

DRAFT for discussion by Fri 21/7



## **International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA) Membership Information**

IMIA is a federation of national organizations formed in 1978. There is no personal membership. The statutes of IMIA define the objectives of IMIA as "serving the specific needs of the application of information technology in the field of health care and biomedical research". They go on to state that the basic aims shall be to:

1. promote informatics in health care and biomedical research;
2. advance international cooperation;
3. stimulate research development and routine application;
4. move informatics from theory into practice in a hill range of settings, from physician's office to acute and long term care;
5. further the dissemination and exchange of knowledge, information and technology;
6. promote education and responsible behaviour;
7. seek and maintain formal channels of communication with any relevant professional or governmental organizations.

The association is governed by a General Assembly, which meets once every year, and consists of one representative from each National Member, Institutional Member, and Regional Member as well as the Chairs of Working Groups and Honourary members.

### **MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES**

#### **1. National Member Societies or Associations**

In any country, one society or group of societies or other body, which is

representative of activities in the field of medical informatics, and is formally constituted according to the laws of the country in which it is established, may apply to become a *National Member* of IMIA. Representative is the key word. Since IMIA will only accept one society as national representative in any country, a candidate association or society must be able to convince the General Assembly, who decides on the admission of National Members, of its qualities in this respect. This is best done by providing documentation about the activities of the candidate society with the written application for admission as a National Member of IMIA. Such documentation might include:

1. history of the applicant society,
2. number and type of members (e.g. physicians, nurses, informaticians),
3. meetings and conferences held,
4. membership in one of the Regional IMIA Members such as the European Federation for Medical Informatics (EFMI), the Federation of Health Informatics Societies in Latin America (IMIA-LAC) or the Asia Pacific Association of Medical Informatics (APAMI),
5. participation of members in IMIA activities such as Medinfo, working Groups or Working conferences,
6. any other information which may prove the representative nature of the applying body.

The application also must contain a copy of the statutes or bylaws (in English translation) and evidence that the applying body has established an official existence (e.g. incorporation) according to the laws in the country of origin.

National Membership gives the members of the national association access to the medical informatics community, and entitles the national member to representation in Working Groups (at present 10) and at working conferences.

An appropriate national society applying for membership may apply for *Corresponding Member* status in IMIA during the preparation of an application for a maximum of three years

Representatives from countries which are not members of IMIA, but are planning or engaged in significant activities in medical informatics, may be accepted by the General Assembly as *Observer* at IMIA meetings for a maximum of three years.

National and Corresponding members pay annual dues (at present in Swiss francs) determined by the General Assembly. The amount is determined by the size and economic status of the membership country. If these dues have not been paid for two years, the General Assembly will decide whether the Membership should be terminated.

## **2. Corporate Institutional Membership**

The category of *Corporate Membership* has been created to allow vendors consultants and suppliers to participate directly in IMIA. It is expected that they will also support the national member society in their home countries. Corporate members must be legally constituted companies in their country of origin. This category of membership has all of the rights and privileges of national membership except it does not carry the right to vote for the election of officers in IMIA. Specifically these benefits of Corporate Membership are:

- **Networking**
  - Ability to interact with international experts in the field of informatics who are on leading edge of research and development in the rapidly evolving field of health informatics. IMIA provides ~~in~~ a forum intended to foster opportunities for collaboration and exchange of ideas.
- **Participation**
  - Right to attend the Annual General Meeting
  - Right to send representatives to participate in Working Groups
- **Recognition**
  - Use of the IMIA logo with the phrase "Corporate Member of International Medical Informatics Association" on letterhead
- **Information Exchange**
  - Opportunity to provide annual briefings to members of the IMIA General Assembly with regard to corporate activities and initiatives such as new products or services
  - Receipt of five (5) free copies of the quarterly IMIA newsletter
  - Receipt of one (1) free copy of the IMIA Yearbook
  - Right to purchase additional copies of the Yearbook or subscriptions to the Newsletter at a greatly reduced price

- Preferential rates for Advertising in the IMIA Yearbook
- Receipt of Working Group (WG) mailings and announcements
- Receipt of Special Interest Group (SIG) mailings
- Advance notice of upcoming WG conferences

The membership fee for this category of membership has been established by the IMIA General Assembly at \$2000 U.S.

### **3. Academic/Research Institution Membership.**

There is a category of membership being developed within IMIA called the *Academic /Research Institutional Membership*. It is intended for those academic institutions that have academic programmes in health informatics. Institutions seeking membership in this category must submit documentation that they participate in an active academic and/or research program in health informatics such as the programme of studies, the research program, publications list of the faculty members.

This category of membership has all of the rights and privileges of national membership except it does not carry the right to vote for the election of officers in IMIA. Specifically these benefits of Academic Institutional membership are:

- Provides a forum for meeting with colleagues at other medical informatics academic centres for the exchange of ideas, research collaboration, identification of external examiners for graduate degrees.
- Listed in IMIA Yearbook
- One (1) free copy of the Yearbook
- One (1) free copy of the IMIA Newsletter
- Right to purchase additional copies of the Yearbook or subscriptions to the Newsletter at a greatly reduced price
- Receipt of working group mailings and announcements
- Right to nominate members to the working groups
- Right to jointly host IMIA workshops and seminars
- Use of the IMIA logo with the phrase "Academic Member of International Medical Informatics Association" on letterhead and information about joint Workshops and seminars on health Informatics
- Right to submit information about the program's activities to the

## Newsletter.

The membership fee for this category of membership will be established at the IMIA General Assembly meeting in Vancouver on July 20 and 21, 1995, it is expected that the fee will be approximately \$500 U.S.