

Minutes
International Affairs Committee Meeting
Monday, November 18, 1991

Marion J. Ball, presiding

As chair of the committee and presiding officer, Marion welcomed those present to the International Affairs Committee and proceeded with the agenda, including a roundtable to allow for a full discussion of issues, as requested by incoming AMIA president, Clem McDonald.

Pre-MedInfo Continuing Education Program. A representative of University Travel, described the planned study tour, which will include visits to medical informatics sites in Belgium, the Netherlands, and France. Forty participants are anticipated; more can be accommodated. Discounts are given for a third person in a room. Accompanying spouses are welcome. The hotels are excellent, and the price is competitive. Similar tours have been exceptionally well received. Brochures and additional information are available through Phil Manning's office or University Travel. Phil is a member of the International Affairs Committee and has consented to spear head this initiative.

IMIA Yearbook. Jan van Bommel reported on a proposal to publish an IMIA yearbook containing a selection of the best medical informatics papers along with other information pertaining to IMIA initiatives. Jan is negotiating with Elsevier; pricing is dependent on the number of copies ordered. In a run of 5000, a 500-page book would cost \$10 to produce; a run of 10,000 would bring the cost down lower. Jan will follow up with more detail when he has more concrete data from the various member countries. Support from IMIA's national organizations, vendor contributions, or possibly advertising would potentially bring the cost to the individual purchasing the book to \$5. As of November 1991, only ten of IMIA's 45 national organizations had responded to Jan's inquiries, for approximately 2500 volumes. Work will continue, and hopefully, an IMIA yearbook will be published prior to MedInfo 1995.

Jean-Raoul Scherrer congratulated Jan on his efforts, and Marion Ball and Jos Willems acknowledged Morris Collen's role in bringing this concept

forward. Charles Flagle raised issues regarding abstracts, indexing, and other technical content-oriented aspects of the proposed volume.

Working Conferences/Working Groups. As sequel to its successful meeting in Gottingen, Germany, earlier this year, IMIA Working Group 10 on Hospital Information Systems has an offer from Mr. Michael Brown of Gerber Alley to organize the next meeting in the United States of America in 1993 or 1994. Eighty to 100 people will be invited.

IMIA treasurer Ab Bakker continues to work to extend the IMIA budget; IMIA president Jos Willems and IMIA president-elect Marion Ball are encouraging increased collaboration between IMIA and AMIA in pairing up the PSGs with the WGs of IMIA.

New working conferences recently approved by the IMIA board include a working conference on organizational development, to be chaired by Nancy Lorenzi (University of Cincinnati, USA), and a second conference on healthcare professional workstations, chaired by John Silva (United States Uniformed Health Services University and the University of Maryland, USA). The workstation group will hold a preliminary meeting in September 1992 in Geneva; its formal conference is scheduled for approximately May 1993 in Washington, DC.

Roger Jelliffe has been actively working on his pharmacokinetics conference. Proceedings for his working conference on pharmacokinetics (Lyon, France, September 21-23, 1992) will be published by North Holland; Roger Jelliffe will, consequent to this meeting, work towards forming a formal working group on pharmacy informatics.

Francois Gremy requested more collaboration on assessment issues; AMIA Professional Specialty Group (PSG) 8 will meet in Geneva and will build on the work done by Harold Timkin and Ben Williams. Charles Flagle suggested outreach to the International Society on Technology Assessment and professional organizations as well as we continue our outreach efforts.

Medical Informatics Fellowships. Bob Braude reported on his visit to

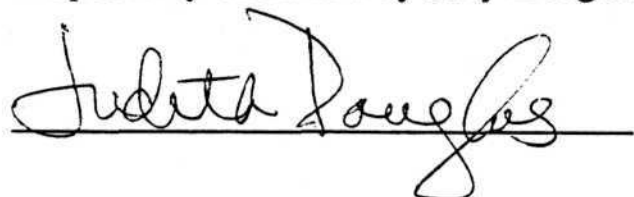
Armenia and his efforts to establish inter-institutional connections. Possible educational exchanges, primarily with eastern and central European countries. A follow up meeting to explore this issue further was planned for Wednesday, November 20. In any exchange, AMIA would depend upon IMIA members to assist in identifying and pre-selecting fellows. Jos Willems suggested contacting Stellan Benson of Sweden, president of the European Regional Group and the European Community's Tempest Program for central Europe. Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary have already applied for support for equipment, travel, and seminars. Jos Willems commended Marion Ball for increased AMIA involvement in such international efforts.

Richard Hsieh of the US National Library of Medicine is fund raising for the Baltic countries and addressing strategies for developing countries. Jan van Bommel suggested an "adoption" plan (much like the American sister city arrangements) whereby highly developed nations extend assistance to developing countries.

Roundtable. Discussion centered upon possible avenues for international collaboration. Jos Willems requested that Ray Ahler (University of Southern California at Long Beach) work with Tom Piemme, International Affairs Committee co-chair. Tom Piemme was encouraged to help Ahler formalize the proposal, made at this meeting, for sharing CD ROM resources with developing nations and submit it to AMIA and IMIA. In like efforts, Jos Willems reported, Otto Rienhoff has sent over 2000 books in past years.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 am.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Douglas at the request of Marion J. Ball,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Judy Douglas", is written over a horizontal line.

Corrections and/or additions to these minutes should be forwarded to Judy Douglas, fax 410 328-8459, e-mail Judy@UMAB.edu.