Membership Committee.

The motion is seconded by J. Flint and unanimously adopted.

Chili seems to be ready to ask for becoming a member of IMIA.

J.L. Willems informs the assembly, he has received letters from Yougoslavia and Israel.

G. Gell raises the problem of an application to IMIA without application to a Regional Group at the same time (for instance: Roumania apparently applied to IMIA and not to EFMI).

S. Mandil proposes that IMIA consults the concerned Regional Group before taking a decision.

7.2. Nomination Committee

- New Secretary: B. Solheim is proposed for 3 years

Gell seconded the motion. Unanimous decision.

- Trustee: J.R. Scherrer reproposed for 3 years

Yacubsohn seconded the motion. Unanimous decision.

- Trustee: K.C. Lun proposed for 3 years

Kaihara seconded the motion. Unanimous decision.
- Committee Members:
  
  - Chairman for Membership Committee: Rory O’Moore
  
  J. Roberts seconded the motion.
  Unanimous decision.
  
  - Chairman for Bylaws Committee (for 2 years): Hans Peterson
  
  J.L. Willems proposed the motion, M. Ball seconded.
  Unanimous decision.
  
  - Audit Committee:
  
  J. Flint for 3 years
  Seconded Yacubsohn.
  Unanimous decision.
  
  R. Salamon for 3 years
  Second by J.L. Willems
  Unanimous decision.
  
  7.3. Bylaws Committee
  
  H. Peterson proposes some changes for the bylaws.
  
  They are open to discussion but the decision will be made at the next AGM in Geneva.
  
  S. Mandil proposes in point 4.2.2. to add “up to” the preceding year.
  
  T. Piemme proposes “only member whose fees are current”.
  
  Hans Peterson is still working on and will give a new proposal.
7.4. Newsletter Committee

Otto Rienhoff gives a report and suggests that a one-page report at least for each Working Conference must be send to the Newsletter.

There is an unanimous agreement from AGM.

- O Rienhoff solicits two new Associated Regional Editors in place of P. Degoulet (France) and Medahoui (Marocco).

7.5. Publication Committee

- A report is made by J. H. Van Bemmel (see Annex 4). The situation looks fine.

- The publication of the Yearbook seems difficult:
  
  - not enough requires from National Societies (no more than 2500).
  
  - Not any financial support from Companies.

So the conclusion on November 16th is that the Yearbook project had to be postponed.

J.L. Willems thanked very much J. H. Van Bemmel for his excellent job and does insist for an increasing of requires from National Societies (an answer of some important National Societies was still missing).

P.S During the SCAMC Conference further lobbying was performed whereby the number of ordered books was raised to over 5000 so that publication of the Yearbook was deemed possible.

7.6. Strategic Planning Committee

A report is made by Marion Ball.

A meeting was organised in Gottingen this year and 4 Ad Hoc Committees were defined:
- Dissemination of Information (J. H Van Bemmel)
- Finances (Ab. Bakker)
- IMIA operations (IMIA Executive Committee)
- Issues (H. Peterson)

The next meeting will be in Washington (the 17th of November)

7.7. Audit Committee

Hans Peterson and B. Solheim have made an audit of the financial results and bank account of IMIA, whereby no problems could be found. Hence they recommended acceptance of the Treasurer's activities (see annex 5)

Motion seconded by J. Flint
Unanimously adopted.

8. International Organizations

8.1. WHO. Formal recognition of IMIA will be considered on January 92 by the Executive Board of WHO in Geneva.

8.2. WMA. No report

8.3. IFMBE (and IFIP) see minutes of Board

9. Medinfo 92

9.1. J.R. Scherrer reports on the activities of the Organizing Committee (see Annex 6).

9.2. S. Mandil reports on the Scientific Program Committee (see Annex 7).

9.3. S. Mandil reports in place of K.C. Lun on the activities of the Editorial Cee: no special problem were mentioned.

J. Willems congratulates S. Mandil and J.R. Scherrer for their good job.
10. Finances and Funding

10.1. Ab. Bakker presents a report (see Annex 8)

A motion for approval is made by J.L. Willems and seconded by Hans Peterson.
Unanimous approval.

11. Medinfo 95

S. Kaihara reports on behalf of the Site Selection Committe (Annex 9).

Because:
- Medinfo 86 was in United States
- Presidency of IMIA is American.

United States becomes a kind of "back-up" proposal.

D. Sigulem and K. Hannah present the Brazilian and Canadian applications respectively (15' presentations). Both presentations were highly appreciated.

After some discussions and a formal secret ballot there is an unanimous decision for Sao Paulo.

After having received congratulations, D. Sigulem Programme Cee Chairman promises that he and the Brasilian Society will do their utmost best to organise an excellent MEDINFO 95.

J. L. Willems asks S. Kaihara to be Scientific Program Committee chairman

12. Working Groups

12.1. WG 1

A written report from D. Protti has been received.
12.4. WG 4

A written report was sent by B. Barber.

B. Barber proposes Ab. Bakker to act as new chairman.

Ab. Bakker answers that it is better to ask B. Barber to stay as chairman up to the Working Conference which will be organized in 1993.

12.5. WG 5

Dr. G.M. Hayes sends a written report where he expresses his feeling of a slow response from different countries to his inquiry of potential members of the Group.

12.6. WG 6

No written report.

J.R. Scherrer makes some comments about this Working Group which seems too strongly oriented towards SNOMED. Dr R. Côté’s (not present at the Meeting) goal is to build a Special Interest Group.

It seems that a real commun action may be defined in the future.

12.7. WG 7

J. H. Van Bemmel reports and proposes to organize a joint conference with IFMBE on Advanced Techniques for Biosignal Analysis. J. Michel will be involved in this project.

12.8. WG 8

A report is made by Elly S.P. Pluyter-Wenting.

12.9. WG 9

Otto Rienhoff reports that the WG 9 was not very active this year except by sending books in the Developing Countries.
O. Rienhoff proposes to retire and to be replaced by D. Sigulem.

J.L. Willems thanks very much Otto Rienhoff for his great job.

Motion for the proposal of D. Sigulem is seconded by M. Ball.

Unanimously adopted.

12.10. WG 10 Ab. Bakker reports

The Conference in Goettingen (Sept. 7.11, 1991) was a great success.

A future Conference will be organized during 1994.

12.11. WG 11

A first Conference will be organized in Lyon (1992) and a Working Group will be created from it.

12.12. WG 12

Dentifo 91 was cancelled, most probably due to the international situation, only a small number of papers have been submitted.

13. Working Conferences

13.0 General guidelines

Some complements must be added to the guidelines written by Hans Peterson and more precisely for Medinfo. J.R. Scherrer is going to make some proposals in that sense.

13.1. Past Working Conferences

All of them were very successful.
13.2. Future Working Conferences

- Dental Informatics
- Pharmacodynamic Modelling (motion M. Ball seconded by J.R. Scherrer, unanimously adopted)
- Health Care Professional Workstations (Motion M. Ball seconded by Van Bemmel, unanimously adopted).
- Health Evaluation, Preventive Medicine, Informatics: The New Synergies.

A motion is proposed by Marion Ball to sponsor this conference.
Seconded by J.R. Scherrer.

Results: - 1 against
          - 1 abstention
          - Others in favor.

- Organizational Issues of Medical Informatics
Motion made by M. Ball seconded by Ab. Bakker.
Unanimously adopted.

- Health Informatics in Africa.
Motion made by J.L. Willems, seconded by Otto Rienhoff.
Unanimously adopted.

A proposal in made by Jean Roberts to involve IMIA in an International Conference on "Health Informatics Systems and Networks - from the EC single Market to the world Market" (Easter 1992, UK).

Motion seconded by M. Ball.
Unanimously adopted.


14. Future Meetings


J.L. Willems closes the Meeting and thanks everybody for their participation and specially M. Ball and Don Lindberg for their hospitality; He thanks also wholeheartedly R. Salamon who has acted as secretary for his last Meeting.