HOSPITAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS (IMIA WG 10)

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1.   Introduction

WG 10 is an international group of experts in this field of
medical informatics, which tries to contribute to the
improvements in quality, comparability and usability of
hospital information systems (HIS) worldwide. Furthermore,
WG 10 considers as its task to promote systematic development
and research in the field of health information systems, for
which purpose it will organise workshops during major
international medical informatic conferences.

To explore specific issues in the field of HIS, WG 10
organises working conferences where experts from the various
countries focus their attention on these issues. Proceedings
of such working conferences, containing both the papers
presented and the outcome of discussions are published to
make findings available to a wider audience. One of the
objectives is to have as many IMIA members represented as
possible to make the international network complete and
effective. At the moment WG 10 has members from 27
countries.

2.   Past International Working Conferences

WG 10 has organised three major working conferences:

-     Towards New Hospital Information Systems, 1988,
Nijmegen, The Netherlands.

-     Trends in Modern HIS, Scope-Design-Architecture,
September 1991, Göttingen, Germany.

-     Expanding HIS, Fading Boundaries, August 1994, Durham,
North Carolina, USA

The formula for the Durham working conference was similar to
that of the other two in the sense that the number of
participants did not exceed 100 and that most of the time was
spent in group discussions. A Program Committee developed a
program and invited over 30 speakers to prepare a paper on a

specified topic. Preprints of the papers were supplied to the participants before the conference, to allow them to study the input material. During the conference only highlights of the papers were presented in the plenary sessions.

The invited papers, the conclusions and recommendations, as well as results of the discussion group sessions, were published in a special issue of the International Journal of Biomedical Computing in 1995.

In addition, the WG 10 organized special sessions, workshops and tutorials during various major medical informatics conferences.

3.   Future International Working Conferences/Plans
Because HIS is a major subject in medical informatics that deserves permanent attention, it is considered to change WG 10 status from Working Group to Special Interest Group (SIG). The idea is to have within the framework of the SIG a number of project teams dealing with specific topics. A possible restructuring was discussed during the WG 10 meeting in Durham, scheduled in conjunction with the working conference and a proposal was presented during the IMIA AGM in Vancouver, July 1995. A decision could not be reached in Vancouver and the subject is on the Agenda for the next IMIA AGM in Copenhagen, Denmark, August 1996.

Not yet

4.   Proceedings and Publication (WG 10)
Bakker AR, Ball MJ, Scherrer J-R, Willems JL, eds. Towards New Hospital Information Systems. Amsterdam: Elsevier Science Publishers 1988 (ISBN 0 444 705 023).

Bakker AR, Ehlers CTh, Bryant JR, Hammond WE, eds. Hospital Information Systems : Scope, design-architecture. Amsterdam: Elsevier Science Publishers, 1992. (ISBN 0444 89 4128).

Hammond WE, Bakker AR, Ball MJ, eds. Expanding HIS; Fading Boundaries. Amsterdam: Elsevier Science Publishers, 1995.

5.   Other involvements and relationships
WG 10 is closely related with WG 4 by Chairman and is linked to SIG N1 through various conferences.

6.   List of Members

Can be obtained directly from WG 10 Chair.

Proposal to merge WG14 into WG10