
Besides various activities, the president elect focused on the following work:

Canada-European cooperation
The European Union and Canada prepared a scientific cooperation agreement in 1994. As part of this a European delegation was sent to Canada in a fact finding mission to identify possible ways of cooperation in research and development of health informatics projects. Through this activity, more links between IMIA and Canadian and European political organizations were set up and resulted in two specific sessions which were planned for MEDINFO in Canada. However, due to the fishing war, the signing of the cooperation agreement was delayed for more than half a year so that the sessions could not be filled. Nevertheless, the links are set and IMIA can follow up on this activity.

G7 initiative
The prime ministers and presidents of the G7 countries have defined a developmental program for the information highway including a health informatics sector. The health informatics sector was structured in the meanwhile into six subsections. Within these subsections feasibility studies shall be performed in 1995/1996 to identify future Research and Development activities on the G7 level. In the meantime also other countries can join into these activities. The coordination of the health efforts lies within the hands of DG XIII of the European Union. Contacts have been set up with the responsible officers and on the 18th of July M. Bangemann, the responsible European Commissioner, was in detail informed about possible supporting activities of IMIA regarding the G7 context. It is planned to try to link IMIA closer with the activities going on in this domain.

EpiAIM
President Marion Ball was invited to participate in the so-called activity in the European Union. She passed this responsibility to Jos Willems and afterwards to the President Elect. Several workshop were organized and a report on health informatics activities in Latin America produced. The activities finally led to a book published by IOS Press, Amsterdam, with the title "Health, Information society and developing countries" (enclosure).

New members societies
Various contacts on the international level were used to motivate people to form national member societies and to join IMIA. Many activities of this kind were done in support of IMIALAC during the various meetings around the IMIA board meeting in Mexico in early 1995.

In addition, several European research programs and corresponding activities were used to motivate colleagues in Greece to join the IMIA family through a national organization. Recently, professor Robert Rudowsky (Warsaw University, School of Medicine, CSK AM Hospital, Banacha St. 1A, 02-097 Warsaw, Poland) was supported with IMIA material for the establishment of appropriate structures in Poland.

HELINA
The preparation process for HELINA 96 was followed up and new activities were started in June 1995 after it became known that a second conference in South Africa is planned as a dos-a-dos conference to HELINA. The second conference will be financed by the European Union. Right now, various activities go on to find additional money for the support of HELINA 96.