

Report from the MEDINFO 95 Editorial Committee

July 10, 1995

The EC carried out the following tasks on all accepted manuscripts:

1. Scanning or format conversion to computer readable form.
2. Rewriting of portions of papers considered awkward or not readily understandable.
3. Shortening of papers that exceeded the prescribed page limits (5 pages for Plenary, Research, Opinion, and Descriptive papers; 1 page for Posters and Demonstrations)
4. Uniform formatting of headers and authors' names
5. Formatting and layout of papers to conform to consistent style, using PageMaker.
6. Development of table of contents, author index, and subject index
7. Coordination with the MEDINFO office to ensure accuracy of the database
8. Cooperative work with NLM for MEDLINE indexing of proceedings.

The EC completed its editing work on May 1, and shipped PageMaker files to the MEDINFO office for printing:

The Proceedings was laid out in two volumes, of approximately 1,750 pages. A total of 481 papers was included, consisting of the following categories:

54	Demonstration
111	Descriptive
54	Opinion/Review

2	Plenary
119	Poster
151	Research

The following is the Editorial we wrote in the Proceedings volume itself:

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Producing this two-part Proceedings volume for MEDINFO 95 has been a very large responsibility for the Editorial Committee (EC). As in the past, we have attempted to work closely with the Scientific Program Committee (SPC) to ensure a high scientific standard for the accepted papers. This meeting has 19% more scientific papers, 21% more posters, and 18% more demonstrations than previous meetings, with a corresponding increase in the size of the Proceedings.

We have worked hard to maintain a high quality of format and presentation in the Proceedings. As the Editorial Committee did in the case of MEDINFO 92, we have undertaken to produce camera-ready copy for printing. Unlike the past, IMIA decided this year to publish the Proceedings itself, using a Canadian printing company. We requested electronic submission for the first time this year. We attempted to make our instructions to authors quite explicit, in terms of layout, media, and word processing format to be used for submission. Nonetheless, we found that more than 10% of the electronic submissions were not readable by us and required scanning or retyping into electronic form. Accepted submissions came from 37 countries, which resulted in considerable variation in the ability to meet our requirements and in the fluency with English, the official language of the Proceedings. Thus, substantial editing was also required in some cases, as well as spell-checking and reformatting. In the event that, in the above processes, we have occasionally inadvertently misinterpreted or altered an author's intent, our sincere apologies are offered.

Regarding organization of the Proceedings volumes, we have followed the approach taken with MEDIN-FO 92, in that Sections of the Proceedings reflect topics in medical informatics, rather than corresponding to actual sessions of the Scientific Program. Our intent was to bring related topics together, as with a textbook in Health Informatics. We again placed posters and papers together in the Sections to which they related. Only demonstration papers are in a separate Section, but with subsections for specific topics.

The assistance of the Organizing Committee (OC) office has been invaluable in reconciling problems in submissions, communicating with authors as revisions or updates became necessary, and dealing with a variety of other issues as they arose. Work of the EC also needed to be coordinated with the OC in producing the Final Program, Poster Session, and Demonstration Program schedules. The efforts of Ms. Elaine Huesing and Mr. Steven Huesing of the OC are particularly acknowledged.

The editorial process was carried out by the members of the EC each reading and editing a large number of papers. Additional editorial assistance was provided in Boston by David Wormuth and by a number of other able assistants. The major work of editing all documents into a consistent format and constructing the camera-ready files for the printer was carried out by Ms. Christine Dixon and Ms. Nishani Naidoo, without whom this task would have been impossible. The author and subject index were produced with the excellent programming and scripting assistance of John Ehresman and technical assistance by Ron Rouse in Boston.

Finally, we are pleased and excited to announce that the National Library

of Medicine, has agreed to index the MEDINFO Proceedings, beginning this year, in MEDLINE.

Compiling the MEDINFO 95 Proceedings was a very large task, but we hope that you will find that the results of this effort, and of the innovations that were introduced this year and in 1992, are a set of volumes that you will long treasure and find useful. Despite the hard work, we have enjoyed the opportunity to work closely with colleagues and friends in IMIA, and to contribute to its success and to that of the MEDINFO 95 meeting.

The Editorial Committee:

Robert A. Greenes (U.S.A.), Chairman  
Hans E. Peterson (Sweden)  
Denis J. Protti (Canada)

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We also included the following Disclaimer:

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While the Editorial Committee has made every effort to ensure that all accepted contributions are published in these three volumes of the MEDINFO 95 Proceedings, it reserves the right to:

(1) edit/alter one or more parts of an original contribution, including its title, author and affiliation listings, as it sees fit in order to comply with editorial requirements;

(2) withhold the publication of a contribution due to one or more of the following circumstances:

(a) failure to meet the final deadline for submission of all original/revised contributions which was 31 March 1995;

(b) failure to revise the original contribution in accordance with the instructions of the Scientific Program Committee chairman, including editorial guidelines;

(c) failure to respond to a request from the Chairman, Editorial Committee, to re-send a contribution if no camera-ready contribution has been previously received by him.

The Editorial Committee is not responsible for alteration and/or omission of parts of an original contribution in cases where the contribution has not fully complied with the editorial guideline and has to be partially or fully re-written and/or reformatted by electronic means.

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We hope that the result of the above effort is a Proceedings volume that will continue the fine tradition of previous MEDINFO volumes.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert A. Greenes, MD, PhD, Chairman