

YEARLY IMIA REPORT
to
IMIA AGM and BOARD
Copenhagen
23-24 August, 1996

WORKING GROUPS AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

1. CRITICAL APPRAISAL FOR THE WORKING GROUPS (WGs) and
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs) ORGANISATIONAL NETWORK

1.1 Status of IMIA Yearly WG/SIG reports in the Yearbook

With most of the WG/SIG Chairpersons communication is fine. With others it is difficult to get in contact, get feedback or receive reports. The whole process works, more or less, thanks to Sandra Horne's insistence and effort.

As already mentioned in Vancouver, Items 4-6 (short IMIA curriculum of Chairpersons, the external relationship effort towards IFIP, Industries, NGOs, and the EU are almost never evoked!).

As a reminder here is a summary of the Items List:

ITEM IV

The Chairpersons to give date of their election and a short summary of his or her personal actions during the year, indicating also local support, sponsors and whether the appropriate infrastructure is in place.

ITEM V

IM Relationships - the present status, even if negative. Plan of prospective joint ventures with IMs, or action plan and publicity to attract them to join a WG.

ITEM VI

Relationships with IFIP Technical Committees or SIGs having similar objectives and fields of action (e.g. for data protection and security and others). Assess other WG contacts with members of governments, universities, NGOs, the EC or computer or commercial companies.

The IMIA Yearbook is being read and used more and more and it has become our best business card, with both private companies or outside institutions, etc.

1.2 More explicit representations of IMIA National Societies
with IMIA WGs/SIGs

Ever since the Dresden IMIA AGM, and despite the demonstrative example given by our colleague Takahashi Takashi, it does not work very well.

It is recalled here that according to IFIP Bylaws, part of the WG/SIG Members have to be co-opted by the WGs and SIGs themselves, others should be proposed by the National Societies.

It is also expected from the National Societies that some publicity should be given to IMIA WG/SIG activities.

2. RELATIONSHIP WITH IFIP TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

We are extremely grateful to Kurt Bauknecht, former IFIP Vice President in charge of the Technical Committees, who is now IFIP President, that he accepted to attend the second half of our IMIA AGM 95 in Vancouver and which has since helped to promote more effective links with IFIP Technical Committees.

Already at the IMIA Board in Guadalajara it was possible to have a preliminary discussion on mapping of IFIP Technical Committees, IMIA WGs/SIGs, EFMI WGs and CEN WGs and project teams.

The table of joint WGs has been updated with Kurt Bauknecht during the last IFIP AGM earlier this year.

3. REVIEW OF IMIA WGs/SIGs: PRESENT STATUS

The WWW information regarding WGs is not updated regularly!

SIG - N1 (Ulla Gerdin):

See Report in the latest 1996 IMIA Yearbook and also attached document.

WG 1 - (Reinhold Haux):

A 6th IMIA-WG 1 conference on health and medical informatics education, as a satellite conference following the Health Informatics 97 Conference of HISA and APAMI (August 11-13, 1997) in Sydney, Australia, is meeting the stage of a first proposal (see attached documents from our colleague Reinhold Haux).

There is another proposal for changing the name of WG 1 into "Health and Medical Informatics Education". On Monday August 19 (3 - 4 pm) a WG1 Workshop will take place at MIE 96 (see attached documents).

WG 4 - (Ab Bakker):

There is a report regarding the very successful WG 4 working conference in Helsinki, under the heading "Communicating Health Information in an Insecure World" (September 30-October 2, 1995). The next working conference will take place (November 22-25, 1997) in Japan (see attached documents).

WG 5 - (Glyn Hayes):

(See the Yearly Report in 1996 IMIA Yearbook).

WG 6 - (Christopher Chute):

(See the Yearly Report in 1996 IMIA Yearbook).

Arrangements have been finalised for a working meeting of the committee (January 19-22, 1997) at Jacksonville, Florida, USA.

WG 7 - (Jan van Bommel):

(See the Yearly Report in 1996 IMIA Yearbook).

A second working conference on Biosignal Interpretation is being organised (September 23-28, 96) in Kanagawa, Japan, jointly by IMIA and IFMBE.

WG 9 - (former Chair: Daniel Sigulem):

With Daniel Sigulem's resignation as Chairman of this WG, due to his increasing work responsibilities in Sao Paulo, Brazil, the decision was taken in Vancouver in July 1995 to cancel this WG and replace it with a SIG. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Daniel Sigulem for the enthusiasm he brought to his

IMIA activities and for all the work he accomplished as Chairman of this WG. The proposal for a new SIG will be presented in Copenhagen at the next IMIA AGM /Board Meeting.

Dr. Nora Olivera sent a proposal with a corresponding proposal by Dr. Marcelo Sosa, to EFMI and they have been invited to create a new WG in the same area (see attached documents by Dr. Olivera and Dr. Sosa).

WG 10 - (Ab Bakker):

As stated in the Minutes of Vancouver GA (Pg. 5), the WG 10 has been under reorganisation (see attached documents from Ab Bakker as well as the 1996 IMIA Yearbook report).

A full discussion is planned to be held by the Board just after MIE 96 in Copenhagen. The taking over of the Chairmanship by Paul Clayton has been investigated (see attached documents of e-mail exchanges).

The reasonableness of the transformation of this WG into a SIG is still debatable, including at this stage with reference to the IMIA Statutes: that is (Art. 5.4. lack of "scope, aims and composition").

WG 11 - (former Chair: Eric Spohn):

During the Vancouver workshop, the Chairman Eric Spohn decided to resign namely for health reasons. We would like to tell him how grateful we are for his great support and for all the work he accomplished under his short chairmanship. During the workshop in which the author of this report took part, it has not been possible to arrive at an agreement for one Chairperson but finally for two Co-Chairs: Dr. Eva Piehslinger from Vienna College of Dentistry in Austria and Dr. John Eisner from the School of Dental Medicine in Buffalo, NY, USA. This arrangement came after the last GA and has to be approved in Copenhagen, (see Yearly Report in 1996 IMIA Yearbook).

WG 13 - (Nancy Lorenzi):

See Yearly Report in 1996 IMIA Yearbook and the attached joint proposal of IMIA WG 13 and 15 to have a working conference in Lapland in 1997.

WG 14 - (Paul Carpenter):

See Yearly report in 1996 IMIA Yearbook and attached exchange of letters with Paul Carpenter.

WG 15 - (Elisabeth van Gennip):

See Yearly report in 1996 IMIA Yearbook and the joint proposal with IMIA WG 13 to have a working conference also closely connected to VATAM in Lapland in 1997.

WG 16 - (Georges De Moor):

See yearly report in 1996 IMIA Yearbook. A WG 16 working conference is planned for early 1997. The principle of the transformation into a SIG has been retained. The Chairman will prepare a proposal to the Board in the near future.

4. PROPOSALS TO CREATE NEW WGs

At the last GA in Vancouver the decision was taken (Pg. 5 of the Minutes) that the VP in charge of WGs and SIGs "was given the responsibility to prepare a proposal for the next GA for new WGs devoted to: (1) *Computerised Patient Records*, and (2) *Telematics in Healthcare*".

Hence, it is proposed here to create two new WGs, to be defined as follows:

WG 17 - devoted to "Computerised Patient Records (CPRs) - also known sometimes as "Electronic Patient Records" (EPRs).

The Chairman proposed is, Johann van der Lei. He is both an MD in clinical medicine and a PhD in medical computer science. His PhD thesis was a critique of on-line ambulatory records. He collaborated closely with Dr. Mark Musen from Stanford Medical School who will join the team as the american part of the WG, (see WG proposal in the attached document).

Such a new WG will be the natural interlocutor with the EU DG XIII C4, AMIA, the Medical Records Institute, ANSI Healthcare Informatics Standards Board, CEN/TC 251 and EHTO (European Health Telematics Observatory), ASTM, Health On the Net (HON). Besides this it will contribute to shape more appropriately a new Electronic Patient Record Conference to come (the next one being in London in November next year).

WG 18 - devoted to "Telematics in Healthcare"

Telematics in healthcare is the middle of the target of DXIII C4, that has even changed its name from "AIM" to "Telematics in Healthcare", handling together all activities from WG1 of CEN/TC251 devoted to "Healthcare Information Modelling and Medical Records", that is to say: (1) the medical informatics vocabulary; (2) the healthcare information frame work; (3) the electronic healthcare records architecture; and (4) the standard architecture for healthcare information systems.

It is an absolute must to have a WG in charge of that field for being credible as a team of experts, (a separate proposal will be distributed during the meeting).

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

Geneva, August 9, 1996