



IMIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

Bonatz Saal, Hannover Conference Center
Hannover, Germany

Saturday, August 26, 2000
0830 – 1700

PRESENT:

Board:

President	Jan Van Bommel (JHvB),	VP Services	Reinhold Haux (RH),
Secretary	Ian Symonds (IHS),	VP Members	Branko Cesnik (BC)
Treasurer	Ulla Gerdin (UG),	Executive Director	Steven Huesing (SH)
VP Medinfos	K.C. Lun (KC),		

Regional Representatives

EFMI	Attila Naszlady	IMIA-Lac	Cesar Colina Ramirez
APAMI	Branko Cesnik		

National Representatives

26 country delegates attended either in person or by proxy. The secretary holds the signed list of delegates as part of this record.

Institutional Members

Healthcare Informatics	Mark Hagland	HISCOM	Leo Vollebregt
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Others:

Electronic Services	Thomas Kleinoeder (TK)	LOC MedInfo 2001	Jean Roberts (JR),
IFIP	J-R Scherrer (JRS)	MedInfo 2004	Charles Safran (CS)
Secretary	Judy Pound		

Guests:

Rolf Engelbrecht, President EFMI, MIE 2000

REGRETS:

Nancy Lorenzi (VP WG/SIG)	Sedick Isaacs (African Region)
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1. Opening

1.1. Welcome by President of IMIA JHvB opened the meeting with a welcome to all the delegates.

1.2. Welcome by Chairman of EFMI Congress – Rolf Engelbrecht outlined the format of EFMI conference and wished the IMIA delegates well in their General Assembly.

1.3. Approval of the Agenda - Approved

1.4. Minutes of GA meeting, November 11th & 12th, 1999 Washington

That the Minutes be adopted.

*Moved JHvB; Seconded JR; **Approved Unanimously***

1.5. Resignation of Brian Shorter was noted with regret.

1.6. All members of the GA then formally introduced themselves to each other.

2. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

2.1. Schattauer Verlag – JHvB explained the background association of this company with the publication of IMIA's yearbook.

2.2. HISCOM Plaque to be presented to Corporation shown to delegates.

The two corporate members were welcomed with acclaim.

2.3. New National Representatives

- a Bill Dartnell, Canada
- b Emilio Morales, Cuba
- c Mikko Korpela, Finland
- d Ling Zhu, China

The new National representatives were welcomed with acclaim.

3. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT – Jan H. van Bemmelen

3.1. The President spoke to his report and enlarged on the five main issues of his Presidential year these being:

- a Strengthen IMIA as a professional organization;
- b Build bridges to other organizations;
- c Tap the experience of former officers and honorary members;
- d Make IMIA better visible to the outside world;
- e Make MEDINFOs still better and MEDINFO 2001 the largest ever.

3.2. The President outlined the benefits of a potential Conference in the Middle East

4. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – Steven Huesing expanded on the following matters in respect to his report:

4.1. Website – The site re-development continues to be of focal importance the organization. Web-enabled data entry and maintenance for both administration and the yearbook is in trials and work on the Professional Resource Index is well underway.

4.2. Electronic Services - The Executive Director encouraged delegates to provide their input for consideration by the officers in ongoing development.

4.3. Standard Operating Procedures - Some of these proposals were discussed by the General Assembly.

- a Endorsement of Documents
- b Affiliated Organizations
- c Membership Applications – Corporate Members
- d Membership Applications – National members
- e Documentation for Changes in Signing Officers

That the above proposals be approved.

*Moved JHvB; Seconded CS; **Approved Unanimously***

5. REPORTS OF REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

5.1. EFMI – Attila Naszladly reported on the two aims during his term as President.

- a Preserve traditions - This was achieved by revising the statutes of the organization and the re-organization of the WGs.
- b Support development thanks to Rolf Engelbrecht.
- c To provide the idea of the knowledge power as part of the political and economic power concepts

A written report was present to the Assembly.

5.2. IMIA-LAC – Nora Oliveiri spoke on behalf of the President of IMIA-LAC and gave a brief report on the activities in South America.

5.3. APAMI – Branko Cesnik reported on the conference in Hong Kong and requested support attendance by delegates. He then spoke of the thanks due to Taiwoo Yoo for the Korean MedInfo. He mentioned the Nurses' Conference in New Zealand and its success.

5.4. African Region – Sedick Isaacs. There was no report from this region, but Mikko Korpela the delegate from Finland (who had been to the HELENA conference in Zimbabwe last November), informed the meeting that the region needed some support from the Board for the meeting to be

held in 2002 and suggested possibly a GA meeting in that area. JHvB requested that the Secretary note this, and that the Board consider this at their Spring 2001 Board meeting.

6. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY – Ian Symonds - Approved

7. REPORT OF THE TREASURER – Ulla Gerdin spoke to her financial reports and indicated that there are no substantial changes to the five-year budget plan. Her report was in four parts as listed below:

7.1. Financial Update – Fiscal Year 1999

7.2. Financial Update – Fiscal Year 2000

7.3. Approval of 5-year Budget

That the Financial reports be adopted.

*Moved JHvB; Seconded Guenther Gell (Austria); **Approved with acclaim***

7.4. Approval of budget for 2001

Formal approval of the budget

*Moved JHvB; Seconded Bill Dartnell (Canada); **Approved***

8. REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP FEE TASKFORCE – Ulla Gerdin

8.1. Approval of revised classification structure – Ulla spoke of the need to change the grouping of different countries for the purpose of membership fees.

8.2. Approval of National Member assignment into structure – It was explained that the present five categories would become six based on WHO criteria. The fee proposed for each category was presented.

8.3. Approval of Membership fee changes – In discussion the delegate from Finland suggested that the minimum fee might be less than 170SF. The delegate from Ukraine suggested that Ukraine be in Group F, based on economics. The delegate from Austria suggested that the treasurer be empowered to change the grouping if thought appropriate. Jean-Raoul Scherrer, Switzerland, suggested that there might be another way to assess appropriate fees in a neutral way. The delegate from Ukraine offered their website for advertising from appropriate companies with any revenue being used to pay their IMIA fees.

That the new fee structure be approved.

*Moved JHvB; Seconded Guenther Gell (Austria); **Approved***

9. REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE – Ab Bakker

9.1. Audited Financial Statements

9.2. Approval of 1999 Audited Statements – Ab Bakker recommended that the GA accept the favourable report of the audit committee.

That the report be accepted.

*Moved Guenther Gell (Austria); Seconded JHvB; **Approved***

9.3. SH asked that the minutes of the last GA be corrected to reflect that John Flint be approved as a member, not the chair, of the audit committee.

*Moved Ab Bakker; Seconded George I. Mihalas (Romania); **Approved***

10. REPORT OF THE VP- MEMBERSHIP – Branko Cesnik

10.1. Approval of Philippines from Observer to National Member

10.2. Approval of Peru as Observer Member

10.3. Approval of Georgia from National to Observer Member

10.4. Approval of Ukraine from National to Observer Member

10.5. Approval of Foundation de Informatica Medica as Institutional Academic Member

10.6. Approval of University of Heidelberg as Institutional Academic Member

10.7. Approval of Central Queensland University as Institutional Academic Member

That the 7 Member recommendations be accepted.

*Moved JHvB; Seconded Attila Naszlady (Hungary); **Approved***

1 Against

The report of the Vice President was also accepted.

11. REPORT OF THE VP – MEDINFO – K.C. Lun

- 11.1. Progress report, MedInfo 2001** – KC commended his Committees for their competency and discussed some of the planning activities. JR provided an update. She explained the concept of the global village and how members or delegates may be involved. KC asked that delegates review the website for 2001.

That the report be adopted

*Moved JHvB; Seconded Jana Zvarova (Czech Republic); **Approved Unanimously***

- 11.2. Selection of host for MedInfo 2004** – CS spoke briefly to this bid and submitted the bid to the GA for acceptance.

That Medinfo2004 be awarded to AMIA

*Moved JHvB; Seconded Jana Zvarova (Czech Republic); **Approved Unanimously***

12. REPORT OF THE VP - SERVICES – Reinhold Haux

IMIA Yearbook

- 1.1.** The President paid tribute to the many people involved in the production of the yearbook. RH then spoke of the importance of the yearbook over the last nine years. He also then spoke of some differences, which may come in future productions although 2001 will follow the same format as previous issues.
- 1.2.** RH brought the main points of his Board report to GA for information.
- 1.3.** JHvB emphasised the role of VP Services, as a stretch-out role to all countries of the world.
- 1.4.** Chris Chute queried whether there had been any discussion with any organisation or journal with the aim of production of IMIA interests. CS spoke on the subject as an editor of the International Journal of Medical Informatics.
- 1.5.** SH spoke on the progress of the professional resource index.
- The report was received with acclaim*

13. Report of the VP - WORKING & SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

- 13.1.** Charles Safran on behalf of Nancy Lorenzi gave the report of Vice President for WGs & SIGs. He gave a brief overview of NL's in depth findings. He stated that there had been an increase from 14 – 18 WGs. 7 of the 14 WGs have new chairs. He spoke to the need for support from IMIA for some WGs.

- 13.2. Support for WGs** SH reported that this is currently available in the form of 'seed money' for WG conferences; in the near future he anticipated that administrative support in the area of websites would be available.

13.3. WG Reports

- a WG1 Health & Medical Informatics Education – Reinhold Haux spoke to his report. Evelyn Hovenga expanded on her ideas for language improvement in the area of Health Informatics. International qualifications were being looked into more and more especially in Europe.
- b WG4 Data Protection in Health Information Systems – Ab Bakker highlighted the June conference of "Security of the Distributed EPR." He outlined important topics in the conference. Jean Raoul Sherrer suggested a change to the title of WG4 to be "Data Protection and Security etc."
- c WG5 Primary Health Care Informatics – Michael Kidd. BC said that there had been a huge increase in interest in this group.
- d WG6 Medical Concept Representation – Christopher Chute informed the meeting that the Phoenix meeting held at the end of 1999, as a conference was financially self-sustaining. He spoke of their page on the IMIA website.
- e WG7 Biosignal and Pattern Interpretation – Christoph Zywiets informed the GA of the history of the meetings of this WG at past EFMI meetings. His up-to-date report did not reach NL in time for printing.

- f WG9 Health Informatics for Development– Nora Oliveiri spoke to her report the work being undertaken in Latin America. She extended an invitation to take part in Informatica 2000. George H. Mihalas fully supported Nora Oliveri and her plans for this group.
- g WG10/WG14 Hospital Information Systems/Health Professional Workstations – Klaus Kuhn reported the goals and operational details of this group needed to be changed. This included a possible name change. Vigorous discussion took place including whether the concept of a hospital in the standard sense was still valid.
- h WG11 Dental Informatics – Wook-Sung Yoo. No expansion on this report.
- i WG13 Organizational impact of Medical Informatics – Bonnie Kaplan. RH reported that this topic will be discussed during the EMFI conference.
- j WG15 Technology Assessment & Quality Development – Jan Talmon. No expansion on this report.
- k WG16 Standards in Health Care Informatics –Georges J.E. De Moor. No report received. It was suggested that there should be an IMIA representative as a liaison person between this committee and ISO 25.
- l WG17 Computerized Patient Records – Johan van der Lei. No expansion on this report.
- m WG18 Telematics in Healthcare – Regis Beuscart. Knut Bernstein (Denmark) reported on the objectives of this group and highlighted the received report including reference to a possible meeting in May 2001.
- n SIG N1 Nursing Informatics – Evelyn J.S. Hovenga spoke to her very full report. Virginia Saba will be the new Chair for this group. A new development proposal has been accepted by ISO WG3 to produce standards and a reference terminology model for nursing.
- o Provisional WG: Biomedical Statistics & Information Processing. Jana Zvarova spoke to a formal proposal not received in written form on the structure and formation of this group. JHvB recommended that this group proceed with the process of being formally accepted as a WG in conjunction with NL.

13.4. Approval of new Working Groups

- a Consumer Health Informatics
 - i Alejandro Jadad (Chair) 2000 – 2003
 - ii Betty L. Chang (Co-chair) 2000 – 2003
 - iii Gunther Eysenbach (Co-chair) 2000 – 2003

It should be noted for the chairman of this group that the comment was made that in many ways this group is more concerned with education.

- b Intelligent Data Analysis and Data Mining
 - i Riccardo Bellazzi (Chair) 2000 – 2003
 - ii Blaz Zupan (Co-chair) 2000 – 2003

Riccardo Bellazzi presented a background to the proposal and the focus for this group. After discussion it was decided to add a paragraph in the proposal clarifying the relationship with WG4.

- c Mental Health Informatics
 - i Michael Rigby (Chair) 2000 – 2003
 - ii Ann Sheridan (Co-chair) 2000 – 2003

Diarmuid UaConnail stated that the Healthcare Informatics Society of Ireland would support this group with secretarial services etc.

That the new WGs together with the nominated chairs be approved

*Moved JHvB; Seconded Diarmuid UaConnail; **Approved***

13.5. Approval of Working Group Chairs

- a WG 1 Evelyn Hovenga (Chair) 2001 – 2004
John Mantas (Co-chair) 2001 – 2004
- b WG 10/14 Klaus Kuhn (Chair) 2000 – 2003
- c Dario Guise (C-chair) 2000 – 2003)
- d WG 11 Wook-Sung Yoo (Chair) 2000 – 2003
- e WG 17 Mark Musen (Co-chair) 2000 – 2003

That the WG Chairs be approved

*Moved JHvB; Seconded JR; **Approved***

13.6. Ethical Code of Practice (WG 4 Recommendation)

- a Discussion paper – JHvB suggested that under the umbrella of WG4 a taskforce be appointed to develop a Code of Conduct for IMIA. Any suggestions to be put to the Chair WG4.
- b Background Paper (Eike-Henner Kluge)
 - i Suggests 7 principles in relation to Ethical behaviour.
 - ii Otto Rienhoff suggested that this be a piece-by-piece approach, as this was a complex matter. He queried "Principle" of Access and 'the right to correct that record' because of the variation between countries.
 - iii Evelyn Hovenga suggested that the committee should work with the ISO group in New Zealand because they are working in some depth in this field.
 - iv Guenther Gell commented on the necessity to expand the paper.
 - v Attila Naslady suggested two additional principles a) the principle of veracity and b) that of use to the patient.
 - vi Irma Iversen (Norway) commented upon her role as an ombudsman for information.

14. REPORTS OF INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

- 14.1.** Mark Hagland of Healthcare Informatics McGraw Hill, USA spoke of the value of IMIA to his organization and much of this revolve around the contacts that he made at IMIA meetings.

15. REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE – Otto Rienhoff

15.1. Approval of Nominating Committee Members

- a Jana Zvarova be appointed to replace Georges Mihalas; he thanked Dr. Mihalas him for his work and contributions.

To approve the above nomination

*Moved Otto Rienhoff; Seconded Nora Oliveri; **Approved***

15.2. Election of Board Members

- a Charles Safran as VP Special Affairs in 2000 - 2003

To approve the above nomination

*Moved Otto Rienhoff; Seconded BC; **Approved***

- b Prof. P Degoulet as VP Medinfo from 2001- 2004

To approve the above nomination

*Moved Otto Rienhoff Seconded BC **Approved***

- c Batami Sadan as Treasurer from 2001 – 2004

To approve the above nomination

*Moved Otto Rienhoff; Seconded JR; **Approved***

JHvB thanked Brian Shorter for his work.

16. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- 16.1.** London UK, September 1, 2001, (0830-1800)

17. OTHER BUSINESS

- 17.1.** It is proposed from the Board that a meeting be held in Singapore 2002 on the subject of 'Clinical Bioinformatics'. KC spoke to this proposal and various viewpoints were expressed from the floor. The definition of what 'Bioinformatics' was still open and not completely understood.

- 17.2.** Evelyn Hovenga queried the Fiduciary "Conflict of Interest." SH assured her that this would be completed by the next Board Meeting.

- 17.3.** TK presented to the meeting an "IMIA Electronic Services Questionnaire" for completion.

18. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1730.

Ian Symonds Secretary on behalf of the **IMIA Board**
Judy Pound Administration Secretary