

Minutes

**IMIA General Assembly, Dresden, Germany
1. Day, September 22, 1994**

Lunch break 12.15 p.m.
Start after lunch 15.20 p.m.

1. OPENING

1.1 The President Marion Ball opened the GA Thursday September 22 at 9.10 a.m. by welcoming the delegates and turned the meeting over to President Elect Otto Rienhoff.

1.2 Rienhoff welcomed the representatives from the different countries and organisations. He then turned the meeting over to:

- J. Lacombe who gave a welcome from the European Community.
- H. Wagner, the mayor of the City of Dresden, who expressed a welcome from the city.
- the Prodecan of the Medical Faculty in Dresden, W. Kirch, who wished IMIA welcome by the University of Dresden.
- Professor C.-Th. Ehlers who wished IMIA welcome on behalf of the hosting German Association for Medical Informatics, Biometrics and Epidemiology, GMDS.

1.3 The President then turned the meeting over to Jan vanBemmel to honour the memory of Jos Willems.

1.4 After a short commemorating pause, the President presented the revised agenda which was accepted unanimously. According to this agenda, the GA will consist of a first part on September 22, with reports and bids, and a second part on September 23, where decisions will be made.

2. THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2.1 Marion Ball presented the annual report to the IMIA Board. She started by presenting the New IMIA Organisation which was decided by the General Assembly in Kyoto, and then detailed IMIA's current plans and the considerable activity within IMIA during the last year. For further details see the IMIA Annual Report to the Board 1993-94.

3. SPECIAL INTEREST and WORKING GROUPS

3.1 The Vice President for SIGs/WGs - Scherrer, presented his report. In this report following points were highlighted:

- The need for efficient communication with the IMIA WG chairpersons.
- Proposals for more formal exchanges and joint participation between IMIA and CEN/CENELEC TC 251 and EWOS (in Europe) and ASI and ASTM (in USA).
- The proposed new structure for WG reports
- Updates of yearly WG reports - IMIA Yearbook
- Assessment of WG activity
- Finally Scherrer discussed the interaction of IMIA WGs with IFIP TCs.

3.2 Reports by WG-chairmen:

- WG-1 Education and Medical Informatics - Protti - presented the report and highlighted the report from the recent conference in Heidelberg.
 - WG-4 Security in Health Informatics - Bakker presented the report from Barber. He informed about the recent successful conference in Heemskerk, The Netherlands, and presented the plans for a next conference in Helsinki, Finland on September 30 - October 4, 1995.
 - WG-5 Primary Health Care Informatics - Scherrer presented a short report and informed about a workshop planned by the WG during MedInfo 95.
 - WG-6 Coding and Classification of Health Data - Scherrer presented the report on the WG's activities and the successful WC in Vevey last June. Finally he presented the proposal that Christopher Chute should succeed him as new WG-6 chairman.
 - WG-7 Biosignal and Pattern Interpretation - vanBemmel informed about the successful IMIA-IFMBE conference last year and the next conference in Japan, 1996. The close co-operation with the IFMBE was underlined and the formation of a joined IMIA-IFMBE WG was proposed and discussed.
 - WG-8 Nursing Informatics - Pluyter presented the report from Gerdin and informed on recent changes in the WG-Board, the recent successful conference in San Antonio, USA. Finally she gave a brief presentation of the groups new bylaws suggesting that WG-8 being transformed to a SIG.
 - WG-9 Health Informatics for Development - Scherrer presented the report from Sigulem and highlighted the problems experienced by the WG-chairman. Mandil underlined the importance of substantial economic support. He also informed about the successful Helina (Health Informatics in Africa) 93 conference and mentioned the plans for a Helina 96 conference. Fernandez suggested specific WG-9 workshops integrated in IMIA conferences.
 - WG-10 Hospital Information Systems - Bakker presented a short report and highlighted the recent conference in Durham, USA. The proceedings of the WC will be published by the end of this year. Finally the possible change from WG to SIG was mentioned.
 - WG-11 Dental Informatics - Scherrer presented the report from Spohn and mentioned the increased focusing on clinical dentistry.
 - WG-13 Organizational Impacts of Medical Informatics - Lorenzi presented the report and informed about the Newsletter published by the WG and the workshop to be organised during MedInfo-95.
 - WG-14 Health Professional Workstations - Ball presented the report on behalf of Silva and mentioned the plans for a second WC in 1996. The conclusions of the successful first conference in 1993 have been implemented into the recent proposals for reorganisation of the Health Services in the US.
 - WG-15 Technology Assessment and Quality Development in Health Informatics - Scherrer presented a short report on behalf of Perry and mentioned that a workshop is planned during MedInfo-95.
- 3.3 Roberts from UK suggested that IMIA considers the recognition of regional Working Groups (WGs).

4. REGIONAL GROUP ACTIVITIES

4.1 APAMI - Lun

Lun presented information on APAMI and gave details with respect to the first conference to take place in Singapore November - 1994. The establishment of APAMI has resulted in the foundation of medical informatics societies in Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines.

4.2 IMIA-LAC - Rosales

Rosales presented the IMIA/LAC report. Information with respect to application of IMIA membership have been prepared for Chile, Colombia and Uruguay. He then discussed the relation with PAHO. Finally he presented information on future IMIA-LAC regional activities, and highlighted the IMIA-LAC 95 Congress to be held in Guadalajara January 25-28 1995 in conjunction with "Infomedica 95" and IMIA's next Board Meeting.

4.3 EFMI - Bengtsson

Bengtsson presented the report and referred to the successful 12th MIE last Summer.

4.4 Helina - Salamon/Mandil/Peterson/Solheim

- Solheim referred to the decision of the IMIA Board in February that the GA makes the choice of the Helina 96 conference site. The IMIA Board was at that meeting informed by Mandil that bids have been given to him during Helina 93 from Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Kenya and South Africa. None of these bids had, however, yet been received by the IMIA Board. However South Africa had presented an updated bid just prior to the GA. Mandil replied that the original bids had been posted to the IMIA secretary several months ago, and thus must have been lost in the mail between Geneva and Oslo.
- Solheim then informed the GA on the investigations he and Peterson had made in Sweden and Norway on the possibilities to raise development support money for Helina 96. The possibility to raise US \$ 100 000-150 000 for a conference in South Africa was good, while the possibility must be considered doubtful for the other bidding countries.
- Finally Solheim informed that Salamon after a suggestion of Mandil and the request by Ball was willing to consider to chair the scientific committee.
- Salamon made his acceptance dependent on a strong and efficient local organising committee.
- The IMIA President then invited the IMIA GA representatives to substantiate Helina 96 bids.
- The South African representative to IMIA took the opportunity to present an updated bid on behalf of the South African Medical Research Council (MRC) and the South African Medical Informatics Group. This bid budgeted with an approved MRC grant of US \$ 81 000, and a need for external support of US \$ 125 000 - 150 000.
- Mandil pointed out that it was unfair that none of the other bids could be evaluated by the GA.
- The IMIA President therefore decided that the matter be referred back to the Board for further discussion.

5. SERVICES

5.1 Report from the Vice President for Services - vanBemmel IMIA yearbook

- vanBemmel gave a brief presentation of the Yearbook-94 and underlined the responsibility of the IMIA Members to keep the IMIA Secretary updated with all changes. He also underlined the opportunity given to national and institutional members to present themselves in the Yearbook. Finally the importance of subscription of IMIA Yearbooks by national societies was pointed out.
- All GA participants received a copy of the IMIA Yearbook-94.

6. MEMBERSHIP

6.1 Report of the Vice President for Membership - Hannah

- Hannah underlined the importance of institutional members for IMIA, and welcomed four new corporate institutional members from Germany. The corporate and academic/research institutional members present were then given the opportunity to give a brief presentation.
- Replacements/new appointments from Belgium, Germany and Sweden were then presented.
- Organisation of membership portfolio and the need for regular updating from the member societies was discussed

6.2 National membership report

6.2.1 Inquiries regarding IMIA membership have been received from Poland and India.

6.2.1 Application for IMIA membership has been received from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

6.2.3 Several member countries have not paid their membership fees the last years. Only those having paid have voting rights according to the new bylaws.

6.3 Institutional members

Corporate institutional membership

- Service inquiry made, proposal will be presented at next IMIA GA
- Academic/research institutional membership will be further promoted

7. MEDINFO

7.1 MEDINFO 95

7.1.1 Progress report OC - Hannah

- Hannah presented the report from the organising committee. After introducing her closest collaborators, she presented the main sponsors and informed on the very extensive spread of information for MedInfo-95. More than 300 commercial booths are available and 130 already sold. 3 scholarships will be offered by OC for participants from Brazil.
- The social programme was presented by Steve Heusing.
 - 2.5 day golf tour
 - IMIA reception
 - Late evening at the Vancouver Aquarium
 - Gala banquet and dance
- Very extensive range of hotels and prices

7.1.2 Progress report SPC - Kaihara

Kaihara presented the SPC report and informed that the SPC just has finished the selection of the 521 papers submitted, and had accepted 496 papers. He then described the general organisation of the scientific part of MedInfo and called for specific support by the GA-participants. Finally he referred to a non refereed track selected by the organisation committee for practical relevance.

7.2 MEDINFO 98

7.2.1 Guidelines for the Submission of Proposals to host MedInfo were presented by Kaihara.

7.2.2 Presentation of proposals to host MedInfo 98

Chairman of the site selection committee, President elect Rienhoff, presented the work of the committee. He referred to the present rules and informed that the bidders were presented additional questions by the committee. He then invited the presentation of bids by the United Kingdom, Korea and Australia. The bids were present by Jean Roberts from The United Kingdom, Youngsoo Shin from Korea and Patrick Nugawela from Australia.

8. CLOSURE

The GA session of September 22 was closed at 6.05 p.m.

IMIA General Assembly, Dresden, Germany

2. Day, September 22, 1994

1. OPENING

1.1 The President Marion Ball opened the GA Friday September 23 at 3.00 p.m. and gave the word to the IMIA Secretary Solheim.

2. THE SECRETARY AND THE TREASURER'S REPORT

2.1 Secretary's report - Solheim

2.1.1 Proxies and apologies were presented.

2.1.2 All participants were called up and received voting cards. Peterson gave a short briefing on the voting procedures required by the new statutes.

2.1.3 Minutes from the General Assembly in Kyoto, 1993. With some minor alterations suggested by Mandil, the minutes were unanimously approved.

2.1.4. Solheim informed that new stationary and a new version of the IMIA flyer were to be prepared.

2.2 Treasurer's report - Bakker

Bakker presented the financial report for 1993. Accepted with one abstention.

2.2.1 Budget 1995

The Budget was presented by Bakker who informed that the fees for national members will stay stable, and that the estimate of institutional member fees is conservative. Also MedInfo incomes have been estimated conservatively. Royalties increase slightly. The budget was accepted with one abstention.

3. THE NEW IMIA

3.1 Report of the Vice President for Special Activities - The report was presented by Peterson. He emphasised the responsibilities/domains of new VPs, and informed that standing orders will be finalised at the next IMIA Board Meeting for presentation at the next IMIA GA. Proposal for the use of logos will also be presented for the next IMIA GA.

3.2 Nominations. The IMIA Board's proposal for:

- Secretary was Solheim, which the GA accepted with one abstention.
- VP MedInfo was Kaihara, which the GA accepted unanimously.

4. SPECIAL INTEREST and WORKING GROUPS

4.1 Following suggestions made by the VP for SIGs/WGs were supported by the IMIA Board and presented to the GA for vote:

4.1.1 WG4 Plans for next conference in Helsinki, Finland on September 30 - October 4, 1995 was approved unanimously.

4.1.2 WG6 Proposal that Christopher Chute succeeds J.-R. Scherrer as WG chairman was approved unanimously.

4.1.3 WG7 Formation of a joined IMIA-IFMBE WG on Biosignal and Pattern Interpretation was approved unanimously.

3.1.4 New bylaws and transformation of WG8 to a SIG was approved unanimously.

3.1.5 Proposal to explore transition from WG10 to SIG was approved unanimously.

5. REGIONAL GROUP ACTIVITIES

5.1 Helina - Due to the problems with the loss in the mail of the bids for Helina 96 the IMIA Board suggested to the GA that:

- The IMIA Executive Committee is to be empowered to make a final decision after collection of up-dated proposals and evaluation of them in an appropriate way as defined in the MedInfo site selection criteria.
- The GA unanimously accepted this proposal.

6. MEMBERSHIP

6.1 National membership

6.1.1 Application from Bosnia and Herzegovina was supported by the IMIA Board and accepted unanimously by the GA.

6.1.2 Both Italy and Portugal have not paid their IMIA membership fees for the past 5 years. The Board therefore suggested to the GA that the membership of the present Italian member society and the Portuguese member society be terminated.

- Italy: GA accepted termination of membership with one abstention.
- Portugal: GA accepted termination of membership with one abstention.

6.1.3 Australian membership

- Application by the challenging society HISA was received prior to the last GA in Kyoto in 1993.

- The GA in Kyoto decided that the IMIA statutes paragraph 3.3 c) suggesting merging of the challenging Society and the present representative should be applied.

- As no merger has yet been finalised, the IMIA Board advised to the GA that the challenging society be accepted as the most representative society in accordance to paragraph 3.3 b) of the IMIA statutes.

- Dr. Nugawela challenged the IMIA Board's standpoint and suggested that the merger now in process be allowed to proceed without the intervention by IMIA through the suggested procedure.

- Hannah gave a short answer and suggested that Cesnik be given the opportunity to give a short statement on behalf of HISA.

- After a statement by Cesnik, and a brief discussion the IMIA GA accepted the motion made by the IMIA Board that HISA be accepted as the most representative society in accordance to paragraph 3.3 b) of the IMIA statutes. The vote was 23 for, 2 (Hungary and Bosnia) no and 5 abstentions (including the vote of Australia).

7. MEDINFO

7. Site selection for MedInfo 98

7.1 The bids together with supplementary information presented during the additional questioning, had been compared and evaluated by the site selection committee.

- Bakker presented the proposals from Australia, Korea and the UK in an comparative form.
- Rienhoff concluded that the proposal from Australia was rated weakest of the three, and that the two remaining proposals were rated equal.
- Kaihara then suggested that the GA considers only the two equally rated proposals.
- After question by Lun, Kaihara cited the rules for site selection.
- vanBemmel suggested that the rapidly developing region of South East Asia should have its general share.

7.2 The IMIA GA accepted by unanimous vote that only the two equally rated proposals are accepted.

- The two contenders were then given the opportunity to detail the projected participation in the proposed MedInfo.
- After a brief discussion the IMIA GA decided unanimously that secret vote be held by writing the choice for MedInfo 98 on a voting slip.

7.3 Vote for MedInfo 98 site

Votes in favour of:

- Korea - 24
- The United Kingdom - 18
- Abstentions - 4

7.4 The IMIA President concluded that the GA had decided that MedInfo 98 be held in Seoul, Korea and congratulated the successful bidders.

- Jean Roberts congratulated Korea and promised the UK's full support.
- Youngsoo Shin thanked the GA on behalf of the Korean delegation.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The IMIA President thanked the participants and closed the GA at 6.00 p.m.

Attendance at IMIA General Assembly September 22-23, 1994

S. Adamic	A. B. Bakker	M. J. Ball	J. H. vanBemmel
S. Bengtsson	B. Cesnik	P. Degoulet	G. Dietzel
J. Doroszewski	V. Guja	K. Hannah	R. Haux
G. Kachukhashvili	S. Kaihara	E. Karjalainen	J. Labombe
N. Lorenzi	K. C. Lun	S. H. Mandil	I. Masic
O. Mayorov	K. Mazzuckelli	G. I. Mihalas	B. Mähner
A. Naszlady	P. Nugawela	B. Ostapocica	H. Peterson
T. E. Piemme	E. Pluyter-Wenting	D. Protti	J. Roberts
O. Rienhoff	A. Rosales	B. Sadan	J.-R. Scherrer
Y. Shin	B. G. Solheim	T. Takahashi	J. Tresling
G. Vasadze	V. Yá cubsohn	Y. Zvarova	