

To: National Member Societies belonging to IMIA  
Re: **IMIA Yearbook of Medical Informatics**  
From: Jan H. van Bommel, Marion Ball  
Date: August, 1991.

MI/228.91

### *Status Report*

1. Based upon decisions taken at the IMIA Board Meeting of March 1991, the plan was launched to publish an annual **Yearbook of Medical Informatics**, to be edited under the sponsorship of IMIA. Title: *19.. Yearbook of Medical Informatics*.
2. The Yearbook should contain about 400 to 500 pages of recent full articles (in the English language) from refereed journals, chapters in books, and contributions in Proceedings as well as background reference material in Medical Informatics (addresses etc.). Sources for the contributions in the Yearbook should not be restricted to Journals or Conferences from the Medical Informatics circle only.
3. There will be a fairly large group of Contributing Editors of people who make *suggestions* for contributions in the Yearbook (e.g., including representatives from all national societies of IMIA). Besides, there will be a smaller Editorial Board (to be called, e.g., the executive editorial board) of people who will do the *selection* of articles on the basis of criteria such as scientific value, representativeness for Medical Informatics, new technology, etc. The final and executive editor could be the Publications Officer of IMIA, to be assisted by the group of executive editors.
4. Both authors and publishers of the selected contributions should be asked permission for inclusion of some contribution in the Yearbook.
5. Yearbooks will appear in print during the summer of each year, so that contributions falling in the preceding calendar year may be included and the book is available at the major annual (Fall) conferences in Medical Informatics in the world. The first Yearbook should appear in 1992, preceding MEDINFO 1992 in Geneva.
6. The publisher of the Yearbook should preferably typeset each contribution anew so that a uniform format is reached (this is dependent on costs). This might encompass much work for the editorial office as well as for the publisher. In this respect, some interested Publisher should be willing to provide financial support for the production of the Yearbook. Authors might be asked (when there is time) to proof-read their own contributions.
7. The scheme for the production of the Yearbook should be as follows:
  1. During the year preceding the appearance of some Yearbook *suggestions* may be done for contributions. The closing date is January 15.
  2. Each suggested contribution should be reviewed by at least three members of the editorial board and rated according to pre-defined criteria. Closing date is February 28. If necessary, the executive editors will communicate on final choices (preferably by E-mail or FAX).
  3. Authors and publishers are approached for approval and editorial work is started (layout, Figures and Tables, references, etc.). Articles will be sent to the publisher (preferably in electronic form). Closing date: May 31. Proofs are received and corrected; closing date: June 30. Printing is done by the Publisher; closing date: August 15.
  4. The editors shall have a meeting at each MEDINFO.



## 8. A Yearbook at IMIA's own risk

Based on the proposal by a major by scientific publisher (Elsevier Science Publishers) the Yearbook can be sold for about US\$ 10 a copy (if at least 5,000 copies are printed and sold). This does not include the preparation of the Yearbook (all editorial work etc.). Therefore, it is the vision of the Board of IMIA that this proposal will only be realized if:

1. The national member societies of IMIA want to place a "bulk"-order of, e.g., at least 200 to 500 copies so that the minimal number of 5,000 copies is reached. **A Yearbook will then cost the member society only US\$ 5 per copy.**
2. Some large industry (e.g., for reasons of P.R.) is willing to offer a substantial grant for the editorial work and the printing of the Yearbook (i.e., about another \$ 5 per copy). Only in that case the price per book can be substantially reduced.

## **Present Status**

1. *Subscriptions*  
Several national societies have expressed interest in the Yearbook. However, only about 2,500 subscriptions were the result.
2. *Financial support*  
Till now, no company expressed high enough interest to support the project financially. Negotiations are still continuing.

## **Conclusion**

The Yearbook project cannot be launched without wide enough moral and financial support. Therefore, the project needs further preparation and will possibly be started at some later date. In the mean time, IMIA's Publications Office, together with the present and incoming IMIA presidents (Dr Jos L. Willems and Dr Marion Ball, resp.), will continue its efforts to find ways and means to start the project. All ideas and suggestions are welcome in this respect.

Please forward your reactions to:

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165.91  
June 20, 1991

Reply to proposal to publish an IMIA Yearbook

Country	Society	Signed	Date	\$5/copy #copies 1992	Editor proposed
Belgium	M.I.M.	Roger	30.04.91	200	F. Roger
Austria	Austrian Society	Gell	31.03.91	50	G. Gell
Canada	COACH	Flint	31.03.91	50	K. Hannah
Portugal	Portugese Society	De Barbosa	18.04.91	unknown	J. de Matos Barbosa
Singapore	AIMS	Lun	01.05.91	80-100	K.C. Lun
Switzerland	Swiss Society	Baumann	12.06.91	350	R.P. Baumann
China	CMIA	Ouyang	08.06.91	200	Cao Dexian
Japan	Japanese Society	Kaiharu	14.06.91	300	Y. Nose
Sweden	Swedish Society	Peterson	18.06.91	350	H. Peterson
Brazil	Brazilian Society	Sigulem	17.06.91	400	B de F.Leao
Holland	Dutch Society	Bakker	17.07.91	40	A. Bakker
Australia	Austral MI Association	Nugawela	18.06.91	100	??
Norway	Norwegian Society	Solheim	12.06.91	50	B.G.Solheim





ERASMUS UNIVERSITEIT ROTTERDAM

FACULTEIT DER  
GENEESKUNDE EN  
GEZONDHEIDS-  
WETENSCHAPPEN  
dr. Molewaterplein 50  
Department of Medical Informatics  
Room Ee 2100

Mosby Year Book Inc.,  
200 North LaSalle Street,  
Chicago Ill., 60601-9981,  
U.S.A.

Uw brief

Ons kenmerk

Datum

JHvB/039-91

11-02-1991

Onderwerp

Faxnummer

Doorkiesnummer

Yearbook of Medical Informatics

+31 (0)10 408 8118

+31 (0)10 408 7050

Dear Sirs,

Recently, we were informed about the appearance of a newly announced Year Book of Health Management. This gave us the idea to write to you the following letter.

Some months ago, the initiative was raised within AMIA (The American Medical Informatics Organization) to start the publication of an annual *Yearbook of Medical Informatics*. This should contain the highlights of the preceding year, i.e., original contributions from the medical informatics literature, such as from major Conferences, Journals, etc. The proposal was readily adopted by the Board of IMIA (The International Medical Informatics Organization) so that the Yearbook would bear an international character. The idea is to make this Yearbook available to the medical computing community at large (IMIA has about 40 national societies as its members) and all people within the Health Care area who are interested in the application of computers. Therefore, distribution of in between 5,000 to 10,000 is foreseen.

We have the plan to publish the first Yearbook at the next World Conference on Medical Informatics, MEDINFO 92, in Geneva, where about 2,500 participants are expected from all over the world.

Now, the first time that a project as this Yearbook will be launched, is a major endeavor that cannot easily be planned without having a rough estimate how many of all members of IMIA's societies will purchase the Yearbook, let alone how many people outside IMIA will show interest in the Yearbook.

We are fully aware of the fact that the book should contain valuable information and be of high quality. It should comprise in the order of 400 to 500 pages, and besides articles and overviews also factual material. The preparation of all this costs a lot of effort and time. Only a publisher with experience in this area is able to estimate all the costs involved.

For that reason we want to your company to discuss with us the Yearbook Project of which the first one should be ready at the Geneva Conference during the summer of 1992. Only a company with a global interest in the field of medical and health informatics will be interested in sponsoring a project like this one.

So, my question is, whether you would be willing to consider being the publisher of this Yearbook. We have the plan that the Yearbook should be made available for a marginal price to all members of the societies of IMIA and many others.

In case you are willing to discuss this project, please let me know so that we could either meet at some place or exchange more detailed information by writing.

Please let me know your reaction to our proposal.

Yours sincerely,

*p.o. JHvB*  
Jan H. van Bommel, Ph.D.,  
Professor of Medical Informatics,  
Publications Officer of IMIA

cc Dr Marion Ball, President elect of IMIA  
Dr Jos L. Willems, President of IMIA

## **ERASMUS UNIVERSITEIT ROTTERDAM**

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Date: 25 June 1991

Our ref.: 174.91

TO:

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Mariani Avenue  
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United States of America

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Fax: 09 - 1 408 964 8644

FROM: Jan H. van Bommel  
RE: Yearbook of Medical Informatics

Dear Mr. Cummings,

Some months ago, the initiative was raised by our colleagues in AMIA (The American Counterpart of IMIA) to start the publication of an annual "Yearbook of Medical Informatics". This should contain the highlights of the preceding year, i.e., original contributions from the medical informatics literature, such as the major Conferences, Journals, etc. The proposal was readily adopted by the Board of IMIA so that the Yearbook will bear an international character. The idea is to make this Yearbook available to the medical computing community at large (IMIA has about 40 national societies as its member) and all people within the Health Care area who are interested in the application of computers. Therefore, distribution of in between 5,000 to 10,000 is foreseen.

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We are fully aware of the fact that the book should contain valuable information and be of high quality. It should comprise in the order of 400 to 500 pages, and besides articles and overviews also factual material. The preparation of all this costs a lot of effort and time. No publisher is able to reimburse all the costs involved.

For that reason we want to ask a corporate sponsor to take over the financial burden of this very first Yearbook in order to have it ready at the Geneva Conference during the summer of 1992. Only a company with a global interest in the field of medical and health informatics will be interested in sponsoring a project like this one. We are convinced that Apple Computer Inc. with its large impact on the medical computing field is the ideal sponsor for the Yearbook project.

So, my question is, whether Apple Computer Inc. would be willing to consider being the corporate sponsor behind this project. A first estimate of the costs involved is that it will be about US\$ 30,000 to 40,000. In that case the yearbook can be sold for a marginal price to all members of the societies of IMIA and many others. A more detailed description of the intentions of the yearbook project is enclosed.

In case you are willing to discuss this project, please let me know so that we could either meet at some place or exchange more detailed information by writing. I think this is an ideal opportunity for Apple Computer Inc. to get in touch with the entire World Community in Medical Informatics.

Please let me know your reaction to our proposal.

Yours sincerely,



Jan H. van Bemmelen, Ph.D.,  
Professor of Medical Informatics  
Publication Officer of IMIA

C.C.

Dr. Marion Ball, President elect of IMIA  
Dr. Jos Willems, President of IMIA

### Status Report: YEARBOOK of MEDICAL INFORMATICS

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