



HÔPITAL CANTONAL UNIVERSITAIRE DE GENÈVE

CENTRE D'INFORMATIQUE HOSPITALIÈRE

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Kindly note our NEW E.MAIL ADDRESS as above

July 11, 1995

Dr. John BRYANT  
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cc: Drs. A. Bakker, M. Ball, B. Solheim

My Dear Colleagues,

As you may remember we scheduled to have a full proposal ready for execution about the future of IMIA WG 10 at the IMIA AGM in Vancouver. Since the Durham Conference last year I have not heard much from you all and the time is going fast. I would like to ask you if you will be bringing along a proposal to Vancouver for discussion or not?

As you see from the attached copy of my letter to Ab Bakker, I have requested that he let me know what is happening concerning this proposal for the future of IMIA WG 10. It is now time for us to formalise any suggestions or proposals to be discussed in Vancouver and I would appreciate very much getting some kind of decision during our forthcoming meetings.

With my warmest best wishes,

Jean-Raoul Scherrer MD  
Vice-President IMIA WGs and SIGs

Attachment



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July 11, 1995

FAX No. 00 31 71 21 66 75

Professor Ab BAKKER  
Central Development and Support Group  
Hospital Information System  
BAZIS  
Post Box 901  
2300 AX LEIDEN, NL

Dear Ab,

First of all thank you very much for your letter of June 19 regarding the linkage between the IMIA WG 4 Chairmanship and the transformation of IMIA WG 10 into a possible Special Interest Group. At the moment, despite my first letter sent October 13, 1993 and your answer dated January 19, 1994, I have, unfortunately, not yet received any reaction to my request for a concrete proposal. Ab, I would really like to know your answers to pending arguments regarding my questions and the feasibility of such a transformation as per the IMIA Bylaws (September 11, 1993 - Article 5.4) which is devoted to Special Interest Groups (SIGs).

As you will see from the attached copy of these Bylaws this states that such:

*"A Special Interest Group is established by the General Assembly upon the submission of a relevant proposal containing: scope, aims and composition".*

The quotation continues (second para. 5.4.):

*"A Special Interest Group differs from a Working Group in the sense that it is not required to achieve a concrete goal within a restricted period of time. Rather, it is the expression of the continuous interest of IMIA in certain areas or activities falling within the scope of IMIA. In selecting Members both expertise and international distribution shall be considered. The scope of a Special Interest Group shall be attached to these Statutes, in the form of specific Bylaws for the SIG".*

Later on (fifth and sixth paras. 5.4) it is mentioned that:

*"The Chairman of a Special Interest Group may designate a Vice-Chairman (SIG/VC) and a Secretary from the Committee Membership, with the approval of the SIG Membership. The term of office of all Committee Officers shall be three years and will be reviewed by the General Assembly every three years.*

*The Special Interest Group can organize the work in "internal" Working Groups (SIG/WG). The Chairman of a SIG Working Group is appointed by the SIG Chairman".*

The situation is ambiguous because I do not feel that we are close to a really sound proposal and I doubt that it is even feasible, in the present stage of membership and activity, as illustrated by the last working conference of WG 10 to promote such a SIG.

At the end of the Durham conference last year, I asked a couple of "wise people", including yourself, to work on a proposal with a formal deadline for execution at this coming IMIA AGM in Vancouver. May I ask you to let me know whether you are ready to make a proposal yet or whether I should make a proposal of my own as part of my yearly report. I will also ask, all the "wise people" addressed in my letter dated September 14, 1994 for their advice. By default I will work on two scenarios: a SIG and a WG10 restructurisation.

I look forward to seeing you in Vancouver and to discussing this matter further with the hope that it can be finally resolved.

With my warmest best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Scherrer', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

Jean-Raoul Scherrer MD  
Vice-President IMIA WGs and SIGs

cc: Drs. M. Ball, J. Bryant, P. Degoulet, E. Hammond, P. Olsen, C. Safran,  
B. Solheim

Attachment

entitled to elect a temporary successor for the period until the General Assembly meets again.

A Member of the Executive Committee can be discharged for misdemeanor by a two-thirds majority vote of the General Assembly Members present or represented by proxy.

#### 5.2.2. *Authority*

The Executive Committee conducts the day-to-day operations of IMIA.

The President shall convene and conduct the General Assembly, the Board and the Executive Committee. During the absence or incapacity of the President, the President-Elect shall act in his stead in all matters. In the case that he too is absent, the Officer longest in office shall act in his stead.

#### 5.2.3. *Meetings*

The Executive Committee shall decide on the dates and places of its meetings. The Minutes of the Executive Committee meetings shall be approved by the Executive Committee.

#### 5.3. *Standing and Ad Hoc Advisory Committees*

These Committees advise the General Assembly in policy matters that require detailed analysis. The term of office of Committee Members is not more than three years. These Committees are composed of one to three Members elected from the National Membership.

#### 5.4. *Special Interest Groups*

A Special Interest Group (SIG) is established by the General Assembly upon the submission of a relevant proposal containing: scope, aims and composition.

A Special Interest Group differs from a Working Group in the sense that it is not required to achieve a concrete goal within a restricted period of time. Rather, it is the expression of the continuous interest of IMIA in certain areas or activities falling within the scope of IMIA. In selecting Members both expertise and international distribution shall be considered. The scope of a Special Interest Group shall be attached to these Statutes, in the form of specific Bylaws for the SIG.

The Chairman of a Special Interest Group is elected by the General Assembly upon recommendation of the Board. The Members of a Special Interest Group are appointed by the IMIA President upon recommendation of the National Members or by the Special Interest Group Chairman, who shall in advance consult the National IMIA Representative for the appropriate country.

Membership is restricted to those persons who are from a Member country of IMIA.

The Chairman of a Special Interest Group may designate a Vice-Chairman (SIG/VC) and a Secretary from the Committee Membership, with the approval of the SIG Membership. The term of office of all Committee Officers shall be three years and will be reviewed by the General Assembly every three years.

The Special Interest Group can organize the work in "internal" Working Groups (SIG/WG). The Chairman of a SIG Working Group is appointed by the SIG Chairman.

Termination of a Special Interest Group can be made only by the General Assembly after notice from a national representative, the Chairman of the SIG or the IMIA Board.

#### 5.5. *Working Groups*

A Working Group is established by the General Assembly upon the submission of the proposed scope of the Working Group and shall deliver whatever result is decided at a specific time. A Working Group consists of experts selected and assigned, without consideration of nationality, to work in a specified area.

The Chairman of a Working Group is elected by the General Assembly upon recommendation of the Executive Committee.

The term of office of the Chairman and the Members is three years but can be renewed several times.

The Members of a Working Group are appointed by the IMIA President

## **HOSPITAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS (IMIA WG10)**

### **Report to General Assembly, July 1995**

Chair: A.R. Bakker, BAZIS Foundation,  
Schipholweg 97, 2316 XA Leiden, The Netherlands  
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#### **1. Introduction**

WG10 is an international group of experts in the field of medical informatics, which tries to contribute to improvements in quality, comparability and usability of hospital information systems (HIS) worldwide. Furthermore, WG10 considers as its task to promote systematic development and research in the field of health information systems, for which purpose it will organise workshops during major international medical informatics conferences.

To explore specific issues in the field of HIS, WG10 organises working conferences where experts from the various countries focus their attention on these issues. Proceedings of such working conferences, containing both the papers presented and the outcome of discussions, are published to make findings available to a wider audience. One of the objectives is to have as many IMIA members represented as possible to make the international network complete and effective. At the moment WG10 has members from 27 countries.

#### **2. Past International Working Conferences**

WG10 has organized in the past two major working conferences:

- Towards New Hospital Information Systems, 1988, Nijmegen, The Netherlands
- Trends in Modern HIS, Scope-Design-Architecture, September 1991, Göttingen, Germany.

In addition the working group organized special sessions, workshops and tutorials during various major medical informatics conferences.

A working conference was organized at Durham, USA, August 1994, with as title "Expanding HIS, fading boundaries". Invited speakers presented their papers that were distributed on beforehand as preprints. The emphasis in the working conference was on discussion group sessions where 4 multi disciplinary discussion groups discussed predefined questions.

The conference was clearly successful. Proceedings have been published both as a special issue of the International Journal of Bio-Medical Computing and as a hardcover edition. Whereas in the special issue only the overall observations, conclusions and recommendations were published, the hardcover edition contains in addition all reports of the discussion group sessions.

#### Future of the Working Group

In view of the new statutes of IMIA it is intended to transform WG10 into a special interest group for health information systems. A small committee was installed to prepare such a transformation. This committee will meet July 24, 1995 in conjunction with MEDINFO '95.

#### Institutional members

The Working Conference at Durham was made possible by the sponsorship of several of our institutional members. Also several of the members participated in the conference.

#### Relationship with IFIP

The chairman of WG10 gave a keynote lecture at the Working Conference of IFIP Working Group 11.3 at Bad Salzdetfurth Germany. In addition to that he was invited to participate in the scientific programme committee of the IFIP SEC '96 conference.

#### Participation in other IMIA external congresses

The chairman of WG10 reported in several conferences and seminars on the outcome of IMIA Working Conferences. Recently a keynote lecture was given at the Nursing Informatics 1994 at San Antonio, USA. Also at the Infomedica 1995 conference at Guadalajara, Mexico, a paper was presented. Another lecture was presented at the National Medical Informatics Conference of South Africa at Durban (1994).

#### Links with other IMIA Working Groups

Working Group 10 has formalized links with INIS and Working Group 4.

#### Membership

The list of members is attached to this report.

Enclosure: 1.