Item 11 - REPORT OF THE VP FOR SERVICES - Alexa T. McCray

IMIA PUBLICATIONS

MEDINFO

MedInfo '98: The 9th World Congress on Medical Informatics. Editors: B. Cesnik (Australia), A.T. McCray (USA), J.R. Scherrer (Switzerland), 2 vols., 1389 pages. Amsterdam: IOS Press, 1998.

The 9th World Congress on Medical Informatics was held in Seoul, Korea in August 1998. The proceedings of the conference were published by IOS Press and contain several hundred scientific papers and posters in seventeen major areas, including the electronic patient record, hospital information systems, image processing, telemedicine, bioinformatics, knowledge representation, information retrieval, education, and ethical and societal issues.

The next MedInfo, MedInfo 2001, will be held in London, England.

IMIA Yearbook

Beginning with the year 2001 Yearbook, the new editors of the IMIA Yearbook will be Reinhold Haux (Germany) and Casimir Kulikowski (USA). The founding editors of the Yearbook, Jan van Bemmel and Alexa McCray will form a Yearbook Advisory Board, together with former IMIA President, Marion Ball. The Advisory Board and the new editors will have a planning meeting in Washington, DC in November 1999 just before the IMIA Board and General Assembly meeting.

The year 2000 Yearbook is well underway and is expected to appear as follows: *Yearbook of Medical Informatics '00: Patient-Centered Systems*. Editors: J.H. van Bemmel (Netherlands) and A.T. McCray (USA), Stuttgart: Schattauer Verlag. To appear February 2000.

Yearbook of Medical Informatics '99: The Promise of Medical Informatics. Editors: J.H. van Bemmel (Netherlands) and A.T. McCray (USA), 530 pages. Stuttgart: Schattauer Verlag, 1999.

The 1999 Yearbook was published early in 1999, rather than the usual August publication date. The Yearbook editorial staff worked hard to make this happen in order to accommodate the requests of several IMIA member societies who wanted to distribute the Yearbook at their annual conferences which take place early in the year. Beginning with the 1999 edition, the Yearbook will appear in February of each year.

The focus of the 1999 Yearbook is the "Promise of Medical Informatics". The question the editors wanted to address was, what were the early accomplishments in health and medical informatics and have they had an impact on subsequent developments in the field? Seventeen important papers were chosen and experts in the field were asked to write commentaries on

the papers. The editors asked those writing the commentaries to address several questions. What were the early expectations and what was the outcome? What is to be expected for the future? In what way and to what extent can health care benefit from the accomplishments of medical and health informatics? The papers can be grouped into four main categories of research: electronic patient records, clinical support systems, decision-support systems, and ethical and philosophical aspects. The 17 papers and their commentaries together with three regional commentaries, covering medical informatics developments in Europe, Asia, and the USA, form a representative cross-section of developments in medical and health informatics.

As usual, papers were also selected from the refereed literature, published during the previous year, by a process in which for each paper at least three international reviewers were requested to rank the paper. Seven guest editors wrote synopses of the selected papers included in the Yearbook and about 30 referees assisted in the selection of the papers. Because of the inclusion of the "Promise" papers and commentaries, the usual descriptions of Research and Education programs in medical and health informatics were not included.

The 1999 Yearbook again contains extensive information about IMIA, its Member Societies and its Working Groups. A full list of Presidents, Secretaries and IMIA Representatives of IMIA Member Societies and their addresses is included.

IMIA's ELECTRONIC SERVICES

IMIA's official Web site is "http://www.imia.org". The Web service has been created and is currently being maintained by Thomas Kleinoeder at Goettingen University in Germany. IMIA Web pages give general information about IMIA, including IMIA's goals, its membership structure, and information about IMIA's current leaders. The list of coming events is continuously updated and members are encouraged to send e-mail to the IMIA Webmaster of any upcoming events they would like to have included on the list. Links are made to IMIA member societies and regional groups, IMIA working and special interest groups, and links to other medical informatics resources.

Member societies and regional groups are encouraged to develop their own Web sites and to inform the IMIA Webmaster so that their sites can be linked to from the main IMIA site. This will enhance both IMIA's services as well as inform potential members about each local society. Working groups, too, should develop Web sites if they have not already done so, and then also inform IMIA.

See also the report by the President on the future of IMIA's electronic services.

PUBLISHERS

IOS press published the MedInfo '99 proceedings in book and CD-ROM form. Dr. Einar Fredriksson of IOS press met with the VP for Services late in 1998 and proposed an activity that would involve digitizing medical informatics articles of the past twenty-five years, resulting in a full electronic archive of medical informatics publications. This activity would require an editor from the medical informatics community who would take responsibility for identifying the relevant publications and would proceed in collaboration with IOS Press.