

Medical Informatics



Newsletter

A Publication of IMIA (International Medical Informatics Association)

Message from the Editor



IMIA Newsletter as a "GATEWAY"

IMIA aims to position itself where "Caring and Technology Meet" - but this is only going to be possible if we all share information on the who, what, where, when, why and what outcomes of health informatics.

The IMIA Newsletter the channel for and about:

- topical activities of member countries and institutional organizations
- a comprehensive diary of relevant events
- key players in societies, agencies, projects and working groups in the health informatics field

Any national representative, observer, communicating participant or institutional member is invited to submit material for consideration for publication. The

Managing Editor reserves the right to include, edit or omit material as the parameters if the Newsletter prescribe.

Material of interest does not have to be written in formal or journalistic style, or even precisely formatted. If you have a national society journal, in-house newsletter or if (short) pieces of international health informatics interest appear in your trade press or national newspapers - please send copies so that the editors can provide a broad Gateway through IMIA News.

Costing Healthcare the Easier Way?

The UK National Casemix Office has, in conjunction with a number of clinical service pilots, developed Healthcare Resource Groups (HRGs) and is now working on cost-banded HRGs to support the contracting process. Information on the development is available from the National Casemix Office, Fax 44-962-844711.

News from the United Kingdom

Video View of the UK IM&T Strategy

This video called "An Information Management and Technical Strategy for the NHS in Great Britain" explains in light-hearted terms, the process that a mythical patient goes through in healthcare today (and the possible future scenario once the informatics described in the IM&T Training Section is in place). It is available at 15 Pounds from the IM&T Training Section, NHSTD, Fax 44-272-250574.

The Information Management and Technology (IM&T) Strategy for the NHS has been launched accompanied by extensive documentation which can be made available for the information of IMIA members.

AIDSPLAN

The UK Department of Health has commissioned the production of a computer model: AIDSPLAN 2, to assist in planning local services combining local data on costs of care and national forecasts of AIDS and symptomatic HIV disease. Contact: Linda Johnson Laird, Fax 44-71-972-4219; original reference from John Magee, QH, Leeds, Fax 44-532-546044.

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IMIA AIMS:

- to promote informatics in health care and biomedical research,
- to advance international cooperation,
- to stimulate research, development and routine application,
- to further the dissemination and exchange of information,
- to encourage education and responsible behaviour.

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Rolf Hansen

With deep regret we had to learn that Rolf Hansen, Deputy Director of the Norwegian National Institute of Public Health, died on June 16, 1993 at the age of 62.

Rolf Hansen has been President of EFMI for the 1993/94 term. Before this he served as Secretary and Vice-President for EFMI. He represented Norway in the EFMI Council since it was established in Copenhagen in 1976. Together with Bjarte Solheim, Peter Hurlen and many others he ran MIE 88 in Oslo.

In Norway Rolf Hansen was initiator, driving force project leader and/or inspirator of major Norwegian projects in Medical Informatics like MSIS, SYSVAK, OMI, NIT Hospital Information System, the Injury Surveillance System and last but not least NORA - the Norwegian Hospital Record project. He was Advisor to the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs and to the Directorate of Health on matters regarding Medical Informatics, classification systems etc., and Leader of the Secretariat of the National Policy Committee for use of IT in Health Care.

For his friends Rolf has been the experienced and warmhearted teacher and colleague.

Rolf and his wife Randi made their home in Oslo a haven for many international friends. They truly contributed to the global network of excellence and friendship which make out EFMI as well as IMIA.

O. Rienhoff

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Using Information in Management

Over 23,000 healthcare practitioners, predominantly UK but also in USA, Sweden, Switzerland, Australia, Poland, Romania and the FSU, have acquired the distance learning materials "Using Information in Managing the Nursing Resource." The Open University and many other academic bodies have accredited/incorporated the material in formal courses at Diploma and Certificate levels. The Program Manager for the initial courses available through the Health Services Management Unit, University of Manchester, welcomes discussion of the applicability of the material to other countries. Contact Graham Wright, GCL House, Gunco Lane, Macclesfield, England, SK11 7JL, Fax 44-625-511219.

J. Roberts

IMIA National Representatives

In preparation of the Annual General Assembly the IMIA Newsletter is presenting the National representatives of IMIA's member countries. For next year it is planned to publish an extended profile including officers and chairpersons of committees and working groups.

ARGENTINA

Valerio Yá cubsohn

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V. Yá cubsohn is Director of the Laboratory of Health Informatics at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Buenos Aires and consultant for the Interamerican Bank for Development, the World Bank, and the Pan American Health Organization. He is a founder member of the "Biomedical Informatics Society" of Argentina and a member of the Executive Board of the Argentine Scientific Society.

He hosted the IMIA Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Argentina in 1987.

Australia

Patrick Nugawela

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P. Nugawela works as a full-time practising family physician and is soon commencing work towards a Master's Degree in Medicine in Australia. He is the founding President of the Australian Medical Informatics Association.

He also chairs the National Health-Care Committee of the Australian Computer Society and has served on various advisory boards, committees and working parties in relation to specific issues in medical/health informatics.

AUSTRIA

Günther Gell

Inst. f. Med. Informatik,
Statistik u. Dokumentation
Universität Graz, Auenbrug-
gerplatz 9/III, Graz, Austria,
Fax 43-316-3853207



Since 1989 G. Gell is Professor of Medical Informatics and Head of the Department of Medical Informatics at Graz University. His areas of expertise include: Medical Information Systems, PACS, and Image related diagnostic support systems.

Belgium

Jos L. Willems

Afdeling Med. Informatica
Univ. Hospital Gasthuisberg
49, Herestraat
3000 Leuven, Belgium
Fax 32-16-213801



After graduation J. Willems specialized in cardiology at Leuven and Leiden, and then spent two years (1969-71) as a research fellow of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Washington. Returning to Leuven he was appointed Professor in Medical Informatics at the Medical Faculty of Leuven University. In 1978 he became President of the Belgian Society for Medical Informatics (MIM) for a term of four years. From 1989 to 1992 he was President of IMIA. Since 1980 he has been project leader of a large international concerted action striving at "Common Standards for Quantitative Electrocardiography" (CSE).

Brazil

Mariza Klück-Stumpf

Health Informatics Group
School of Medicine
Rua Ramiro Barcelos 2600,
4º andar
90035-003 Porto Alegre,
RS, Brazil



M. Klück-Stumpf is Assistant Professor at the Department of Internal Medicine of the University Porto Alegre. She was member of the Scientific Program Committee of MEDINFO 92. Since 1992 she has been President of the Brazilian Society of Health Informatics.

IMIA National Representatives

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CANADA

Kathryn J. Hannah

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From 1987-1990, K. Hannah served as Director of Nursing: Systems, Research and Education at the Calgary General Hospital, Calgary, Alberta, Canada. She is co-editor, with Marion Ball, of the highly respected Computers in Healthcare Series published by Springer-Verlag. She is currently President of the Canadian Organization for the Advancement of Computers in Health (COACH) and Past Chairman of the International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA) Nursing Working Group. K. Hannah was elected Fellow of the American College of Medical Informatics in November 1989.

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China

Yu-De Chen

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Croatia

Gjuro Dezelic

Embassy of the
Republic of Croatia
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After completing an international education in several European countries and the United States, G. Dezelic became Professor in Medical Informatics and Head of the Department of Informatics at the Andrija Stampar School of Public Health, Medical School, University of Zagreb. He published numerous scientific and professional papers in national and international journals and is the founder of the Postgraduate study "Health Information Systems" at the Medical School, University of Zagreb. He is President of the Croatian Society for Medical Informatics and currently serves as Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia to Denmark.

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Cuba

Armando Fernandez Rosales

Director Nacional Sistemas
Automatizados de Direccion
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Habana 4, Cuba
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A. Rosales was Head of the Electronics Design Research Department of the Habana University. Since 1988 he is responsible for the Medical Informatics policy of the Ministry of Public Health. In present he is Director of the "Centre for Systems Design in Health" (CEDISAP) and President of IMIA-LAC.

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CZECH REPUBLIC

Jana Zvarova

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Fax 42-2-294145



J. Zvarova initiated the foundation of the Medical Informatics Section in the Czechoslovak Society of Biomedical Engineering and chaired the section since 1979. She has started the pregraduate course in Medical Informatics at Charles University in Prague and has been coordinating a Joint European Project "EuroMISE" under the TEMPUS scheme.

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DENMARK

Knut Bernstein

Danish Hospital Institute
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Since 1991 K. Bernstein is Senior Research Fellow and project manager at the Danish Hospital Institute. His experience in Health Care Informatics includes the development and implementation of a nation-wide organ donation system and the participation in an European scientific study on telemedicine.

IMIA National Representatives

Finland

Erkki Karjalainen

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Having taught for fifteen years at Helsinki University (biochemistry and biomathematics), E. Karjalainen currently works as a researcher at the same university. He is the author of several computer textbooks and a regular contributor to the Finnish Medical Journal. As a founding member of the Finnish Society of Medical Informatics he organized Nordic and European scientific conferences such as the "Scientific Computing and Automation Congress" held in Maastricht in 1990. His research interests include: Chemometrics and statistical methods applied to medicine, chemical instrumentation, and LIMS.

France

Patrice Degoulet

Medical Informatics Department; Broussais
University Hospital; 96 rue Didot; 75014 Paris,
France; Fax 33-1-4395-9206

P. Degoulet is Professor of Medical Informatics. He has been editing the French Springer Series on Medical Informatics and was Co-Editor of the MEDINFO Proceedings in 1992.

He is interested in software engineering and integrated computerized medical record systems.

Germany

Otto Rienhoff

Institute of Medical
Informatics
Philipps-University
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35037 Marburg, Germany
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Physician, Training under P.L. Reichertz in Hannover (1974-1983), Assistant Professor of Medical Informatics 1982, Director of the Medical Informatics Department of Marburg University since 1985, activities in EFMI and IMIA since 1976.

President of the German Medical Informatics Society (GMDS) 1993/94, editor of the IMIA Newsletter since 1986, editing of several books for EFMI and IMIA, Chairman WG9 "Health Informatics for Development" (1983-1991).

HONG KONG

Chun Por Wong

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266 Queen's Road East
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As a medical practitioner C.P. Wong works as a Consultant Geriatrician in Ruttonjee Hospital in Hong Kong. He is a founder member and Chairman of the Hong Kong Society of Medical Informatics and currently acting as the Secretary for the proposed IMIA Asian-Pacific Regional Subgroup. He was the Chairman of the organizing committees of the First and Second Asia-Pacific Medical Informatics Conference in 1990 and 1992.

Hungary

Attila Naszlady

John v. Neumann Society; Craz. Korányi;
TBC és Pulmonológiai Intézet, Kardiológiai
Osztály, Pihenő ut 1, 1529 Budapest, Hungary

A. Naszlady being a senior cardiologist, has been active in Hungary as well as in IMIA in many different fields of Medical Informatics from biosignal and functional analysis to the use of new technologies in health care like smart-cards.

He has been representing Hungary in many EFMI and IMIA assemblies and committees.

Republic of Ireland

Diarmuid UaConaill

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Working as a Consultant Biochemist, D. UaConaill represents the Health Care Group in the Irish Computer Society.

IMIA National Representatives

Israel

Assa Reichert

Central Software and Automation Ltd.
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Tel Aviv 67132, Israel
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Since 1987 A. Reichert has been Vice President of a privately owned company that produces computer software for the medical market. In 1978 he was the winner of the "Jerusalem prize for Information Technology". He works as a lecturer in the course for Medical Informatics, organized by the Israeli Ministry for Foreign Affairs, for Senior Medical Staff of the Public Health Authorities in Thailand. He is a member of several national and international scientific associations, including the Israel Com-

Italy

Antonio Fernandez Perez de Talens

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Perez de Talens has a long list of activities with EFMI and IMIA. In both organizations he was treasurer. In 1982 he was Co-Organizer of the Mexican Conference on Health Informatics in Developing Countries.

JAPAN

Takashi Takahashi

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T. Takahashi is Professor and Director of the Department of Medical Informatics at the Kyoto University Hospital, Japan. He specializes in the Hypermedia Electronic Medical Textbook, Hospital Information systems and Personal health data recording systems. He is a Board Member of the Japanese Society of Medical Informatics.

KOREA

Chang-Soon Koh

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First Chairman of the Department of Nuclear Medicine and later Director of the Clinical Department, C.-S. Koh is currently directing the Aging and Physical Culture Research Institute of the Seoul National University Medical School. During his professional career he has been the president of numerous Korean and international medical associations, including the Korean Society of Medical Informatics and the Asia & Oceania Thyroid Association.

Mexico

Amado Espinosa

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A. Espinosa received his university training in Mexico. Later he went to the Institute of Medical Informatics at Hannover Medical School and finished his Ph.D. thesis in Germany. Since he returned to Mexico he has been building up the Department of Medical Informatics at the University of Guadalajara. There he organized the Second National Mexican Conference in 1993 and thus revitalized the Mexican Society of Medical Informatics.

THE NETHERLANDS

Albert R. Bakker

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Since 1971 A. Bakker holds the chair of Medical Informatics at Leiden State University, the Netherlands. As Director of the non-profit organization

IMIA National Representatives

BAZIS he is responsible for an integrated hospital information system that is used by many Dutch hospitals. He is Chairman of working group 10 of IMIA (Hospital Information Systems) and Vice-chairman of working group 4 (Data protection in Health Information Systems).

NEW ZEALAND

Ian Symonds

Wellington Pathology Ltd
C.M.C. Building
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Wellington, New Zealand
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I. Symonds is the Manager of Medical Laboratory Wellington, a private pathology practice. He has had a career in laboratory medicine for over 35 years, first as a biochemist and latterly in a more administrative function.

Nigeria

F. Agbalajobi

Department of Computer Sciences
University of Lagos
Yaba, Lagos, Nigeria

Norway

Bjarte Gees Solheim

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B. Solheim is authorized specialist in Immunology and Transfusion Medicine since 1973. In 1991 he obtained his position as Professor in Transfusion Medicine at the University of Oslo.

From 1990 to 1991 B. Solheim was member of the Board and since 1991 he is Secretary of IMIA. From 1984 to 1990 he was President of the Norwegian Medical Informatics Society.

PORTUGAL

Manuel Joaquim de Matos Barbosa

Department of Bio-
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Faculty of Medicine
University of Coimbra
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M.J. de Matos Barbosa is a full time Professor and Director of the Department of Biomathematics, Biostatistics and Medical Informatics of Coimbra University. Having pursued an international education he is a Fellow of the British Computer Society and has participated in many international scientific projects. In 1994 he will be hosting MIE in Portugal.

SINGAPORE

Kwok Chan Lun

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K.C. Lun is Associate Professor in the Division of Biostatistics and Health Informatics, Dept. of Community Medicine at the National University of Singapore. He is also current Director of the 6th WHO Collaborating Centre for Health Informatics at the university. He organized MEDINFO 89 in Singapore and served as Chairman of the Editorial Committee for the MEDINFO 92 Proceedings.

Slovenia

Marjan Premik

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Spain

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IMIA National Representatives

South Africa

John Tresling

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J. Tresling has been involved in the application of information technology in health care since 1975. He is a founder member, and immediate Past President of the South African Medical Informatics Group (SAMIG). He is a founder member and CEO of MEDITECH SA and has been instrumental in implementing numerous health care information systems over the past eleven years.

SWITZERLAND

Jean-Raoul Scherrer

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In 1979 J.-R. Scherrer became Professor of Medical Informatics at the Geneva University Medical School and he is now the Director of the Center for Informatics of the University Cantonal Hospital of Geneva. He has directed the development of the DIOGENE system since the design stage in the 1970s. J.-R. Scherrer and his team have been organizing MEDINFO 92.

Sweden

Hans Peterson

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H. Peterson was President of IMIA from 1984 to 1986. He is now a key-figure in the attempts to reorganize IMIA. Chairing the Strategic Issue Committee he has presented a structure which will allow as many individual researchers as possible to cooperate under the umbrella of IMIA.

United Kingdom

Jean Roberts

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As the Business Planning Director of the health management consultancy GCL she is involved in all areas of information management, particularly the market communication, audit, nurse management and informatics. She is actively involved with professional bodies including the British Computer Society, Institute of Health Services Management, Kings Fund Centre, NHS TD and Manchester Business School.

USA

Marion J. Ball

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M.J. Ball was AMIA's National Representative and became IMIA's President in 1992. In addition to her early work in clinical laboratory systems, she has been consulting on hospital information systems. M.J. Ball was active in nursing informatics and was also a prime mover in establishing a dental informatics division at the University of Maryland. She has published widely. Now she is Vice President of the Information Sources Department of the University of Maryland.

