



**Central Development- and
Support Group
Hospital Information System**

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To all IMIA Representatives
of IMIA Member Societies

date: **August 18, 1995**
phone: **+31 71 256 730**
your ref.:
our ref.: **952084/EG/jve**
subject:

Dear colleague,

At the IMIA General Assembly of July 1995, I have been appointed as the new chairman of IMIA Working Group on Quality assurance and technology assessment (no 15). As a first step to activate the working group I would herewith like to invite you to nominate a representative from your Society to take part in this working group.

Incentives for IMIA WG 15

Quality Development, as well as the need for cost containment, have raised the interest in effectiveness and costs issues of technologies applied in health care. In most countries, drugs and devices are subjected to standard evaluation procedures. In Health Informatics, the interest in these issues is relatively new, but it is growing.

Although there is a clear need for evaluation efforts in Health Informatics, it is not so obvious how to undertake these evaluations. First of all, the area of Health Informatics covers a wide variety of applications, which range from broad systems which support the general infrastructure to specific systems, which support diagnosing or therapy. Hence, the term "effectiveness" is not easily defined. Secondly, conventional evaluation methods, such as the "randomized controlled clinical trial", seem hardly applicable in this field. Often it is even difficult to make a proper base-line study.

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The IMIA WG 15 aims to further develop the field of technology assessment and quality development in health informatics, by:

- promoting consensus development on methodological issues;
- promoting comprehensive assessment of health care information technologies, for instance by providing expertise;
- demonstrating the value and importance of assessment of health care information technologies, to health care decision makers, health care providers and developers of information technologies.

In order to meet these goals, the working group should have members which have expertise/interest in this area and are willing to further develop this field. I would appreciate it if you could send me the name, full address and if possible E-mail number of the member of your society who is willing to participate in this working group. IMIA WG 15 intends to have a first workshop meeting in conjunction with the coming MIE conference in Copenhagen, August 19-22, 1996. Moreover, we aim to organize a working conference before the next MEDINFO meeting.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Elisabeth van Gennip', is written over the typed name.

Elisabeth van Gennip Ph.D.
Chairman IMIA Workinggroup 15