

IMIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING, August 1998, Seoul

PRESENT: Present 27 delegates either in person or by proxy. The signed list of delegates is held as part of this record by the secretary.

1. OPENING

1.1. Welcome by the President of IMIA

Welcomed all delegates and opened the GA.

1.2. Welcome by the Korean hosts

Professor Koh outlined scientific programmes available in Medinfo 1998 for the improvement of health. He wished to help to build a healthy world by sharing information with other colleagues in the world. He suggested to members to see Korea's long cultural heritage through visits to buildings and palaces which can be seen in Seoul. He wished the conference well. Otto Rienhoff thanked Professor Koh for his introduction and said that the Koreans can be proud of the strong Medical Informatic Society in Korea and its achievements in a very difficult economic situation.

1.3. Approval of Agenda

Otto Rienhoff asked for changes. None offered. Otto Rienhoff; Proposed, Ian Symonds; seconded, Approved

1.4. Obituaries

Otto Rienhoff asked for 1 minute's silence for: Professor Dr. Stellan Bengtson, Professor of Biochemistry, University of Uppsala and Professor Dr. Ramon Boom, of Mexico.

2. CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS B OPENING REPORTS

2.1. The IMIA President's Report

Otto Rienhoff reported on the development of the structure of IMIA over the last 3 years. He raised the problem of workloads in universities which is preventing attendance at conferences and meetings.

Otto Rienhoff thanked Steve Huesing for his contribution as the first Executive Director during the first year of operation.

Future development BOtto Rienhoff elaborated on the work problems of Takashi Takahashi and the need to elect a new V.President.

World Health Exhibition 2000 in Hannover. He outlined a description of global problems and how they can be dealt with. One theme Health. IMIA to try for a summer school at this exhibition. Planning underway.

Telemedicine & Telematics in health care. WHO is moving in this direction. Important IMIA move in the same direction.

Thanks to Thomas Kleinoeder and other staff for their support, and stated that Jan van Bommel can be supported in the next 3 years, during his term as President.

2.2. The report of the President Elect

Jan Van Bommel outlined future plans for IMIA to grow further into a professional society and to build bridges to the outside world. Hannover is an ideal time for IMIA to mark the millenium.

It is also a time to further combine forces and experiences of the elder statesmen (Honorary Fellows) with the new generation of IMIA.

3. **SPECIAL INTEREST AND WORKING GROUPS**

SIG Vice President for SIGs/WGs B Takahashi

3.1. **WG-1 Health and Medical Informatics Education - Haux**

Reinhold Haux expanded on his report (Page 14)

He reported on the WG website and distributed a document describing its use.

He outlined the process whereby recommendations from WG1 would come to the Board by next year for approval by the GA.

3.2. **WG-4 Data Protection in Health Informatics B Bakker**

First WG meeting outside Europe held in Japan 1997

Future plans for this group will be discussed during the conference and he is looking for participation from countries outside of Europe.

Delegates, Evelyn Hovenga, Australia and Diarmuid UaConaill, Ireland raised the matter of ethical guidelines, around the world. Other members of the GA also reported.

3.3. **WG-5 Primary Health Care Informatics B Hayes**

A small Working conference was held in Nashville in 1997. He is looking for additional members of the WG

3.4. **WG-6 Coding and Classification of Health Data B Chute**

A busy year for this WG. The group has been very active in the ISO Advisory Committee.

He made the point that the membership of WG=s was rather informal.

3.5. **WG-7 Biomedical Pattern Interpretation B van Bommel**

Decided that the chair will be changed.

3.6. **WG-9 Informatics for Development B Oliveri**

3 workshops held in 1997 B See (Page 34)

Future projects were outlined

Opportunity to link with African country raised as a possibility

3.7. **WG-10 Hospital Information Systems B Clayton**

Report delivered by Jean-Raoul Scherrer. See (Pages 35-36)

A new committee structure is to be instituted under the directorship of the PPWG

3.8. WG-11 Dental Informatics B Piehslinger/Eisner

No report

3.9. WG-13 Organisational Impact of Medical Informatics B Lorenzi

Joint meeting with WG15 in Helsinki earlier this year.

Looking at possible combination of a combined WG also. Looking to reconceptualisation of the area.

3.10. WG-15 Technology Assessment and Quality Development in

Health Informatics B Van Gennip

No additional report

3.11. WG-16 Standards in Health Care Informatics B de Moor

No additional report

3.12. WG-17 Computerised Patient Records B van der Lei

Jan Van Bommel reported on behalf of the group.

3.13. WG-18 Telematics in Health B Degoulet

Workshop to be held August 21 during Medinfo.

3

3.14. SIG Nursing Informatics B Hovenga

Otto Rienhoff apologised to WG that this report was not published as it was received on time. The next international conference will be held in the year 2000 in Auckland New Zealand.

Two groups have been set up, one on nursing standards and another on education. Additionally several specialist sub-groups were being set up.

3.15. WG The Mental Health Proposal

Jean-Raoul Scherrer presented this proposal to the GA

The Board suggested to the GA that the proposal needed more clarification and that this be resubmitted to the GA next year.

4. REGIONAL GROUP ACTIVITIES

4.1. APAMI B Cesnick

KC Lun reported on behalf of B.Cesnick. Next conference to be held in Hong Kong, People's Republic of China. PC Wong addressed the meeting and invited members to attend the meeting in October 2000. He also mentioned the Telemedicine meeting workshop later this year. He thanked Health Informatics Society of Australia for their support of 1997 APAMI meeting and its success.

4.2. EFMI B Scherrer

Jean-Raoul Scherrer reported that EFMI has been successfully active in 1997. A selection of the best papers from the conference in 1997 will be published. Jean-Raoul Scherrer highlighted various parts of the report. (See Pages 46-48)

4.3. IMIA-LAC B Espinosa

Valerio Yacubsohn presented a report on behalf of Espinosa, especially the possibility of an IMIA-LAC meeting in Brazil in March 1999.

4.4. Helina/African Regional Group B Isaacs

SI expanded on his report (See Page 49)

He outlined the difficulties in regard to communication within the African subcontinent, and the continued search for a country willing to host the next Helina conference.

5. SERVICES

5.1. Vice-President for Services B McCray

Alex McCray reported that of 14 WGs 12 had had workshops and 9 of these had published their proceedings and this was additional to the yearbook. The title of the 1999 yearbook is to be *The promise of Medical Informatics*. She spoke on her idea of a closer relationship between the publications of IMIA and AMIA.

The problem of costs of shipping the yearbook was also raised.

5.2. IMIA Yearbook B v. Bemmell

A copy of the yearbook will be available during the conference to all GA representatives. These copies are generously provided without charge.

5.3. IMIA Newsletter B Rienhoff

Otto Rienhoff reported that he would continue two copies of the newsletter each year.

5.4. IMIA Electronic Services B Kleinoeder

Thomas Kleinoeder brought the GA up to date with improvements that had been made to the website including a multi-mailing service that was available to associated countries and members. All members are invited to try the new site when they return home.

In answer to a question from the floor Rienhoff replied that the total membership of IMIA represented by the member societies is approximately 20,000.

5.5. Other Publications B relations with publishing houses B McCray

Already dealt with

6. MEMBERSHIP - Vice-President for Membership B Roberts

6.1. National Membership

Membership of Uruguay is now in order and this will progress. An approach has been received from Sri Lanka and discussions are in progress with Russia A National census proposed to increase knowledge of membership. Ricardo Macertini was welcomed as the delegate from Italy.

The question of the inclusion of Greece as a member was not yet complete.

6.2. Institutional Membership Corporate Membership Academic/Research of

Health Institutional Membership

7. MEDINFO -Vice-President for MedInfo B Lun

7.1. Medinfo 1998 B Lun/Cho

KC. Lun reported on the effect of the Asian economic crisis on attendance at this Medinfo, however, the organisation and results of the Korean committee were praised.

The proceedings have been produced in hardcopy and electronic form. Professor Koh reported on behalf of the organising committee. Because of the economic situation the organising committee was forced to downgrade its budget. Thanks were extended on behalf of the committee to the scientific organising committee.

Taiwoo Yoo thanked Professor Koh and Professor Cho for their role in bringing this Medinfo to Korea and the successful organising of the conference.

He reported that at today there were 1135 participants from 37 countries. This number was expected to go to 1500 by the beginning of the conference. The first lady of Korea, He Ho Lee, will be in attendance for the opening ceremony.

The participant=s list is only on the CD Rom.

Charles Safran thanked the Korean hosts and commented on the high quality of the scientific papers being presented from 47 countries. Patrice also spoke in support of the quality of the papers.

Otto Rienhoff extended his personal thanks to the Koreans.

7.2. Medinfo 2001 B Roberts

Jean Roberts expanded on her report (Page 62) and showed the logo.

Registration of interest cards presented for anyone interested.

Invited members to approach the stand for further information

7.3. Nominees for chairs of scientific communities for 2001 Medinfo B Lun

SPC Co-chairs Arie Hasman B the Netherlands, Hiroshi Takeda B Japan

EC Chair Vimla Patel Canada

IMIA BUSINESS 2.30pm B 6.00pm

8. THE SECRETARY=S AND THE TREASURER=S REPORTS

8.1. The Secretary=s Report B Symonds

Expanded on the report (Page 63)

8.1.1. Proxies and apologies presented

Apologies: None received
3 substitutes and 3 proxies

8.1.2. Participants called up and voting cards handed out

This was done

8.1.3. Minutes from the IMIA General Assembly 1997 presented for approval

Proposed Otto Rienhoff; Seconded Ian Symonds; Minutes approved unanimously by the GA

8.2. The Treasurer=s Report B Tresling

8.2.1. Financial Report for 1997

The treasurer spoke briefly to his report.

8.2.2. Budget for 1998/99 presented for approval

An Income of CHF18000 and CHF68400 has been allowed for Medinfo 89 and 98 in the1998 budget.

Other incomes normal for a Medinfo year.

Expenditures within normal limits.

Moved by Otto Rienhoff that the Treasurer=s report be accepted; Seconded Marion Ball; Approved unanimously Otto Rienhoff moved that Proposed Woods & Company of Alberta, Canada, be appointed auditors for 96/97/98. Seconded; Ab Bakker; 1 abstention; Approved Otto Rienhoff moved that an Audit committee be formed, Chair Ab Bakker; Professor Kaihara; Professor Petersen; Seconded Jean-Raoul Scherrer; 1 abstention; Approved.

9. THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Steve Huesing reported on the work that gone on in the background in regards the revamp of the Treasury function.

The by-laws update was also a major task of this past year; this is reflected in the next report on constitutional issues.

The President thanked Steve Huesing for his contribution and his future active involvement.

10. IMIA CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

10.1. Report, Vice-President for Special Activities, Standing Orders,

Report and Decision B Bakker

The V. President outlined the reasons for and the work that had gone into writing down these official procedures. He presented the whole document (Page 71-94) to the GA together and reported on minor modifications to that report.

It was suggested that the length of Medinfo proceedings be not less than 1400 and not the 1200 suggested. It was agreed that 1200 would be the guideline.

Ab Bakker moved to approve the standard operating procedures; Seconded Marion Ball. Approved unanimously.

10.2. Nominations- Marion Ball

Marion expanded on her report (Page 95) and outlined the reasons for changes to those already suggested.

Two positions were therefore suggested for a vote. The President moved General Assembly agrees with the procedure which deviates from Standing Orders; Seconded Evelyn Hovenga; Approved unanimously.

Marion Ball moved Ulla Gerdin Petersen for Treasurer for the years 1998-2001; Seconded John Tresling; Approved unanimously. The President thanked John Tresling for his work over the last three years.

Marion Ball moved Nancy Lorenzi for V. President SIG/WG for the remainder of Takashi Takahashi=s term, plus the next three years 1999 - 2002;

Seconded Reinhold Haux; Approved unanimously. Nominations Committee - a vacancy is required for a position on this committee. The President moved that Beatriz de F. Leao, Brazil; Seconded Jana Zvarova Approved unanimously.

10.3. IMIA Web Site, Report and decision

Already dealt with.

10.4. Executive Director, Nomination and decision

The Secretary outlined to the GA the present state of tenders and the reasons why no nominee was available at this time. The Secretary moved that the GA approve an extension of the time allowed for presentation of tenders until the end of September. He also asked that the final decision be taken by the full Board of IMIA so that the Secretariat for the next three years will be in place by the end of this year.

Moved Otto Rienhoff Seconded Ian Symonds Approved unanimously.

10.5. Election of IMIA Honorary Fellows

Two individuals Professor Roger Salamon and Mr Barry Barber

Moved Otto Rienhoff Seconded Marion Ball Approved unanimously

11. PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Brian Shorter reported ongoing discussions between IMIA and the International health records association that may be of mutual benefit. Otto Rienhoff moved that the IMIA Board take active steps to negotiate with appropriate bodies to form a closer working relationship. Seconded Jean Roberts; Approved unanimously.

12. SPECIAL INTEREST AND WORKING GROUPS

12.1.1. Vote on new Working Conferences

It was noted that all working groups that required IMIA funding or the use of the IMIA name or logo needed to be approved by the Board or GA Workshops activities Included were PEP=99 Brasil 27th March 4th International Conference on the Medical Aspects of Telemedicine and three others. Moved Otto Rienhoff; Seconded Jan Van Bommel; Approved unanimously Jean Roberts raised the use of the logo, and a policy will have to be established by the council.

12.1.2. Vote on new WG Chairpersons

That Reinhold Haux be the chairperson of WG 1 Education and Training
Moved Otto Rienhoff; Secretary Marion Ball; Approved unanimously

13. REGIONAL GROUP ACTIVITIES

No decisions from the groups

14. MEMBERSHIP

14.1. Vote on new members

The matter of New Zealand=s covering membership was raised and the National Representative undertook to provide to Jean Roberts a letter and supporting documentation to cover this change prior to the 1999 GA so that the matter could be formally approved.

14.2. Vote on SPC and EC chairs for Medinfo 2001

Vimla Patel for EC chair Arie Hasmann and Hiroshi Takeda as SPC chair.
Moved Otto Rienhoff Seconded Jean Roberts Approved unanimously

15. OUTSTANDING ISSUES

No outstanding issues.

The meeting closed at 5.30pm

For and on behalf of the General Assembly I.H. Symonds, Secretary, IMIA

Judy Pound, Secretary

