

Report to IMIA General Assembly 1998

Agenda topic 10: Professional Associations

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF HEALTH RECORDS ORGANIZATIONS (IFHRO)
FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSOCIATIONS DU DOSSIER DE SANTE

Secretariat and/or elected officers:

Secretary-Treasurer:

Mr Philip Roxborough, 2/365 Richardson Road, Mount Roskill, Auckland 4, New Zealand
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President:

Ms Vicki Tichbourne, 303-2709 Victoria Drive, Vancouver (British Columbia), Canada V5N 5T6

Founded: 1968 at Fifth International Congress in Sweden.

Objectives/aims/principles:

Provide a means of communication between persons working in the field of health records in the various countries of the world; advance the standards of health records in hospitals, dispensaries, other health and medical institutions; promote and/or develop techniques for efficient use of health records for patient care, statistics, research, teaching, and to disseminate these among member organizations; provide means for the exchange of information on education requirements and training programmes for health records in all countries.

Structure and policy:

Governing body(ies): Grand Council elects an Executive comprising a President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer and 2 Councillors. Subcommittees on education, finance and publications

Staff: -

Language(s): English

Finance: Member societies' subscriptions; donations

Budget: US\$ 25 000

Membership: National societies in 19 countries, plus associate (individual) members

Relations with other organizations:

Intergovernmental/governmental: UN-ECOSOC

Nongovernmental: -

Activities:

International congresses, 11 up to 1992 (Vancouver, Canada), are held every 4 years are open to non-members as well as members of IFHRO. They are multidisciplinary and aimed at exchanging views on health records and information systems. The congresses cross professional and national boundaries and involve providers, keepers and recipients of patient-derived data. The next will be in Munich, 1996, the theme is "The Future of Health Information Management.

Publications: Newsletter International Health Records, proceedings of congresses.

Joint collaboration:

Admitted into official relations with WHO in 1979.

Collaboration relates to identifying techniques for the effective management of health record systems and methods of classification. Workshops for teachers of health or medical record science,

development of simple record systems for primary health care, development of learning packages, study of patient-held records, are the main collaborative activities with WHO headquarters and regional offices. The expertise of IFHRO in matters of classifications for comparing data on diseases and other health problems continues to be important, and inputs have been made to the International Classification of Diseases, 10th revision.

WHO focal point(s):

Dr H.R. Hapsara, Health Situation and Trend Assessment

Collaboration with WHO programme(s):