

Membership Report

Information Regarding Membership in IMIA

- Feedback from General Assembly meeting incorporated document attached

National Members

Poland - introduction of new member

Argentina - determination of national representative association

Argentine Assoc. for Med. Info.

Requests for information provided but no further contact:

India

Kuwait

Contact with Uzbekistan resulted in no application for membership at this time

Corresponding Members

- nothing to report

Institutional Membership

- corporate institutional membership inquiry :
HIMSS

Academic/Research/ Health Care Facilities

- following Vancouver meeting membership information sent to all members of American College of Medical Informatics members

- new memberships approved:

Dr. Ted Shortliffe, Stanford

Dr. Paul Fisher, University of Victoria

Dr. Joyce Mitchell, University of Missouri

- requests for additional information:

Dr. Lael Gatewood, University of Minnesota

Dr. Tom Rosenal, University of Calgary

- outstanding issue - "marketing" of institutional memberships

Regional Membership

- nothing to report

Honorary Memberships

- two nominations from the President

Information for Societies Applying for Membership in the International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA).

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 full 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 the 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.

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 network with world leaders in the field of informatics 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
 - 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.

A category of membership has been developed within IMIA called the *Academic /Research/Health Care Facility 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 was been established at the IMIA General Assembly meeting in Vancouver on July 20 and 21, 1995, the fee is 600 Swiss Francs (approximately \$500 U.S).