

Proposed to merge into WG10

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL WORKSTATIONS (IMIA WG 14)

Present Chair, Paul C. Carpenter, will have to stand down from the Chairmanship of this WG. This is due to increased pressure of work which was unforeseen when he accepted the Chair at the IMIA AGM in Vancouver in July 1995.

For further information please contact:

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1. Introduction

WG 14 was formed at the IMIA AGM held in Kyoto in September 1993 under the Chairmanship of John S. Silva. A meeting was held during SCAMC, November 1993 to discuss the charter, vision and goals. It was decided to use the form that was successful at the Washington DC Workstation Conference in June 1993 and the co-chairs of that conference agreed to continue in their roles. The sections of the WG include: User requirements (Bob Greenes and Morris Collen); User Interfaces (Paul Tang and Vimla Patel); Data and Knowledge Management (Jan van Bommel and Chris Chute); Processing (Patrice Degoulet and Charles Safran); and, Sharing and Communication (Helmut Orthner and Jean-Raoul Scherrer).

Today's complex medical environment places increased demand on healthcare professionals' decision-making skills. These demands are magnified by the need to evaluate decisions against an expanding biomedical knowledge base and rapid escalation of healthcare costs. On one hand, the art and science and "letters" of medicine require increasing amounts of professional time; on the other, professionals are challenged to improve healthcare quality and efficiency.

IMIA's vision is that healthcare professionals will deliver high quality healthcare and conduct research via a worldwide healthcare information infrastructure. An intelligent workstation will be an essential component for the realization of that vision and will connect professionals to national and international information superhighways. Since patient records will be created/edited in the office, the healthcare professional's workstation is required to provide fast, flexible and useful data entry for the patient record.

But this workstation must do more than just capture data. They will learn how the professional works, anticipate his/her information needs and provide context-relevant information "at their fingertips."

IMIA has recognised the need to provide a forum and a bridge for the diverse interest groups that constitute the community of researchers and implementors of advanced information technologies for health professionals.

Paul Carpenter was proposed and appointed as IMIA WG 14 Chair by the IMIA AGM, Vancouver, Canada in July 1995 but due to pressure of work, unforeseen last year, he has since resigned. The appointment of a new Chair will be discussed this coming August at the IMIA AGM in Copenhagen.

2. Past International Working Conferences

The first international working conference on Health Professional Workstations was held in Washington DC, June 1993. A total of 100 health professionals and computer scientists from 12 countries participated. Attendees submitted formal white papers or short position papers prior to the conference for five subgroups: user requirements, user interfaces, data and knowledge storing, processing, sharing (communications). Following a half-day plenary session, the attendees discussed the information infrastructure and the need for international commonalities and prepared short and long term recommendations to IMIA.

There was an overwhelming response to the working conference which was not publicized widely. The conference had numerous academic and industry participants who had no prior exposure to IMIA. This Working Group may well be a continuing source of new members for IMIA. The diverse interests coming together under this rubric may well serve to foster IMIA's role as an umbrella organization.

3. Future International Working Conferences/Plans

It is felt that the clinical workstation specification for the future is an important part of the whole of the automation of quality medical care and the initial recommendations from the first WG 14 working conference still stand. The WG 14 draft objectives have been modified as follows:

- prepare a vision statement that describes, from various user views, including that of the patient, what functions

should be supported by a workstation now and in the future;

- develop, publish and maintain a widely-available domain model of this workstation;
- reassess and promote recommendations of the 1993 working conference in national and international meetings;

The WG 14 is preparing a future working conference (1997) to take place in Holland, with the participation of Jan van Bemmel (WG 7), to update the recommendations from the Washington Conference.

WG 14 members have the intention of participating in MEDINFO 98 in Seoul, through research papers and poster sessions.

4. Proceedings and Publication (WG 14)

Ball MJ, Silva JS, Douglas JV, Degoulet P, Kaihara S.
Published proceedings of workshops in a special edition of International Journal of Bio-Medical Computing 1994;34 dedicated to Workshop. ISSN: 0020-7101.

5. Other involvements, projects and relationships

So far there has been contact between IMIA WG 7 and WG 14. The recommendation by WG 14 that WG 6 be encouraged to encompass issues of data and knowledge representation and validation was successfully accomplished in the WG 6 Working Conference program at Mont Pelerin/Vevey, Switzerland in May 1994. (Methods of Information in Medicine - Proceedings of WG 6 /1994 Meeting - Special Issue: March 1995).

6. List of Members

Can be obtained directly from Vice-President WGs and SIGs.
