

## DENTAL INFORMATICS (IMIA WG 11)

This Working Group is being restructured  
for further information please contact:

Vice-President WGs and SIGs

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### 1. Introduction

The goal of WG 11 is to bring together dentists and other dental professionals from around the world to share information and ideas about the application of information technology to all aspects of the profession. The first objective in meeting this goal is to develop dental informatics networks to facilitate the exchange of information.

Under the recent Chairmanship of Dr. Eric Spohn, who is at the University of Kentucky, activities have included establishment of a new Listserver for WG 11 to begin to network electronically. IMIA WG 11 members may join by sending mail to [listserv@ukcc.uky.edu](mailto:listserv@ukcc.uky.edu) and enter sub [imiawg11@ukcc.uky.edu](mailto:imiawg11@ukcc.uky.edu). This will notify the Listserve manager of their wish to subscribe to the Listserver.

The purpose of Listserver is to provide a means to network for all who are interested in international contacts related to dental informatics.

The Working Group is currently being restructured and two new Chairs have been proposed (Drs. Eva PIEHSLINGER, Vienna, Austria and John EISNER, Buffalo, USA) for approval by the IMIA AGM in Copenhagen, Denmark in August 1996.

### 2. Past International Working Conferences

In March 1993, at the American Association of Dental School (AADS) meeting in Chicago, the International Dental Education Interest group meeting was organised by Dr. Paul Littleton, executive director of AADA and Ms. Alies Muskin. This meeting was to notify AADS membership of the development of an International Federation of Dental Educators in Europe (ADEE) and AADS. In addition, an agreement has been worked out between the AADS and the South American Dental Education

Association (OFFEDOUDVAL). This group was represented by Dr. Ariel Gomez, Executive Secretary from Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Dr. George Gillespie, (retired) director of the Pan American Health Organization, and Dr. David Barnes, Chief of Oral Health of the World Health Organization were in attendance and supported the development of the Federation. IMIA members, Drs. John Eisner, John Zimmerman, James Craig and Eric Spohn attended this meeting. Dr. Spohn described the activities of IMIA WG 11 and offered the University of Kentucky as a site to organize an internet/bitnet Listserver to provide networking capabilities to this new Federation.

Following the AADS the second North/South Workshop on Dental Education was conducted at the University of Indiana School of Dentistry. This workshop focused on developing cooperative efforts in dental research.

Of greater interest to IMIA members was the third North/South Workshop on Dental Education, held in April, 1994, at the University of Maryland Dental School. A meeting entitled Transmission of Information and Dental Informatics took place and was the fourth in a series of programs organised by the University of Puerto Rico School of Dentistry and sponsored by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

This program series is entitled Project of Collaboration Between North and South America in Dental Education, and is under the leadership of Dr. Fafael I. Aponte, Project Director. Proceedings from the program series may be obtained through Dr. Aponte, School of Dentistry, Medical Science Campus, University of Puerto Rico, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The World Health Organization conducted a meeting at their Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland (November 8-12, 1994) entitled Consultation on the Global Network for Oral Health Sciences Education. This meeting was organized by Dr. Errol L. Reese of the University of Maryland who was on sabbatical leave in Geneva. There were 70 participants from the six WHO regions of the world.

Twenty scientific papers and reprints were presented to the participants with time set aside for discussion for each. In addition, workshops were conducted to produce suggestions for action to be taken. Other activities discussed at this meeting were related to establishing a global network and will be ongoing. These include designing, planning,

establishing linkages, public relations and funding.

A third significant activity to international dental informatics, and following on to the above meeting, was a conference related to the CC-ODONT Project held also at WHO HQ in Geneva (November 13 and 14, 1994). The goals of this meeting were to:

- 1) Review comments on the upcoming version of the Oral Health Form and propose corresponding alterations, if necessary.
- 2) Discuss current information on Global Oral Data Bank (GODB) and discuss development of additional oral health indicators and linkages of information with Regional Oral Health Data Bank (PAHO) and how information contained in GODB will be made electronically available.

3. Future International Working Conferences/Plans  
As IMIA WG 11 is currently being restructured there were no international meetings in 1995. When the two new Chairs are officially appointed at the IMIA AGM in Copenhagen this coming August 1996, the following topics will continue to be discussed at future meetings.

1. Networking Problems and Solutions;
2. Dental Education and Informatics;
3. Dental Research and Informatics;
4. Clinical Dentistry and Informatics.

4. Proceedings and Publications (WG 11)  
No publications at the moment.

5. Other involvements and relationships  
Development of relationships with corporate entities which manufacture dental informatics equipment and applications is an important next step in the evolution of WG 11.

6. List of Members  
Can be obtained directly from Vice-President WGs and SIGs.

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