

## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT & QUALITY DEVELOPMENT IN HEALTH INFORMATICS (IMIA WG 15)

Chair: Elisabeth M.S.J. van Gennip  
HISCOM Central Development and Support Group  
Hospital Information System  
Schipholweg 97, 2316 AX Leiden, The Netherlands  
Tel: +31 71 52 56730 / Fax: +31 71 52 19856  
E.mail: lvgennip@hiscom.nl  
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### 1. Introduction

WG 15 was established as a follow-up to the recommendations made at the IMIA-ISTAHC working conference in Montpellier, France in 1990. The Working Group was fully approved by the IMIA General Assembly at Kyoto, September 1993. As stated in the proposal IMIA WG 15 aims to further develop the field of technology assessment and quality development in health informatics, by:

- (i) promoting consensus development on methodological issues;
- (ii) promoting comprehensive assessment of healthcare information technologies, for instance by providing expertise;
- (iii) demonstrating the value and importance of assessment of healthcare information technologies, to healthcare decision makers, healthcare providers and developers of information technologies.

During the IMIA AGM at Vancouver, Canada in July 1995, Elisabeth van Gennip was proposed and appointed the new Chair of IMIA WG 15.

### 2. Past International Working Conferences

Earlier meetings on WG 15 issues were the joint ISTAHC-IMIA working conference in Montpellier in 1990. The conclusion of this working conference was that a Working Group (WG 15) should be established. A workshop during MEDINFO 92 in Geneva discussed the goals of a future Working Group. Working Group members participated in the workshop organized by the EU Accompanying Measure ATIM in Brussels (1993). This workshop addressed general methodological issues. During MEDINFO 95, several sessions addressed Technology assessment.

3. Future International Working Conferences/Plans  
During MIE 96, a WG 15 meeting will take place. It will be the first meeting of the Working Group. The goal of this meeting is for the Working Group members to meet and to discuss future actions. More specific, the working conference for WG 15, which is planned for 1997, will be discussed in detail. The preparations for this conference, which is organised together with IMIA WG 13 and EFMI WG 9, have already been started.

*in Safeland*

4. Proceedings and Publication (WG 15)

Flagle C, Gremy F, Perry S. eds. Assessment of Medical Informatics Technology. Joint Working Conference of IMIA, ISTAHC, ENSP. 1991 Editions ENSP, Rennes, France.

van Gennip EMSJ, Gremy F. Challenges and opportunities for technology assessment in medical informatics. Report of a MEDINFO 92 Workshop. Med Inform. 1993; 18: 179-184.

Gremy F, Degoulet P. Assessment of health information technology: which questions for which systems? Proposal for a taxonomy. Med Inform 1993. 18:185-194.

Degoulet P, Lucas L, Jaulent M-C, Jean FC, Sauquet D, Lavril M. An approach for the evaluation of software engineering environments in medicine. Med Inform 1993;18:195-208.

Van Gennip EMSJ, Bakker A. Challenges and opportunities for technology assessment in medical informatics - Case Study: PACS. Med Inform 1993; 18:209-218.

5. Other involvements, projects and relationships

Organizational implications are among the important issues to be addressed in assessment of IT in healthcare. In return, evaluation is important in addressing organizational issues, as it provides insight into reasons for possible success or failure of IT implementation. Hence, there are common interests of IMIA WG 13 (on organizational issues) and WG 15 (on evaluation issues), which are recognized by both Working Groups. A common interest provides opportunities for cooperation, enhancing the development of the field as a whole.

Moreover, WG 15 will establish a cooperation with the EU project VATAM (1996-1998). VATAM is an Accompanying Measure which aims (amongst others) to develop a methodological

framework for technology assessment of telematics applications (it is the successor of the previous EU project ATIM 1993-1995) hence, it overlaps with the goals of IMIA WG 15.

Possible future cooperation between IMIA WG 15 and WG 13 in a joint working conference in 1987 is under discussion. There is a possible future link with proposed EFMI WG 9.

6. List of Members

Can be obtained directly from the WG 15 Chair.

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R.D. Moore CAVAS