



Michael Riley, President

**GUESTS:**

Gunther Eysenbach, Board of SIM    Patricia F. Brennan (President Elect AMIA)  
Rosa Scholte (Secretary JVB)        Judy Pound (Secretary IHS)  
Joan Edgecumbe HISA                  Rolf Englebrecht MIE 2000  
Leo Vollebregdt, HISCOM

**REGRETS:**

Brian Shorter Canada, Jana Zvarova Czech Republic, Nola Oliveri Argentina, Glyn Hayes United Kingdom, Sedak Isaacs African Region.

**1. Opening**

**1.1. Welcome**

JVB opened the meeting welcoming all. Patricia Brennan outlined aims and objectives for AMIA during the next two years.

1.2. **Approval of the Agenda** - Approved

**1.3. Approval of Minutes of GA meeting, August 16, 1998, Seoul, Korea**

*Moved RH                                  Seconded UG                                  Approved*

**2. Approval and Introduction of New Members**

**2.1. National members**

The following members gave presentations on behalf of the societies in their countries:

**Philippines** – Alvin B. Marcello of the Philippine Medical Informatics Association

Proposed that the Philippines be accepted as an observer

*Moved Branko Cesnik                                  Seconded KC Lun                                  Approved*

**Uruguay** – Alvaro Margolis of Sociedad Uruguaya de Information en la Salud

The proposal was that Uruguay be a voting member

*Moved Beatriz Faria Leao, Brazil                  Seconded Otto Rienhoff                  Approved*

**2.2. Institutional members**

The following institutional members gave presentations on behalf of their companies:

Wolters Kluwer International Healthcare Publishing – Herman Pabbruwe CEO

First Consulting Group - Peter Ramsaroop

McGraw-Hill (Healthcare Informatics) – Lisa Stammer

IBM – Doug O'Boyle

Ormed Information Systems – Chris Sherback, President & CEO

Hiscom - Leo Vollebregt

Sequoia Software – not able to be here

Schattauer Verlag – not able to be here

The proposal was that the above organisations be accepted as institutional members

*Moved Branko Cesnik                                  Seconded KC Lun*

*Approved unanimously with presentation of plaques to each representative present.*

**3. President's Report**

The President presented his report and re-enforced the five points he made on his election in Seoul. He expanded on the building of bridges both within professional groups and between developed and under-developed countries.

- Strengthen IMIA as a professional organisation.
- Build bridges to other organisation.
- Tap the experience of former officers and honorary members.
- Make IMIA more visible to the outside world.
- Make MEDINFOs still better and MEDINFO 2001 the largest ever.

#### **4. Past President's Report**

OR reported that the Koreans, through the efforts of Taiwoo Yoo had produced a full document on the organisation and operation of MEDINFO in Korea.

#### **5. Vice-President – Working Groups and SIGs - Status Report**

##### **5.1. Approval of Proposal**

NL reported that IMIA has 14 WGs and outlined the background of the report. The three areas highlighted by WGs were:

- to attract experts in the area
- quality
- content

The important issues that were identified by WG Chairs were overlapping of areas of focus, operational issues, communication, financial, WG conferences and external links.

Areas were collated in a draft Scientific Content Map under various headings. WGs were then assigned under four headings Technical/Research, Standards and Representation, Human Related Issues and Clinical Disciplines under the overall umbrella of IMIA Co-ordinating Councils.

NL proposed that this model be trialed during the next two years.

NL proposed that the Scientific Contents Driven Map should be used to move forward and identify WGs in the future.

*Moved Marion Ball      Seconded Evelyn Hovenga      2 abstentions*

*Approved*

##### **5.2. Affiliated Groups**

###### **International Federation of Health Records Organisations**

Vickie Tichbourne, president of OFHRO discussed the organisation as to its functions, outlining similar objectives to IMIA and how these can be mutually beneficial to both organisations.

It was proposed that IFRHO become an affiliate member of IMIA

*Moved Branko Cesnik      Seconded Nancly Lorenzi      Approved*

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed but Vicky Tichbourne explained that it will have to be presented to the Grand Council of IFRHO for ratification.

###### **Society for Internet Medicine (SIM)**

A background to the Society was presented by Gunther Eysenbach as to aims and objectives for the group and the potential to build a relationship with IMIA.

##### **5.3. Mental Health Working Group - Withdrawn**

##### **5.4. New Chairs**

The following was presented to the General Assembly for approval;  
**WG 1** – Reinhold Haux to investigate candidates for his replacement.

**WG 5** – Michael Kidd as chair.

**WG 13** – Bonnie Kaplan as chair.

**WG 15** – Jan Talmon as chair.

**WG 18** - Regis Breuscart as chair.

*Moved Nancy Lorenzi*

*Seconded Bjarte G Solheim*

*Approved*

#### **5.5. Work in Progress - WGs**

##### **WG 1 – Health and Medical Informatics Education - Reinhold Haux**

A workshop has been held at the AMIA conference in Washington and another working conference on HMI Education is in preparation.

##### **WG 4 – Data Protection in Health Information Systems – Ab Bakker**

NL presented a brief summary including the fact that WG 4 will offer a tutorial at NI 2000, as well as a working conference in Victoria, Canada in June 2000.

##### **WG 5 – Primary Health Care Informatics – Michael Kidd**

The working group will begin with its new leadership developing strategies to effectively implement the objectives of this group.

##### **WG 6 – Medical Concept Representation – Christopher Chute**

WG 6 have updated its webpage and is holding a meeting in December 1999.

##### **WG 7 – Biomedical Pattern Recognition – Christoph Zywiets**

This group sponsored a working conference in Chicago in June 1999. The chairman is considering new methodologies and strategies.

##### **WG 9 – Health Informatics for Development – Nora Oliveri**

TK represented this group and outlined its activities.

##### **WG 10 – Clinical Information Systems – No report**

##### **WG 11 – Dental Informatics – Eva Piehslinger & John Eisner**

This group has an outstanding webpage linked through the IMIA site and work in this area is continuing.

##### **WG 13 – Organizational Impact of Medical Informatics – Bonnie Kaplan**

NL gave an outline of the group's activities.

##### **WG15 – Technology Assessment and Quality Developments in Health Informatics – Jan Talmon**

NL outlined the plans for the future, which are to further extend the contents of the VATAM webserver.

##### **WG 16 – Standards in Healthcare Informatics – Georges de Moor**

The next meeting in conjunction with MS-HUGe99 in Brugge December 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> 1999.

##### **WG 17 - Computerised Patient Records – Johan van de Lei**

Future direction to be planned during the next several months.

##### **WG 18 – Telematics in Healthcare – Regis Beuscart**

New strategies are to be developed under a new leadership.

##### **SIG 1 – Nursing – Evelyn Hovenga**

Major event NI2000 to be held in Auckland. A strategy meeting was also held in Washington November 1999.

#### **5.6. Endorsement of IMIA document**

It was proposed by Reinhold Haux, WG1 that the document entitled “Recommendations of the International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA)

on Education in Health and Medical Informatics” be endorsed as an official IMIA document.

*Moved Nancy Lorenzi*

*Seconded Otto Rienhoff*

*Approved by acclamation*

**ADJOURNMENT** - PART 1 of this meeting concluded at 5.20pm

Part 11  
Marriot Balcony D Room, Marriot Hotel, Washington, DC  
Friday, November 12, 1999  
9.00 pm – 5.00 pm

**ADDITIONAL PRESENT** Charles Safran  
**REGRETS** Chris Chute

**6. Report of Regional Representatives**

**6.1. EFMI**

Jean-Raul Scherrer spoke to his printed report and outlined the work done by EFMI in the past year especially the Ljubljana meeting. He also highlighted the work of the 10 Working Groups of EFMI

**6.1.1. HON**

He described how the work of HON was getting better and better. He went on to describe the increased use of the HON code. He considers it worthwhile to continue to work with IMIA. The website has had over 4000 hits per day.

**6.2. IMIA-LAC – Beatriz Faria Leao**

While not speaking on behalf of IMIA-LAC gave a short description of what was taking place in her country.

**6.3. APAMI – Branko Cesnik**

Conference in Hong Kong provided an opportunity for APAMI to meet. Promoted APAMI's 2000 conference and requested support. Sri Lanka now a member, India moving to membership, and Vietnam as observer status.

**6.4. African Region – Lyn Hanmer.**

HELENA 1999 takes place in Harare at the end of November. 100 registrations will make for a small meeting but it is hoped that it will help the area to grow. It is a challenge to find the people in Africa who are interested in the field and keep contact with them.

**7. Report of the Treasurer**

The finances are healthy. Virtually all assets are cash, the organisation is profitable and liquid. More than SwissF11,000 of membership fees were collected for membership fees in arrears for 1996, 1997 & 1998. Recommendation made that there is no fee increase for the year 2000.

- Review the fee system. UG recommended Branko Cesnik ED, and an invitation to one or two others to look at IMIA's membership fee structure. Izet Masic volunteered to be on the Committee.
- Proposal for Committee UG Chair, BC, SH and Izet Masic  
*Moved Bjarte G. Solheim Seconded Jean Roberts Approved unanimously*
- 17 countries have not yet paid fees for 1999. 6 countries have not paid for more than 2 years. The 6 countries all to get a warning but circumstances will be taken into account. BC suggested that an interim observer status be offered.

*Moved Bjarte G. Solheim                      Seconded Lyn Hanmer                      Approved*

- The 5-year Budget was presented for approval. SH outlined the budget and how it had been arrived at. This budget presumes operations as they are now.

*Moved Diarmuid UaConnail      Seconded KC Lun      Approved*

- Budget for 2000, as included in the 5-year budget, presented for approval.

*Moved Reinhold Haux      Seconded Branko Cesnik      Approved.*

## **8. Report of the Audit Committee**

### **8.1. Audited Financial Statements 1997**

Hans Petersen read the report on Page 23 in the GA Agenda and requested acceptance of the report

*Moved Marian Ball      Seconded Bjarte G. Solheim  
Approved*

### **8.2. Audited Financial Statements 1998**

Hans Petersen noted the improvement from the previous year but the still disappointing level of membership fees and requested acceptance of the report

*Moved Nancy Lorenzi      Seconded KC Lun  
Approved*

### **8.3. Resignation**

Hans Petersen requested that his resignation be accepted because of conflict of interest. Recommendation that John Flint be appointed Chair of the Audit Committee. Resignation accepted with thanks and acclamation.

*Moved Hans Petersen      Seconded Ulla Gerdin      Approved*

## **9. Report of the Secretary – Symonds**

IHS expanded briefly on his written report, page 24. Evelyn Hovenga queried record keeping and the President stated that IMIA was working towards a more efficient solution for archival storage.

Evelyn Hovenga commented that there was to be a history written on Nursing Informatics to be ready in April 2000 in Auckland and queried if there could be one for IMIA. It was revealed that Hans Petersen was working on a history of IMIA as a record.

Acceptance of the Secretary's report was requested.

*Moved Bjarte G. Solheim      Seconded Alvin Margolis      Approved*

## **10. Report of the VP MedInfo – K C Lun**

### **10.1. MedInfo 2001** September 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> September 2001

KC reported that the Scientific Programme Committee has been formed. The 15 members on this committee were geographically selected so that national representation, as well as using the best talent in the field was fair.

Jean Roberts gave a presentation on MedInfo 2001. The website will be available from December 1999. She asked for information at MedInfo2001 as follows:

- A Profile of National Societies, possibly Market, and attendance.
- Contacts at Embassies, Major Vendors, 'Trade' Journals
- Recognition of the 'Buddy System' for each country e.g. solicit papers, assist with writing, polishing & amending, presentation production.

- A need for recognition of data protection. It is intended to ask permission to use details to support the event, professional societies, whatever purposes within the Health Informatics domain.

There were a series of questions from the floor.

#### **10.2. MedInfo 2004 – Bidding process**

Bids are now open for 2004. Guidelines can be found on Page 31 of the General Assembly attachments. Bids must be received by 31st March 2000 and will be reviewed at the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2000 Board Meeting in New Zealand. A decision will be made in Hannover in August 2000 by the General Assembly.

Acceptance of the report was

Moved Bjarte G. Solheim                      Seconded Reinhold Haux                      Approved

#### **11. Report of the VP Services – Alexa McCray**

Thomas's work on the website was recognised with applause. The electronic services are now to be moved to SH at the Secretariat.

##### **11.1. IMIA Yearbook**

The production of the 1999 yearbook was discussed. The 2000 yearbook will be going to the publishers next month. AM requested that societies buy the yearbook, as this is very important for the financial health of the yearbook.

A vote of confidence was requested on the appointment of new editors Reinhold Haux and Casimir Kulkowski and the formulation of an editorial advisory committee consisting of Jan Van Bommel, Alexa McCray and Marion Ball.

*Moved Otto Rienhoff                      Seconded Ulla Gerdin                      3 abstentions*  
*Approved*

Marion Ball gave a vote of thanks to the outgoing editors for their outstanding work to create the yearbook with the voluntary services they have available. This was received with a standing ovation. JVB paid tribute to the secretaries and other participants for their contributions.

##### **11.2. Newsletter**

OR outlined the difficulties of mailing costs to deliver the hardcopy to various countries. He thanked Thomas for his help in his production of the electronic newsletter.

#### **12. Report of the VP – Membership – Roberts**

JR had nothing to add to her written report and the discussion yesterday and requested acceptance of her report.

*Moved Alvin Margolis                      Seconded Branco Cesnik                      1 abstention*  
*Approved*

##### **12.1. Approval of Society Change for New Zealand**

The paperwork has now been received and it is proposed that this be accepted.

*Moved Jean Roberts                      Seconded Marion Ball                      1*  
*abstention                      Approved*

#### **13. Report of the VP Special Affairs – Shorter**

Apology for absence.



#### **14. Report of the Executive Director – Huesing**

SH outlined the background to his report. The issue of the professional resource index was raised and BC and SH will continue to try to secure funding. He outlined the administration progress over the year.

##### **14.1. Electronic Services**

TK gave a report highlighting the next IMIA events page from the website. Also he showed a sample of the institutional members' page from the database.

Approval of the reports was:

*Moved Otto Rienhoff      Seconded Ulla Gerdin      Approved*

##### **14.2. Standard Operating Procedures**

Formal approval for the Standard Operating Procedures in regard to expenses for SPC & EC was sought.

*Moved Ulla Gerdin      Seconded Ian Symonds      Approved*

#### **15. Report of the Nominating Committee – Ball**

Marion Ball reviewed her report on Page 41 of GA meeting attachments.

##### **15.1 Approval of the Nominating Committee Chair**

Chair Nominating Committee      Otto Rienhoff 2000 – 2003

This position is automatically filled by the outgoing president.

##### **15.2 Approval of Nominating Committee Member**

Recommended by the Nominating Committee that the following be elected to the committee      Kathryn Hannah 2000 – 2003

*Moved Ulla Gerdin      Seconded Beatriz Faria Leao      Approved*

##### **15.3 Election of Board Members**

The following slate was presented for approval

President Elect      KC Lun      2000 – 2001

*Moved Evelyn Hovenga      Seconded Jean Roberts      Approved*

President      KC Lun      2001 - 2004

*Moved Jean Roberts      Seconded Evelyn Hovenga      Approved*

Secretary (2<sup>nd</sup> Term)      Ian Symonds      2000 - 2003

*Moved Otto Rienhoff      Seconded Ulla Gerdin      Approved*

VP Membership      Branko Cesnik      1999 - 2002

*Moved Beatriz Faria Leao      Seconded Evelyn Hovenga      Approved*

VP Services      Reinhold Haux      1999 - 2002

*Moved Ulla Gerdin      Seconded Lyn Hanmer      Approved*

VP MedINFO (Elect)      Charles Safran      2001 – 2004

*Moved Bjarte G Solheim      Seconded D. UaConnail      Approved*

##### **15.4 Election of Honorary Fellow**

The Committee proposes the election of Otto Rienhoff as an honorary member.

*Accepted by acclamation*

JVB presented a citation to Otto Rienhoff in recognition of his election.

JVB thanked Jean Roberts and Alexa McCray were thanked for their services as VP Membership and VP Services. He made a presentation to both.

## 16 Future Meetings 2000

- **Board**, Auckland, New Zealand - April 29 – 30, 2000
- **Board & GA**, Hannover, Germany  
MIE Sunday August 27<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2000  
Board Meeting Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2000  
GA Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2000

### 16.1.1 2001

- **Board Meeting** – Spring - To be raised decided
- London, UK **Board Meeting** Friday August 31<sup>st</sup> August 2001  
GA Saturday 1st September 2001  
MedInfo 2001 Conference 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> September 2001

### 16.2. 2002

- **Board** (To be decided)
- **Board & GA** (To be decided) This meeting should be in the city of the approved MedInfo site for 2004.
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## 17 Other Business

Evelyn Hovenga raised that matter of conflicts of interest within societies. IMIA have no known policies. The matter is to be investigated in relationship to Swiss law.

Izet Masic made known that conferences have recently been held in both Bosnia and Croatia.

## 18 Adjournment

The President closed the meeting, thanking all for their attendance and encouraged existing members to promote IMIA and bring in new members; and also to develop ideas which will build bridges.

**The meeting was adjourned at 1.45pm**

**Ian Symonds**, Secretary on behalf of the IMIA Board

**Judy Pound** Administration Secretary