

Exp. : "John Eisner" <john_eisner@sdm.buffalo.edu>
Dest. : "Jean-Raoul SCHERRER" <scherrer-jean-raoul@diogene...
Date : 16-08-96 05h25
Objet : Re: IMIA Meetings - (Re- WG

WG 11

Prof. Scherrer:

Correspondence with you has been very difficult. I sent my first email to you on 8/19/95 (very soon after the Vancouver meeting) to which there was no response. I resent that initial message on 9/21/95 and received a response, on your behalf, from Sandra Horne who indicated that you would respond in person when you returned to your office on 10/20/95. There was no further communication from you until 7/5/96 but I must admit that I assigned your message a very low priority and waited to see if you were now serious. Your message of 8/14/96 and Sandra's call to my office would suggest that we are now both ready to communicate.

Last summer I did set up both a listserv and web page, but in the absence of any direction from you or some other IMIA official they quickly moved off my radar screen. I am prepared to reactivate both Working Group 11 projects at this time, given appropriate direction from your office. The entire correspondence log from last summer is appended for your review. I believe all the questions remain extant and I continue to look forward to your response to last year's questions.

Now, to your inquiries:

1. You asked for names and other demographics for Eva and for me. They are listed below.

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2. In your messages of 7/5/96 and 8/14/96 you did not mention any interest in having Eva or I attend the meeting in Copenhagen, only that our names would be

proposed at that time. However, your Fax of 8/14/96 states that "we were hoping that either you or Eva (or both) could be with us next week in Copenhagen". This suggestion is rather untimely although I will forward it to

Eva on the extremely unlikely chance that she would be available. From previous conversations with Eric, I assume that no IMIA funds are made available for such a trip and that she would be responsible for her own expenses. If this is not the case, you might send her any information that is pertinent to that meeting.

3. I note that in the Semester Report to the IMIA Board which met from January 28-30 in Seoul, that you used the phrase "There has been a little crisis about who would take over the Chairmanship of this WG." I agree there

is a crisis, but not with regard to the question of a Chair since you were present when we agreed to the co-chair team in Vancouver.

The crisis has more to do with the absence of any infrastructure within IMIA

to sustain the Working Group (perhaps as evidenced by our poor communication

and the absence of travel funds), as well as by the failure of AMIA to provide

a reasonable infrastructure for its working groups. There are barely a handful of full-time dental informaticians, and almost none of them, except perhaps Veronica Wagner at Uppsala, have sufficient funds to make a decent showing at SCAMC, let alone MedInfo. Marion Ball encouraged John Sally and John Zimmerman to start the Dental Working Group on the assumption (perhaps an

overzealous one) that the field of dental informatics would flourish and that

we could sustain an international working group. It will take some time for

that vision to become a reality!!

However, even if we are a bit of a rag-tag group, Eva and I did agree to try

to keep it together with a Web page and a list server, and she also agreed to

attend, and help to organize a program, for the Seoul meeting. With your help, we will continue to pursue that path.

I look forward to your response to my questions of 9/19/95 and to a more productive agenda for our group in the coming year.

John Eisner

Below: Email exchange of 9/28/95

Sandra:

Thank you for acknowledging my message. Without such replies, it's as if some email goes into a black hole.

I would be pleased to hear from Prof. Sherrer upon his return. The list and web page are ready to go.

John Eisner

Date: 9/28/95 4:19 AM
To: John Eisner
From: Jean-Raoul SCHERRER
Dear Dr. Eisner,

I am replying to you kind e.mail on behalf of Professor Scherrer who is, unfortunately, away on a lecture tour and vacation until week ending 20th October. As you see we have changed our e.mail address and perhaps this was the reason for the delay in your message getting through to us.

Professors Scherrer will contact you on his return and I hope this will not be too late to reply to your message.

With kindest regards,

Sandra Horne
for Professor J.-R. Scherrer

Below: Email exchange of 9/21/95

Prof Scherrer:

About a month ago I forwarded several questions to you regarding the Dental Informatics Working Group. Did you receive that message? I have copied it below in case the first one got lost in cyberspace. I'm looking for direction before I proceed.

John Eisner

Prof Jean-Raoul Scherrer, MD

Dear Dr. Scherrer:

I would like to thank you for joining our small Dental Informatics group in Vancouver. It was good to see someone from 'the next layer'.

I am ready to start the WK11 list but wanted to share several items with you first.

1. Was action taken regarding staffing and the beginning of an IMIA home page?
2. When we start our Home Page, do we need to be concerned about a logo or particular style that we should adopt, or can we 'do our own thing'?
3. I recall that when the Working Group was started 5-6 years ago we were asked to recruit some 15 - 20 (as I recall) active individuals to be official members of the Working Group. Is that methodology still in force and, if so, who defines the membership of the Working Group?

4. If the architecture of the Working Group mentioned in (3) above is still in place, then the listserv and Web Page are instruments of the Working Group, but those many individuals who are eventually listed might best be referred to as members of the international dental informatics community and, at least in most cases, would NOT members of the working group itself. Is that a correct interpretation?

5. What, if any, liaison should take place between the AMIA and IMIA working groups? Are there some rules, or a protocol, which I should know about? Or are the IMIA and AMIA working groups completely independent?

6. Would you mind reading through the following 'Welcoming Announcement' for the WK11 List (appended at the end of this message), and browsing the IMIAWK11 Home Page for our list (<http://www.sdm.buffalo.edu/http/IMIA/>) to see if you think they will be acceptable to anyone from 'IMIA Central' who might look in on our activities? (The WWW page has only a few of my projects listed at present and is offered only to solicit comments on its design.)

Thank you again for your assistance.

John Eisner DDS PhD
IMIA WK11 Co-chair

IMIA List-Serv Welcoming Message:

Welcome to the IMIA (dynamic) Dental Linking List. Our DLL suffix is a play on the computer term DLL (Dynamic Linking Library) which I thought fit out intentions perfectly, and can be construed to mean several appropriate concepts including Dynamic Linking List, Dental Leadership List, or Dental Linking List, whichever you prefer.

The list includes all members of the growing international community of dental informaticians, and runs in tandem with a new IMIA Working Group 11 (Dental Informatics) WWW Home Page (<http://www.sdm.buffalo.edu/http/IMIA/index.html>). The purpose of both of these new communications resources is quite simple -- to bring together the small, but growing, number of dental informaticians around the world into closer contact.

First official meeting of Working Group was August 22, 1990 in conjunction with the Medical Informatics Europe Meeting in Glasgow, Scotland. John Salley had been appointed Chair in 1989 and asked to put together a formal Working Group. Others who were at the Glasgow meeting included Lou Abbey, Tony

Kiser,
Werner Schneider, Veronica Wagner and Eric Spohn. John Salley served as chair for two more years, until 1992, and was then followed by Dr. Spohn who has served us well for the past three years.

The first involvement of Working Group 11 in an IMIA meeting was in Geneva in 1992. Five presentations on dental informatics were made at that meeting. Working Group 11 continued to expand (although not exponentially) to the level of 15 scientific presentations, demonstrations, papers, and posters at the 8th MedInfo Conference in Vancouver in July of 1995. A total of 27 persons signed up to be members of Working Group 11 at this meeting (see attached list). At this IMIA meeting, two co-chairs were elected. John Eisner will organize the working group into a broader base of membership and is creating a "Virtual Working Group" using WWW Home Page and DLL mentioned above. As co-chair, Eva Piehslinger will focus on making Dental Informatics Working Group 11 an even more visible part of MedInfo '98 in Seoul, Korea.

So who belongs to this new electronic community? For now it is certainly best to be broad in our definition. Therefore, the list will be open to anyone who submits a description of their dental informatics activities for posting to our new WWW HomePage. The HomePage itself is very simple, consisting of a list of names, by country. Each name will connect to a biosketch page with a small photograph of the individual. Each biosketch will provide a brief statement of the individual's education and informatics experience. It will also contain a list of dental informatics projects in which the individual has been or (preferably) is now engaged. On a separate page we will post the individual's description of each submitted project, with simple keywords. Projects will be cross-listed by keyword and will link back to the member's page. That's it. One list of people in dental informatics and one list of projects, cross-referenced to each other. Submitting the biosketch and projects gets you on the listserv.

So, the answer to who we are will be self-limiting. Anyone interested in dental informatics can join the list, but to stay on it more than 30 days will require the posting of a biosketch and one or more projects in which the individual is personally engaged, both of which will be added to the Working Group's Home Page. Similarly, browsing the HomePage and then submitting information to the WebMaster will also result in being added to the IMIA-DLL list.

Action Items:

To get involved in the Working Group's activities each person who reads this post should:

- a) join the list, if not already a member, by sending the message
SUBSCRIBE
IMIA-DLL to LISTSERV@UBVM.BUFFALO.EDU
- b) send a brief biosketch to the list (which will be transferred to our home page)
- c) send a brief description of one or more dental informatics projects in which you are engaged to the list, along with at least two keywords which could be used to categorize, or search for, each project.
- d) occasionally post items of interest to the international DI community
- e) respond, ad lib, to the posts of other list members

Listserv Protocol:

When starting similar lists, list managers have discovered that it helps to advise new email users of at least some aspects of listserv protocol, so here is a small sample to get us started.

1. Spelling mistakes are OK. Lists are intended to be a fast medium, or at least they should not be a burdensome one. (That's not to say you shouldn't bother to think before you write, just don't worry about a few typos.)

2. Re-read what you have posted before sending. Email can be easily mis-interpreted as there is no body language or inflection to rely on. Folks who work here have developed a number of 'emoticons' to help convey feelings. Some examples include :-) for a smile (turn your head sideways) ;-) for a wink, :- (for a frown, etc. Typing in CAPITALS is considered to be SHOUTING.

The use of these conventions often helps the discourse, particularly if you think your comments might be misconstrued.

3. Make sure you title each post clearly so the group will know the subject. When you are on more than one list and there are a high number of postings in a day, many users expect to be able to sort and either read discard mail based solely on the title.

4. If you want to send someone a private message DO NOT 'reply' to the list, as everyone will receive it. Send it as a new message to the individual's own email address.

Well, that should be enough to get us started. If anyone wants to add their

thoughts on list-serv protocol, or their assumptions about this list or the accompanying HomePage, or the above listed action items, please do so ad lib.

It is an unmoderated list, so anything you send is posted automatically, though not always instantly.

If you have trouble with any aspect of the list's technical performance, or it

you want to change an email address, send a private message to me and I'll take care of it.

John Eisner DDS PhD, Co-chair
IMIA Working Group 11 (Dental Informatics)
(John_Eisner@sdm.buffalo.edu)

Exp. : Jean-Raoul SCHERRER
Dest. : i:John_Eisner@sdm.buffalo.edu
Date : 05-07-96 17h53
Objet : IMIA Meetings - (Re: WG 11) Copenhagen, August 96

To: Drs. John Eisner & Eva Piehslinger (New Chairs : WG 11)

Dear John and Eva,

I was delighted to hear that you are both proposed as the new Chairs for IMIA WG 11 - Dental Informatics, and which will be make official during the coming IMIA Meetings in Copenhagen this August 22 - 24, 96.

Unfortunately, I do not seem to have complete contact address details for either of you and would be most obliged if you could by return, or when convenient, advise me of your latest address, tel./fax and e.mail and the best way of reaching you.

As you see John I am forwarding this mail for Eva via your address and would be most grateful if you could send it on to her.

I am back from vacation on July 30 and look forward to having some news from you by then.

With warmest best wishes,
Jean-Raoul Scherrer

Exp. : Jean-Raoul SCHERRER
Dest. : m:John_Eisner@sdm.buffalo.edu
Date : 14-08-96 19h35
Objet : J. Eisner: IIMIA Meetings - (Re: WG 11) Copenhagen, 22-24 August 96 -RETRANSMIS

Dear John,

Attached is my original e.mail which was sent early July - I have also done a resend of that mail but I realise now that it only has today's date on, so here is the original again.

As you see we were hoping that either you or Eva (or even better both) could be with us next week in Copenhagen, Denmark. My office will be faxing the last report given at Seoul. We hoped to nominate both of you in person at the next IMIA Boad and AGM.

Looking forward to your news.

With kindest regards,

John Raoul Scherrer MD