IMIA goes electronic

New Publishing Concept for the IMIA Medical Informatics Newsletter

IMIA is planning a new electronic communication concept. As part of this project the IMIA Newsletter goes electronic. Beginning with this issue the Newsletter will be printed in conventional form and will also be available as Electronic Edition on the Internet and on disk.

As data format for the Electronic Edition the Adobe™ Acrobat™ .PDF file format has been chosen. The Newsletter can be printed and viewed in the specified layout and with photos on any platform. Because data compression is used, the Newsletter file including about 10 photos in high quality is about 600KB.

To view and print the Newsletter the Adobe Acrobat™-Reader is required. The software is available free of charge for computers that use DOS, Macintosh, UNIX, and Windows operating systems. The Newsletter can be viewed and printed using any of those systems. The Acrobat™-Reader can be downloaded from http://www.adobe.com.

The Newsletter will be available on a world wide web page for downloading. This WWW-site is located at the Göttingen Medical Informatics department and can be reached via the IMIA web server (http://www.eur.nl/FGG/MI/imia/home.html, a link will be installed) as well as directly at http://www.mi.med.uni-goettingen.de/imia/index.html. At these web pages the latest Newsletters can be downloaded in .PDF format. The web site will also be a place for additional up-to-date information from the Medical Informatics world. Selected articles of the current Newsletter are directly available in HTML format.

For IMIA members and the members of the IMIA Working Groups a Newsletter mailing list will be established. The latest information on coming events and other actual information, e.g. the table of contents of an upcoming Newsletter, will be sent to the subscribers. The IMIA Newsletter office has now its own E-Mail address (imianl@med.uni-goettingen.de). Subscriptions for the mailing list and requests for information can be sent to this address. IMIA-(WG)-members will be added to the new list automatically. This list is not open to the public.

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Contact:
MIE96
c/o DIS Congress Service
Herlev Ringvej 2C
DK-2730 Herlev, Denmark
Fax: (45) 44925050

MIE 96
August 19-22, 1996

IMIA GA
August 23-24, 1996
Copenhagen, Denmark

To save travel costs and to support its regions IMIA has moved several meetings and its General Assembly to Copenhagen, so that national representatives can join also the scientific sessions of the European annual conference.

The IMIA General Assembly will be take place directly after MIE.
NEW: IMIA Working Group 16

In July of last year, a new IMIA Working Group (16) was established at the General Assembly in Vancouver. The Working Group on Standards is chaired by George J. E. de Moor, Gent, Belgium. Its main objective is to facilitate exchange of information between the different standardization bodies of different continents. A second objective is to ensure broad dissemination of and to create awareness in connection with standards. Furthermore, it will channel feedback and comments from the scientific medical community to the standard-makers. Since the scope of standardization in Medical Informatics is as broad as Medical Informatics itself, the Working Group on Standards will have a horizontal range of coverage, comparable to the WG on Education and Training in Medical Informatics, that has many links with other IMIA Working Groups. The establishment of IMIA WG 16 is to be seen as a signal to the implementors of standards, to demonstrate the willingness to cooperate at the highest level worldwide in order to obtain convergence in the standardization efforts. IMIA WG 16 could also serve as a catalyst for the possible creation of an ISO TC. The activities of IMIA WG 16 will include theme specific workshops, tutorials, internet WWW server and forum, and publications. The first meeting of the IMIA WG of Standards will be in spring 1996.

Who is Who

GEORGE J. E. DE MOOR

George de Moor was born in 1953 in Belgium. After his medical education and his postgraduate training in Clinical Pathology and in Nuclear Medicine, he received his Ph.D. in Medical Informatics at the University of Gent, Belgium. Currently, he is professor at the State University of Gent and head of the Department of Medical Informatics. He is also Medical Director of Van Helmont Hospital, Brussels. He has published several books on Medical Informatics and numerous papers in scientific journals. In his research he has been very active in European research projects under the Telematics program. Currently, he is president of the Belgian Society for Medical Informatics (MIM) and delegate for Belgium in IMIA. His most important contribution to the field is the foundation of CEN/TC 251 (European Standards Committee, Technical Committee on Medical Informatics), which he is chairing since. Furthermore, he is chairman of the recently established IMIA Working Group 16.
Great Success for MEDINFO '95

With roughly four thousand participants, MEDINFO '95 was the most successful MEDINFO since the first MEDINFO 1974 in Stockholm. The hosting Canadian organization, COACH, with all its officers, members, and its secretariat had prepared an outstanding conference and exhibition. Also, the precongress tutorials were a major success. MEDINFO '95 demonstrated that there is a clear interest in worldwide conferences on Health Informatics if they offer attractive tutorials, papers, posters, software demonstrations, and discussion platforms in conjunction with an industrial exhibition.

Chris Helyar (above), current president of COACH, and his colleagues have been personally supporting MEDINFO in Vancouver. The outstanding efforts of COACH as a hosting organization and its warm welcome to all foreign guests have given the 1995 MEDINFO a very special and personal flavor.

Steven Huesing and his family (Christina, Maureen, Elaine from left to right) together with many other colleagues organized MEDINFO '95 in a very smooth way despite the fact that the number of attendees and visitors of the exhibition outreached all expectations.

Steven Huesing and his colleagues have put together reports which will be incorporated in a document prepared by Steven Huesing, Edmonton. This document will bring together the many thousand details which are necessary to make such a big event a success. It will be transferred to Prof. Shin and the Organizing Committee of MEDINFO '98 as soon as possible to support the activities in South Korea.

In the meantime, SCAMC 1995 was used to have some informal meetings in New Orleans for the first preparatory activities for MEDINFO '98 in Seoul. The IMIA Board is now preparing the next international event in South Korea. Already now, the hotels, the conference site had been selected, and many other things for the next meeting will be specified in detail. APAMI, the Asian Pacific Region of IMIA, lead by K.C. Lun is strongly supporting these preparations.
Kathryn Hannah and her husband Rick. Kathryn has been the chair of the MEDINFO '95 Organizing Committee and the national representative for COACH during the difficult and rather short preparation phase. She very effectively linked national and international activities to support MEDINFO.

The MEDINFO '95 exhibition was the biggest of its kind in IMIA's history. At the new exhibition center not only Canadian providers but also international companies of the Health Informatics sector presented their products for the worldwide market.

During the opening ceremony, the IMIA quilt (in the back) donated by IMIA's former president, Marion Ball, was exhibited for the first time. Nobel-laureate John Kenneth Galbraith delivered the keynote address.

### MEDINFO '95 Statistics

<table>
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During the opening ceremony, the IMIA quilt (in the back) donated by IMIA's former president, Marion Ball, was exhibited for the first time. Nobel-laureate John Kenneth Galbraith delivered the keynote address.
At the meeting in Vancouver three papers had been chosen for the MEDINFO Award. Eleven candidates had been proposed by the reviewers. These three candidates had been chosen by the Scientific Program Committee for the medallions.

**Category: Excellent Research**

Astrid M. van Ginneken (right) started her study of mathematics and computer science at the Free University in Amsterdam in 1975. After her B.Sc., she went to medical school in 1978 and completed her M.D. in 1985 at the same university. Following her university education, she became a Ph.D. student at the department of Medical Informatics at the Free University in Amsterdam and later at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam. Her research was in the field of consultation and formalization of knowledge, applied to pathology. At present, Astrid is assistant professor responsible for the design and development of computer-based patient records and for the guidance of Ph.D. students.

Ankica Babic (left) received an engineering degree in technical mathematics as well as B.Sc. and M.Sc. in computer science from the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. In 1993, she received a Ph.D. in Medical Informatics from the Linkoping University, Sweden. Her master thesis dealt with problems of automatic diagnostics of ischemic heart disease. Potentials and constraints of the machine learning approaches (multivariate statistics, artificial intelligence, the rough sets) to obtain medical knowledge were explored in her doctoral dissertation. Ankica Babic is a research associate since 1985.

**Category: Young Investigator**

John Blake is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Industrial Engineering at the University of Toronto. He received a bachelor's degree in 1988 and worked in industry for several years. From 1991-1993 Blake was the coordinator of the Operating Room Scheduling Simulation Project at the University of Toronto. In 1993 Blake, along with Michael Carter, won the Canadian Operational Research Society's Prize for the simulation of emergency room in a children's hospital in Ottawa.

**MEDINFO '95 Proceedings still available**

The two Volumes of the MEDINFO '95 are still available. They can be ordered at the COACH Office.

**Contact**

COACH
Suite 216, 10458 Mayfield Road
Edmonton, Alberta, T5P 4P4
Canada
Tel: (1) 403-489-4553
Fax: (1) 403-489-3290
email: coachorg@agt.net
HELINA '96
April 15-17, 1996
Johannesburg, South Africa

HELINA, the Second International Conference on Health Informatics in Africa, will be held from April 15-17, 1996 in Johannesburg, South Africa. Again, it will be organized under the auspices of IMIA. HELINA arrangements are progressing very well, with the number of abstracts accepted exceeding by far that presented at HELINA '93.

The conference will be preceded by an Autumn School (April 12-13) and a scientific tour will follow (April 18-25).

This demonstrates that the concept of a regional conference in Africa, presenting new developments in Health Informatics and being held every three years, has been widely accepted: More than 300 people from 24 countries have expressed interest to attend.

HELINA '96 aims to continue the great success of the First International Working Conference on Health Informatics in Africa held in Ilu-Ife, Nigeria, in 1993. HELINA has proved to be an important forum for healthcare professionals, health policy makers and health care researchers.

An important aspect of HELINA is that the conference is addressing Africa as a whole. Therefore the announcement of HELINA was published in Arabic, French, Portugues and English. In Johannesburg translation into French and English will be provided.

The IMIA Board at its meeting in Korea early in 1996 decided to support HELINA directly. 20,000 Swiss Franc will be given to the organizers to support scholars from African countries to attend the conference. Some of the colleagues in Africa are planning to start an IMIA regional group.

Foundation of an IMIA Senior Officers Club

An IMIA Senior Officers Club (SOC) has been set up by Hans Peterson with support of IMIA's President. This club is meant to be a forum for all those who were in highly responsible positions such as Presidents and Vice Presidents, Honorary Fellows, Chairpersons, Program and Editorial Committees, Chairpersons of IMIA Working Groups and Special Interest Groups and who have retired from their posts. The SOC will meet on the occasion of all IMIA General Assemblies, at least once a year.

The first meeting of the SOC, being organized by Hans Peterson, is planned to be held at the GA in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Invitations are planned to be sent out in March. The SOC meetings shall create opportunities for senior colleagues who had been involved in IMIA to exchange plans and ideas with the current IMIA Board and to provide advice to younger colleagues in IMIA if this is requested.

The SOC will be an informal group without officers and fees.
COACH, the organizers of the COACH Conference 21, will provide speaking and presentation opportunities which cover the spectrum of diverse healthcare systems. Building on the experiences of MEDINFO 95, COACH has provided the opportunity for Canada's academic, scientific and research community to participate in full partnership with the "user" and commercial sectors. The conference will consist of a general program, a scientific program, and a commercial exhibition. The conference is titled "Restructuring Healthcare with I.T./I.M.: A Template for Progress." A key component to a COACH Conference is the "Informal Programme" - the opportunity to network, to become acquainted or re-acquainted with colleagues who share the same problems, concerns, challenges and perhaps solutions. Each segment of the programme will start with an expert appraisal of the current capabilities, limitations and future prospects for those enabling technologies that serve a specific major function within the healthcare system.

Contact
COACH
Suite 216, 10458 Mayfield Road
Edmonton, Alberta, T5P 4P4
Canada
Tel: (1)403-489-4553
Fax: (1)403-489-3290
email: coachorg@agt.net

The Spring Congress of the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) is designed to give participants in-depth Medical Informatics knowledge in both formal and informal meetings. The conference will explore the many informatics challenges and opportunities that flow from treating remote patients, promoting the public health of dispersed populations, and educating people at distance.

Some of the relevant topics to be examined at this Spring Congress are:
- methods of capturing information about telemedicine encounters for computer-based patient records
- systems that integrate remote information services and other decision support tools with patient care
- clinical and public health applications of the World Wide Web
- development and implementation of standards for health data transmission.

Deadlines
April 3, 1996
Preliminary program and advance registration materials mailed

Contact
AMIA
4915 St. Elmo Avenue, Suite 401
Bethesda, Maryland 20814, USA
Tel. (1)301-657-1291
Fax: (1)301-657-1296
http://amia2.amia.org

The Future of Health Information Management
April 15-19, 1996; Munich, Germany

The 12th International Health Records Congress will take place in Munich from April 15 - 19, 1996. The program focuses on the future of health information management. More than 100 people from 24 countries are expected to participate. The programme will be enhanced by poster sessions, industrial exhibition and hospital visits. The meeting is organized by the German Association of Medical Documentalists (DVMD).

Contact
Johanna Schessner; Gruber Str. 16a; D-85652 Pliening, Germany
Tel: (49) 89-9043404; Fax: (49) 89-9037316
http://www.ams.med.uni-goettingen.de/~hrexer/
The largest and most comprehensive conference on Electronic Patient Records is organized by the Medical Records Institute. It is subtitled “Shaping the World of Electronic Records”.

Starting with preconference activities on May 11, 1996, a workshop will describe the implementation of longitudinal electronic ambulatory records. The high point of the conference will be “Vision of the Future” on May 13, 1996, an attempt to peek medicine as it might be practiced in the year 2010. The rest of the sessions will explore the limited capabilities of today, but more importantly, the program will address what can be done and what needs to be done to prepare for the future.

On May 14, 1996, the doors will open for the keynote sessions of the main conference. A rich program that addresses all key issues of electronic patient record systems will be presented by the faculty of more than 300 experts.

Contact
Medical Records Institute
567 Walnut Street, P.O. Box 289
Newton, MA 02160, USA
Tel. (1) 617-964 3923
Fax. (1) 617-964 3926
Email: cust_service@medrecinst.com
http://www.medrecinst.com

IFIP SEC 96 aims to provide a forum for presentations, discussion and criticisms on all aspects of information security, for new problems and new solutions, with a view to identifying and meeting the security requirements of the information society of the 21st century.

The last decade has witnessed an explosion of interest in the field of information security. Interest is expressed by commercial enterprises, government agencies, and academic/research institutions. This is largely due to the growing risks that information and communication systems face with the advent of technology.

The conference will comprise invited keynote lectures, refereed papers, student research papers, and presentations of the results of European Union sponsored projects in information security, within the framework of programs such as INFOSEC, RACE, ESPRIT, AIM, TEDIS, etc.

Contact
KYROS
77 Kountouriott St.
Athens, 12242, Greece
Email: sec96@aegean.ariadne-t.gr

Developments in tools based on information technologies are assumed to have a fundamental impact on medicine. In conjunction with other changes in the management of healthcare, these developments will lead to a breakdown of traditional boundaries between primary, secondary and tertiary care. New infrastructures in healthcare will therefore evolve. CAR (Computer Assisted Radiology) is concerned with these changes in clinical care induced through modern enabling technologies. Its aim is to encourage their employment for the benefit of those who provide or are in need of healthcare.

The program of CAR ’96 will focus on the applications of computer and communication systems in medical imaging for the support of diagnostic and therapeutic activities. Of particular relevance are clinical aspects of digital imaging in the field of neurology, cardiovascular radiology, orthopedics, pediatrics, mammography, oncology, and general diagnostic radiology.

A special workshop will deal with Computer Assisted Orthopedic Surgery (CADS).

Contact
Franziska Schweikerl
Im Gut 11
D-79790 Kuesssberg, Germany
Tel: (49) 7742-7746
Fax: (49) 7742-4391
The 6th International Conference on System Science in Health Care (SSHC) will endeavor to promote all aspects of system science in healthcare with the main focus being on the evaluation of the positive and negative experiences in the ongoing processes of reform.

Major topics of the conference are:
- Health systems reforms related to coverage and financing
- Challenge faced by Central and Eastern European countries
- Health systems reforms related to delivery and management
- The role of international agencies and consultancies in developed and developing health systems
- The role and scope for state intervention in an increasingly global pharmaceutical market.

Deadline
March 1996
Submission of abstract

Contact
Conference Secretariat SSHC '96
Institut de Salut Pública
Campus de Bellvitge
Universitat de Barcelona
Ctra. de la Feixa Llarga, s/n.
08907 L'HOSPITALET, Spain
Tel: (34) 3-263-3388
Fax: (34) 3-263-3394

Following Atlanta 1990, Chapel Hill 1992, and Rochester 1994, the University of Hamburg hosts the 4th International Conference on Visualization in Biomedical Computing (VBC).

The focus of the conference includes:
- Methods of image processing
- Image analysis
- Computer graphics
- Virtual Reality and spatial knowledge modeling
- Applications for visualization in diagnosis, therapy, surgery, education, and research.

Deadlines
April 1, 1996
Notification of acceptance
June 15, 1996
Submission of full papers

Contact
Institute of Mathematics and Computer Science in Medicine (IMDM)
University of Hamburg,
Martinistr. 52
20246 Hamburg, Germany
Tel.: (49) 40-4717-3652
Fax: (49) 40-4717-4882
email: vbc96@uke.uni-hamburg.de
http://www.uni-hamburg.de/~medizin/vbc96

The theme of the Twentieth Annual Symposium (formerly SCAMC) will be "Beyond the Superhighway: Exploiting the Internet with Medical Informatics."

With the meteoric rise of the Internet in popular culture, there has been a remarkable proliferation of on-line resources relevant to healthcare. Practitioners, educators, and researchers do not have the time for independent, random "net-surfing." They need help in finding reliable, usable, high-quality resources.

As always, the subject matter of the Symposium will cover the broad field of Medical Informatics. While the Program Committee is particularly interested in presentations relevant to this year's theme, submissions from all areas of the field are accepted.

The meeting will include a wide range of offerings, including plenary talks, scientific paper presentations, demonstrations, poster presentations, panel discussions and tutorials.

The meeting is sponsored by the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Contact
AMIA
4915 St. Elmo Avenue, Suite 401
Bethesda, Maryland 20814, USA
Tel. (1) 301-657-1291
Fax: (1) 301-657-1296
email: mail@amia2.amia.org
http://amia2.amia.org
Coming Events

Teleteaching 96: Practising What We Preach
Mobile Communications
Advanced IT Tools

IFIP World Conference 1996
September 2-6, 1996; Canberra, Australia

The 14th World Computer Congress - IFIP 96 - will take place in Canberra, Australia. There will be three conferences making up the World Computer Congress: Teleteaching 96, Mobile Communications, and Advanced IT Tools. The conference will share a common venue, technical exhibition, social events and opening and closing ceremonies. Delegates to each conference will be able to break out the specialised program of their own conference and take part in the activities of the other two. The Congress also features some workshops to be held in Sydney and Melbourne on the Friday and Saturday immediately preceding the Congress. Again, these events give the opportunity to interact with some of the leading practitioners in the world on a range of leading-edge topics.

Teleteaching 96

Teleteaching refers to the use of computers and communications technologies in teaching and learning. The conference will address the use of these technologies across all sectors of education including elementary, secondary, and university as well as the community and industry. It will have particular relevance for those involved in open learning and distance education.

Instead of traditional paper presentations and keynotes, Teleteaching 96 will run as half-day interactive events such as projects, forums and debates with well-known, controversial experts participating via the use of the technologies that they promote.

Mobile Communications

The conference on mobile communications has two main topics: Mobile technology: tools and applications; and Trusting in technology: authentication; security.

Topics will be:
- Architecture of information systems consisting of mobile clients and stationary servers
- Methods and algorithms for information access and information flow in distributed, mobile systems
- Networking issues and protocols for mobile data communications
- Exchange, synchronization and presentation of multimedia data.

Advanced IT Tools

This part of the Congress is focused on new applications based on the latest IT developments in multimedia, information highways and intelligent systems. Throughout the world, information technologies are generating a new industrial revolution and are providing huge new capacities to human intelligence. This constitutes a resource which changes the way we work together and the way we live together. This large area of new technologies and new applications will be presented in three tracks:
- Innovative Applications in the Public Sector
- Innovative Applications on the Horizon
- Intelligent Systems.

Contact
IFIP 96 Congress Secretariat
Australian Convention and Travel Services Pty Ltd
GPO Box 2200
Canberra ACT 260, Australia
Tel:(61)-6-257-3299
Fax:(61)-6-257-3256
email: ifip96@acs.org.au
ITCH is a conference addressing information technology issues in community health. ITCH 96 will provide an excellent forum for health professionals, physicians, and information and computer system experts to present and exchange ideas and research in the general area of information technology for community health.

Prospective contributors to the ITCH 96 conference are invited to address topics related, but not limited, to the following areas: Community Health Information Systems, Medical Practices and Medical Clinics, Decision Support Systems, Community Health Planning, Health Policy, Internet/World Wide Web, Appropriate Technology, Expert Systems, Telehealth/Health Data Networks, Technology Assessment.

Deadline
March 1, 1996
Submission of abstracts

Contact
ITCH 96, c/o Conference Management, Division of Continuing Studies, University of Victoria, PO Box 3030 MS 8541, Victoria, BC, Canada V8W 3N6
Tel.: (1)604-721-8470
Fax: (1)604-721-8774
email: ITCH@HSD.UVIC.CA
http://www.hsd.uvic.ca/HIS/ITCH/ITCH.html
IMIA-NEWSLETTER/Vol 20.1

The congress organized by the Northern Nurses Federation will provide a global forum for the exchange of ideas, experiences and research in Nursing Informatics. The congress is offered under the auspices of the IMIA Special Interest Group on Nursing Informatics and will be hosted by the Swedish Nurses’ Association and the Swedish Association of Health Officers.

The subject of the congress “The Impact of Nursing Knowledge on Health Care Informatics” stresses the importance of - with the technological solutions within reach - a major input of nursing knowledge. The integration of practical nursing and theoretical nursing is an appealing challenge in health care informatics.

Main topics of the congress are: Identification of new approaches to information and technology needs of nurses and the multidisciplinary team; designing, implementing, and evaluating health and nursing care systems; and using informatics in education and research.

Interested persons are invited to submit papers dealing with the above topics. Graduate nursing students are encouraged to submit abstracts for posters expressing original ideas and reasonably complete research or development efforts in Nursing Informatics for the graduate student poster competition.

The congress will start with a pre-session day with tutorial sessions on clinical, educational, administrative, and research matters. Scientific visits to hospitals and health centers are planned. During the congress, there will be an array of keynote speeches, parallel paper sessions, poster sessions, workshops, panels, scientific demonstrations, and meetings with experts which will provide excellent opportunities to exchange thoughts and discover new information.

Deadline
August 31, 1996
Submission of Papers

Contact
NI'97
c/o Stockholm Convention Bureau
PO Box 6911
S-10239 Stockholm, SWEDEN
Tel.: (46) 8-736-1500
Fax: (46) 8-34-8441
email: stocon@stocon.postnet.se
Under the chairmanship of Prof. Chang-Soon Koh (photo) several preparatory meetings took place in Seoul, South Korea during the last week of January 1996. Prof. Youngsoo Shin had prepared a sequence of events which allowed the chairs of the Organizing Committee, the Scientific Program Committee, the Editorial Committee and the IMIA Board to understand the cultural environment of MEDINFO '98. The preparation of the conference has started already. It is expected that the exhibition will become a major event again. It will be organized by Mrs. Kim, who attended the IMIA-GA at Dresden in 1994. The Board experienced that travelling to Korea is affordable with cheap flights. Furthermore the Organizing Committee has booked reasonably priced rooms for younger professionals.

Contact
Covan Corporation; c/o Seoul Nat. University College of Medicine
Fax: (28) 2-7649580
email: kyong153@chollian.dacom.co.kr

Francis Timothy de Dombal

Tim de Dombal (as he was to all who knew him), Professor of Medical Informatics Science, died suddenly on December 31, 1995.
Born in 1937, he graduated from Cambridge in 1958 and joined the Professorial Surgical Unit at the General Infirmary, Leeds in 1963. Director of the Clinical Information Science Unit at the University of Leeds, he went on to achieve worldwide recognition for his work in Medical Informatics, especially in the field of diagnosis of acute abdominal pain. He will be greatly missed by all Medical Informatics Specialists around the world.

Links between Europe and Latin America

Argentina has become very active in the Health Informatics field. Lately Hans Peterson (sec. from left) and Ulla Gerdin (right) from Sweden had fruitful discussions with Nora Oliveri (left) from the Foundation of Health Informatics in Buenos Aires and Valery Yacubson representing the Argentinian Computer Society and being father of IMIA-LAC. Several countries in Latin America are building up National Health Informatics Societies. The Foundation in Argentina has also established project links to R+D activities in the European Union.