IMIA's Working Groups and Special Interest Groups
Status in the IMIA Strategic Plan towards IMIA 2015

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Currently the IMIA has 20 WG & SIGs for members to share common interests in a particular focal field. These WG & SIGs hold working conferences on leading edge and timely health informatics issues. Activities of the WG & SIGs are available at www.imia.org.

The IMIA published its Strategic Plan towards IMIA 2015 to guide and enhance health informatics around world. In the Strategic Plan, an integrated strategic framework with five layers of concentric circles and six sectors was proposed.

The central core of the circle is knowledge which is the concepts, methods, education and research underpinning health and biomedical informatics directly and indirectly. The second layer is science. With this layer, IMIA members connect with science and discovery of informatics. The third layer is application. This layer deals with application of informatics tools. The fourth layer is impact. This layer refers the potential impact IMIA can have on individuals, health care professionals, governments, and others. The fifth layer is people. This layer deals with involvement, dissemination and acceptance of health informatics by individual, family and community.

The first sector is health. Components within the health sector are pathophysiology (science layer); diagnosis, and treatment (application layer); public health and health improvement (impact layer); and personal health (people layer). The second sector is research. Components within the research sector include basic core research (science layer); applied science (application layer); evaluation, usability and outcomes (impact layer); and dissemination and acceptance (people layer). The third sector is behavioral responsibility (ethics). Components within this sector include ethics (science layer); law and regulation (application layer); socio-economic (impact layer); and personal responsibility (people layer).

The fourth sector is education. This sector has targets of education such as health informaticians (science layer); implementers (application layers); governments/agencies (impact layer); and citizens (people layer). The fifth sector is relationships. Components within this sector includes academic (science layer); professional (application layer); governments/agencies (impact layer); and citizen organizations (people layer). The final sector is connectivity. Components within this sector include global (science layer); regions (application layer); nations (impact layer); and individuals (people layer).

Activities of the 20 IMIA WG & SIGs were mapped to the five layers of concentric circles and six sectors of the IMIA strategic framework based on the objectives of each WG & SIG, gaps were identified, and ways to close these gaps were proposed.

Activities of the Informatics in Genomic Medicine (IGM), Dental Informatics, Mental Health Informatics, Health Informatics for Development, Consumer Health Informatics (CHI), and Primary Health Care Informatics WGs fall on the health Sector. Activities of the IGM WG cover the science, application, impact and people layers. Activities of the Dental and Mental Health Informatics WGs cover the application, impact and people layers. Activities of the Health Informatics for Development WG mainly cover the impact layer. Activities of the Primary Health Care Informatics WG cover the impact and people layers. Activities of the CHI WG mainly cover the people layer.

Activities of the Concept Representation, Biomedical Pattern Recognition, Health Information Systems, Human Factors Engineering (HFE) for Healthcare Informatics, Intelligent Data Analysis and Data Mining (IDA & DM), Open Source, Smart Home and Ambient Assisted Living, Standards in Health Care Informatics, Technology Assessment & Quality Development in Health Informatics, and Telematics in Health Care WGs fall on the research sector. Activities of the Biomedical Pattern Recognition, Medical Concept Representation, IDA & DM, Open Source, Smart Home and Ambient Assisted Living, Standards in Health Care Informatics, and Telematics in Health Care WGs mainly cover the application layer. Activities of the Health Information Systems WG cover the application, impact and people layers. Activities of the HFE WG mainly fall on the people layer.

Activities of the Organizational and Social Issues WGs fall on the impact and people layers of the behavioral responsibility sector. Activities of the Health/Medical Informatics Education WG fall on the science, application, and impact layers of the education sector. Activities of the Consumer Informatics partially fall on the people layer of the education sector.

Most of sectors except the relationship and connectivity sectors were covered by the activities of 20 IMIS WG & SIGs directly, even though health and research sectors were represented more than other sectors. However, relationship sector is covered indirectly by different types of IMIA members such as National, Academic Institutional, Corporate Institutional, Corresponding, Affiliate and Regional members. Connectivity is covered indirectly by the activities of all IMIA WG & SIGs.

Most of circles were covered directly by the activities of the IMIA WG & SIGs, knowledge circle is covered indirectly by the activities of the WG & SIGs. Knowledge circle which is the center of all IMIA activities and interests needs to be covered more directly by the IMIA WG & SIGs.

Reference

1. The IMIA Strategic Plan: Towards IMIA 2015. Available online at http://www.imia.org/strategic/PDF/IMIA_Strategic_Plan_Final.pdf accessed April 3, 2009

Nursing Informatics (Special Interest Group 1)

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Objectives:

- Explore the scope of Nursing Informatics and its implications for health policy and information handling activities associated with evidence based nursing practice, nursing management, nursing research, nursing education, standards and patient (or client) decision making and the various relationships with other health informatics entities.
- Identify priorities or gaps and make recommendations for future developments in nursing informatics.
- Support the development of nursing informatics in member countries and promote nursing informatics worldwide
- Promote linkages and collaborative activities with national and international nursing and health informatics groups and nursing and health care organisations globally.
- Provide, promote and support informatics meetings, conferences, and electronic communication forums to enable opportunities for the sharing of ideas, developments and knowledge
- Participate in IMIA working groups and special interest groups to present a nursing perspectiv
- Develop recommendations, guidelines, tools and courses relating to nursing informatics
- Encourage the publication and dissemination of research and development materials in the field of nursing informatics
- Support and work with patients, families, communities and societies to adopt and manage informatics approaches to healthcare

The role of the IMIA-Nursing Informatics will be to provide leadership and expertise in biomedical informatics to the multidisciplinary health focused community and policy makers in order to enable the transformation of healthcare in accord with the world-wide vision to improve the health of the world population. IMIA-NI will fulfill its vision by:

- Being the nursing informatics association through IMIA which the world's knowledge leaders come together to effectively and efficiently create, assemble, integrate, synthesize or assimilate intellectual knowledge that is required worldwide to advance nursing/health informatics in its role of improving health and healthcare
- Being the nursing informatics association that effectively and efficiently connects people and the nations of the world to be able to accomplish the above purpose

Recent and Future Activities:

First World Nursing Informatics Leadership Conference was held in conjunction with Medinfo 2007 Australia. It was held from August 19 (Sunday) to August 20 (Monday) at Brisbane Convention Centre River Room, Southbank, Brisbane, Australia. It was sponsored by the Australia's Nurse Informaticians and IMIA Nursing Informatics SIG. There were 20 speakers and 60 participants. We have raised $2,221.82 for each organization.

Second Nursing Informatics Leadership Conference was held in conjunction with MIE 2008 from in Gothenburg, Sweden. There was a general track with presentations and an advanced track with workshop style. It was organised as a low cost event with the venue offered for free by School of Nursing of Gothenburg University. Speakers contributed all for free. There were 20 speakers and 16 participants. Income will be divided by 1/3 each for IMIA NI, EFMI NI, and Norwegian Nursing Organization.

Thomas Buerkle as Vice Chair responsible for communication, has worked hard and transferred our information on to a new site www.imiani.org.

NI 2009 (the 10th International Congress on Nursing Informatics) will be held in Helsinki, Finland from June 28 to July 1, 2009.

Objectives:

To promote applications in medicine and biology focusing on methods of pattern recognition and interpretation.

Recent Activities:

One of the highlights in 2007 was the World Congress in Brisbane, Australia, with its great variety of presentations including the field of pattern recognition. WG7's interest was mainly represented by different applications on image processing. Although in the run-up to MEDINFO some experienced and well reputable colleagues were encouraged to present their recent work, the program committee was obviously more interested in image processing than in signal processing. Interestingly this trend was continued at Gothenburg in 2008. Probably IEEE EMBS with its strong impact on this topic might compete with IMIA's interest. Furthermore, research dealing with telemetrics, smart homes and ambient assisted living also touches the technical aspects of biosignal recording, transducers and sensors as well as processing issues. Nevertheless, joint meeting with EFMI WG Medical Image Processing, chaired by Alexander Horsch, was held on Wednesday 22.August 2007 at Brisbane.

It was concluded by both chairs, in parallel with recent IMIA board guidelines, to start more potential collaboration between these different groups because there is a considerable overlap of interests, methodologically as well as in application domains, such as biosignal-gated imaging techniques etc. Joint workshops are regarded as good opportunities to share experience and to establish connections between the two groups.

The next EMBC conference in Vancouver, held from August 20 to 24, 2008 offered also many possibilities to demonstrate recent research in the field of Medical Informatics and related applications as personal health care, Point of Care Diagnostics and Global Health, Systems Biology and Systems Medicine: From reactive to predictive, personalized, preventive and participatory medicine.

Future Activities:

Joint workshop "Biosignal Processing and Interpretation BSI" together with IEEE EMBS will be held 2009 at Yale University in Connecticut from June 23-26 2009. The call for papers is in preparation. Prof. Ki H. Chon, Department of Biomedical Engineering, SUNY@Stony Brook is appointed as the conference chair.

Biomedical Pattern Recognition

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Scope:

The Consumer Health Informatics Working Group (CHIWG) became an official IMIA Working Group in 2000. The CHIWG is concerned with electronic information related to health care available to the public (e.g. Internet, wireless, standalone electronic media). For its purposes, it defines Consumer Health Informatics as "the use of modern computers and telecommunications to support consumers in obtaining information, analyzing unique health care needs and helping them make decisions about their own health" (U.S. General Accounting Office, 1996, p.1.), in which the consumer interacts with the applications directly with or without the presence of health care professionals. The group's interests focus on, but are not limited to, world wide web sites that offer advice about healthy living, research findings, and recommendations on specific disease conditions, descriptions of products, medications, and self-care health programs available to the public. Issues of concern may be the evaluation of the quality of information, education of the public, ethical issues related to the electronic information, and the effect on a person's health care and relationship with health care providers.

Recent and Future Activities:

1. We had our business meeting at MedInfo in 2007. At MedInfo, we decided to have the leadership of the group fall to Tom Houston (Chair), and two Co-Chairs (Holly Jimison and Thomas Wetter).
2. We have a facebook group – with 18 current members and ongoing discussions.
3. Several WG members participated in the Medicine 2.0 conference in Toronto.
4. Thomas is planning on leading an effort to create a white paper.
5. As per previous emails from Peter, we would request that you put a motion to the IMIA GA that JMIR be endorsed as a official journal of the IMIA CHI WG..
6. Members of the working group have also worked with the U.S. Society of Behavioral Medicine in August, 2008, to submit a panel discussion "Cyberinfrastructure for behavioral informatics" as it is relevant to consumer health informatics
7. There seems to be an ad hoc kind of activity at NLM/Lister Hill associated with the name Keselman about CHI terminology. I suggest that we hook up to this and beyond, to get CHI listed as a MeSH term.
8. More Book Publishers are subscribing to CHI:
   * IGI is publishing one edited by Vance Wilson
   * Springer is publishing the one I'm writing

Objectives:

To bring the small, but rapidly growing, community of dental informaticians around the world into closer contact.

Recent Activities:

* More members have joined this working group; there are currently 92 list members and 60 web members
* The Dental Informatics working group home page (http://www.ecs.gannon.edu/IMIA) has been updated, including member pages
* Helped AMIA Dental Informatics group on Dental Informatics Online Community" project to receive a grant from National Library of Medicine

Future Activities:

* Improve access to information of dental informatics through IMIA WG 11 home page

Objectives:

- To disseminate and exchange information on Health and Medical Informatics (HMI) programs and courses
- To promote the IMIA HMI database on programs and courses on HMI education
- To produce international recommendations on HMI programmes and courses
- To support HMI courses and exchange of students and teachers
- To advance the knowledge of:
  1. How informatics is taught in the education of health care professionals around the world
  2. How in particular health and medical informatics is taught to students of computer science/informatics
  3. How it is taught within dedicated curricula in health and medical informatics

Recent and Future Activities:

1. Identifying and harmonizing competencies and curricula

One of the concerns that many of us have is the development of competencies and curricula for health and biomedical informatics education around the world. There are several existing and planned efforts, particularly in the United States and Europe. It would be nice, where possible, to harmonize these efforts. But short of that, it would still be valuable to inventory them all, especially in some sort of database or wiki.

This topic was the focus of the upcoming meeting of the working group in Buenos Aires on 27-28 October 2008. In addition to paper presentations, the conference featured a number of workshops, including a report on the Rockefeller eHealth meeting in Bellagio, a session on feedback on the IMIA educational recommendations, and a plan to survey graduates of informatics programs.

John Mantas has been leading the effort to update the IMIA curriculum recommendations. John assembled a group that met during Medinfo 2007 in Brisbane and has assembled a draft document authored by the group and presented and discussed at the Buenos Aires meeting. The final version was presented to the IMIA Board shortly thereafter.

2. Improving our Web presence

Taking the lead of many IMIA working groups, we have created our own separate Web presence on a wiki at: http://imiawged.pbwiki.org/

3. Working group conference

The working group conference was hosted by the Department of Medical Informatics at Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires (HIBA) in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The meeting was held 27-28 October 2008. There were other IMIA-related events on October 29-31, including the IMIA Latin American Countries (LAC) informatics meeting and an IMIA Board meeting.

The goals of the conference was to provide both an exposition for identifying and harmonizing competencies and curricula for health and biomedical informatics as well as provide a working meeting for ongoing work of the IMIA Working Group on Health and Medical Informatics Education. The format of the meeting alternated between workshop sessions and paper presentations. In addition, there was an open house one evening and a social dinner the other evening. There was also a business meeting for the IMIA Working

4. AMIA/IMIA collaboration on both the Rockefeller eHealth initiative and the 2020 initiative

A number of working group members took part in the Rockefeller eHealth initiative meeting this past summer in Bellagio, Italy, where one of the initiative discussed was the 2020 initiative led by Don Detmer, President of AMIA. The Buenos Aires conference featured a report of the Rockefeller meeting and had discussion to further conceptualize the 2020 initiative.

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Health Informatics for Development

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Objectives:

- To find out how health care informatics could improve live conditions in developing regions and implement programs in that direction
- Organization of forums to exchange of experiences of colleagues working in the field of health informatics
- Making a list of the needs and resources in medical informatics for each country.
- Organization of educational activities in developing regions, especially through the implementation of professors' exchange
- Organizing workshops and seminars with international experts participation

Recent Activities:

- This WG had a WG meeting in Penang, Malaysia concurrent with the INCOSSH2008 (International Conference on Open Source Software in Healthcare) conference to be held from November 22 to November 25, 2008 (http://bpio.amdi.usm.edu.my/incossh2008).
- January 20, 2009: Automatic Classification of Spoken Dietary Records by Dr. Ronilda Covar (MIT-Cambridge) and University of the Philippines Manila
- January 20, 2009: GIS in Health by Dr. Anis Fuad (University of Gadjahmada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia) and University of Philippine Manila
- March 16, 2009: Telehealth in the Philippines by Dr. Alvin Marcelo and the Hanoi Medical University

Projects:

- Community Health Information Tracking System, Philippines
- MoCa, Philippines (with MIT)
- SMS reminders or Prenatal Care, Philippines (with UC Berkeley and IDRC)

Networks:

- PanAsia Collaboration for eHealth Applications (PANACeA)
- Centers for eHealth and Telemedicine in Southeast Asia (CETSEA)

Health Information Systems

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Objectives:

- promoting systematic development and research in the field of health information systems
- identifying and assessing problems and success factors of health information systems
- providing intensive feedback between the scientific community, healthcare professionals, and the health IT industry
- facilitating dissemination of industrial solutions and scientific innovations
- supporting sustainable systems, economically, technically and ethically

On-going Work:

- Survey paper in the next IMIA Yearbook
  The HIS WG has been invited to propose an author/paper for the next IMIA Yearbook
- Survey paper in the next IMIA Yearbook
  2010 will be the 30 years of the WG. Ab Bakker and M. Ball suggested to organize a special event at Medinfo 2010.

Objectives:

- To promote methods and techniques devoted to the study of human factors in the field of Biomedical Informatics
- To coordinate studies and actions in this particular domain and to develop standardization initiatives for usability studies and user-centered design in the healthcare domain. This international group of experts will confront state of the art methods, models, innovations and results.
- To disseminate rigorous scientific principles for performing formal usability evaluations to improve their degree of efficiency, acceptability and safety of health informatics applications
- To support emerging teams in this field in Europe and Northern America: an IMIA Working group will be the opportunity for newcomers to benefit of the support of experts in this domain

Recent and Future Activities:

We held a meeting with 109 participants in Aarhus, Denmark in June, 2007 at Skybe Hospital. The meeting by all rights was a complete success. Six or Seven papers are being submitted as a special focus issue in JAMIA. We have all agreed that there are two important next tasks for the working group:

1. To create a standard for how HFE and in particular Usability Testing should be employed in the process for certification of electronic health records. We believe this can and will insure more usable and safer EHR systems.
2. To create an international registry of Usability studies to hold the topic, scenarios, results and conclusions from the studies. This will enable meta-analyses and minimize the need for repetition of studies to prove the same point.

The results of the working group will be published at the end of year two or the early part of year three. These are currently submitted as a special focus issue in JAMIA. The working group will develop a research agenda for human factors in health informatics. This work will lead to a white paper by the end of year three or the beginning of year four.

Objectives:

Opportunities arise within the discipline of biomedical informatics to facilitate the advancement of genomic and individualized medicine. To effectively link the genotype and phenotype a bi-directional flow of data, tools and methods between two traditionally separate areas of informatics (clinical informatics and bioinformatics) must be ensured.

These interests include, but are not limited to:

- Integrating molecular and genomic information (genetic testing, mutation analysis, gene and protein expression) into health information systems and tools (electronic health records, computerized protocols and clinical guidelines, clinical trials in the context of pharmacogenetics, molecular imaging)
- Generating structured, standardized, anonymous clinical data sets (phenomic data) to be used in the context of post-genomic research (for annotation and validation of experimental results)
- Facilitating new approaches for the integration and analysis of different levels of information (molecular, cellular, tissue, organ, patient, population) about diseases (grid, biobanks, disease modeling and simulation, mapping of clinical and genetic databases and ontologies)

The IGM WG aims to:

- Provide a forum to enhance collaboration, share experiences, and promote research in this field
- Increase communication with other working groups at IMIA, AMIA and other

Human Factors Engineering for Healthcare Informatics

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organizations relevant to IGM including groups with an emphasis on genomic medicine and informatics from the biomedical community, computing research and bioinformatics as relevant

- Establish itself as a scientific reference on issues related to information technology projects in genomic medicine

Recent Activities:

- Participation in Working Groups and Contacts with other Associations such as IMIA Education Task Force
- Presentation of the Working Group at coordination meetings of the European Project Action-Grid (Europe, South America, Western Balkans and North Africa) and Spanish Thematic Research Network in Biomedical Computing – COMBIOMED
- Participation in the Scientific Advisory Board of the Galician Bioinformatics Network (Spain)
- Participation in "Biomedical Informatics Session" at the II European Conference ICT-BIO (Information and Communication Technologies for Bio-medical Sciences). Brussels, Belgium. Oct. 2008, MIE 08 Goteborg. Sweden. May 2008, and XI National Health Informatics Conference - INFORSALUD 2008. Madrid, April 2008
- Invited plenary talks such as "Our genome: new technologies, new medicine". Workshop "ICT and Health". May 2008. Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, Madrid, and "IMIA Strategic Plan and Education Task Force." Coordination of the International session: "Research and Education in Biomedical Informatics". XI National Health Informatics Conference - INFORSALUD 2008. Madrid, April 2008.
- Participation in Research Projects funded by the European Commission (Information Society Technologies Programs) such as Action-Grid, a cooperation action on Nano/Bio/Medical Informatics between Europe, and Latinoamerica; Research Project Review Panels of the 7 Framework Programme of the European Commission. Brussels; and TEMPUS IV (Center of Excellence in Biomedical Informatics)
- Organization of Scientific Activities such as the XII National Conference of Medical Informatics in Spain, (INFORMED´08). Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Nov, 2008; Annual Conference of the American Medical Informatics Association, (AMIA'08). Washington, Nov. 2008; INFO-LAC (Biomedical Informatics in Latin América and Caribbean). Buenos Aires, Argentina. October 2008; the IMIA Working Group on Education Workshop. Buenos Aires, Argentina, Oct. 2008; "Biomedical Informatics" session in the II European Conference ICT-BIO (Information and Communication Technologies for Bio-medical Sciences). Brussels, Belgium. Oct. 2008
- Presentation of the Working Group Educational Activities such as "Bioinformatics" in the 4th year of the Bachelor degree in Biotechnology. School of Health Sciences, Universidad Francisco de Vitoria, Pozuelo de Alarcón, Madrid; PhD course: "Biomedical Informatics" Polytechnical University of Madrid; and Module "Clinical Bioinformatics" in the Master course: "Biotechnology for Health", CESIF (Pharmaceutical Industry Business School), Madrid Nov 2008
- Publications such as "Informatics and medicine: from molecules to populations"; "A Primer in Knowledge Management for Nanoinformatics in Medicine"; "Addressing the biomedical informatics needs of a microarray laboratory in a clinical microbiology context." "Translational Bioinformatics" for the book "Health Informatics - An Overview"

Future Activities

- Publication of the new web page
- To formalize relationship with the AMIA GEN-WG (Genomics)

- To consolidate a community of scientists interested in the application of Informatics to facilitate individualized healthcare
- To set up collaborative information services and tools (Wiki, mailing list, forum)
- To start conversations with other relevant stakeholders in Biomedical Informatics (ISCB, HL7)
- To explore the field of Health Applications of Convergent Technologies (NBIC) and possible links of Biomedical Informatics with new trends in biomedical research (Regenerative, Nanomedicine). Prepare a review article

Objectives:

- To increase the awareness and acceptance of intelligent data analysis and data mining methods in medical community
- To provide an umbrella for scientific discussion and dissemination of new knowledge on data-mining and AI-based methods for data analysis and data mining techniques applied to medicine
- To promote the development of the standardized platforms and solutions
- To provide a forum for presentation of successful intelligent data analysis and data mining implementations in medicine, and discussion of best practices in introduction of these techniques in medical and health-care information and decision support systems

Recent and Future Activities:

IDADM Working Group is closely collaborating with Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (KDDM-WG) of AMIA. The Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining Working Group of the American Medical Information Association (AMIA) is announcing its second annual data mining competition for the purpose of studying best practices related to knowledge discovery in health care data. This year's data set is the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES). This is a juried, international data mining competition open to students of any subject or discipline. Four winning individuals or teams will be invited to present their results at the AMIA 2008 Annual Symposium. (No funds for travel or Symposium registration will be provided). Final submissions for the competition are due to the moderator by midnight, September 15, 2008, MDT. Winners of the contest will be invited to present their work at the AMIA Annual Symposium in a panel sponsored by the Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining Working Group. Winners will be selected and recognized by an international panel of judges associated with the KDDM-WG.

Objectives:

To provide a forum for state of the art dialogue and collaboration on natural language processing and concept representation in healthcare applications, IMIA's Medical Concept Representation Working Group is the international forum for issues related to informatics in the classification and coding of health data. The working group is charged with:

- Reviewing health data nomenclature and classification needs for the world community
- Evaluating information processing technology in meeting these defined needs; and
- Recommending methods for future classification and nomenclature systems

Recent and Future Activities:

- WG6 had a WG symposium in 2008 at MedInfo 2007 in Brisbane
- WG symposium in 2009 at the U.S. National Library of Medicine, with focus on the Unified Medical Language System (UMLS)

Intelligent Data Analysis and Data Mining

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Mental Health Informatics

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Open Source Health Informatics

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Co-chair (2009-2012):

Thomas Karopka

Goals and Objectives:

Background: The MHWG of IMIA has been in existence since 2000. For a variety of reasons, the Work Group has not been able to garner the resources to achieve its mission.

During this time, the world of informatics in mental health has exponentially changed. Now consumers can use the web for actual therapy. Clinicians can peek into functioning of the brain during cognitive tasks. They search for evidence-based information while taking care of patients. Patients can be seen by there clinicians via tele-psychiatry. Yet, we have not developed ways that informatics can reduce the disease burden of psychiatric disorders, increase collaboration between medical and mental health clinicians, or shared best practices in research, practice, or policy. If an international body can make a difference, it should be in transforming the burden of mental health disorders worldwide and being an international best practices exchange group.

There exist today unlike three years ago, a critical mass of informatics innovators who function as researchers, developers, and policy leaders who have no forum to share perspectives and shape the future of mental health informatics.

IMIA has already multiple corporate, academic, and governmental partners. The Mental Health Workgroup membership should be recruit members from existing partners. As a potential Mental Health Workgroup Chair I propose four goals to be achieved by 2009:

- Formal collaboration with the WHO mental health initiative
- An Annual Publication of International Best Practices in research, policy and practice in collaboration with Elsevier
- An Informatics Policy Framework that would allow medical and mental health clinicians to share information to the betterment of patients and society while protecting confidentiality and privacy
- Corporate, Foundation, and Governmental Support to fund the functions of the IMIA Workgroup

Recent Activities:

The Mental Health Workgroup has decided to publish a white paper on the "21st century clinician and computerized psychotherapy". This is one trend that truly impacts every country and every mental health clinician. We believe outlets for this paper include the WHO, WPA, individual countries, professional societies, and educational institutions. This will the first White-Paper ever published by the Mental Health Work Group. We hope this begins our efforts to impact technology use, research and policy world-wide.

Objectives:

The objectives of the group as developed at its formation in 2002 remain relevant, and the focus of the group remains on educational, promotional and 'evangelistic' activities to raise awareness of open source software. While the group is named 'open source', our areas of interest include free/libre software and open source software (as described at in the European Commission-funded FLOSS project - see http://www.infonomics.nl/FLOSS/index.htm), and including GNU/Linux. The objectives of the group are:

- To provide a forum for discussion and for a collaborative, non-judgemental work environment to explore, and where appropriate promote and facilitate, the application of free/libre and open source solutions within health, healthcare and health informatics
- To bring together experts and interested individuals from a wide range of health professions and with a range of interests in the potential application of free/libre and open source solutions within their domains of expertise

- To explore the implications of the free/libre and open source approaches for all aspects of IMIA's areas of interest
- To work with other IMIA Working and Special Interest Groups to explore the appropriate use of free/libre and open source solutions and applications
- To facilitate both the use of other groups' expertise in the areas under consideration, and the input of IMIA views to those other groups' work and discussions

Recent Activities:

- The group helped organise a Special Topic Conference with the EFMI Open Source Group, CHIRAD and the BCS. This was a very successful two-day conference in London on the 9th – 11th September 2008.
- There are a number of follow on projects from the conference being developed.
- The group had been asked to collaborate with the South Africa Health Informatics Association (SAHIA) at the HISA conference. In June 2008 in Durban. Both Peter Murray and Graham Wright gave keynotes speeches.
- Graham Wright spoke at the last EFMI STC in Croatia and has been organising a follow on meeting with the Croatia Nursing Informatics Society which has had to be postponed as the Croatia co-ordinator has been hospitalised.

Future Activities:

- Workshop is planned at MIE 2009

Objectives:

- To investigate and evaluate organizational, social, ethical, and individual behavioral issues surrounding the introduction and use of informatics applications
- To determine strategies for systems and workflow analysis, product design and implementation, and technological and organizational change to support health care delivery through information and communication technologies
- To incorporate organizational change management and human concerns into information technology projects

Recent Activities:

Medical Informatics Conference Activities
- Co-sponsored with the AMIA People and Organizational Issues WG, Vanderbilt University, and the National Science Foundation, the 3rd Doctoral Consortium on Organizational Issues to precede the AMIA Symposia in Washington, DC on Nov 8, 2008

Outreach and Collaborative Activities:

To raise awareness of organizational and social issues in health care, the chair
- is serving as a co-editor Special Issue of the Journal of Association of Information Systems (JAIS) on "Health Care IT…Process, People, and Patients." The publish date is 2010.
- is serving as chair for the 3rd Doctoral Consortium on Organizational Issues to precede the AMIA Symposia in Washington, DC on Nov 8, 2008
- is serving as program and organizing committee member, iConference 2009: iSociety: research, education, engagement. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill. Feb. 8-11, 2009

On-going Activities:

- Nominate papers for the Diana Forsythe Award of the AMIA People and Organizational Issues WG, and serve as Co-Chair on the Awards Committee
- Co-sponsoring a Special Issue of the Journal of Association of Information Systems (JAIS) on "Health Care IT…Process, People, and Patients." The publish date is 2010.
- Co-sponsor AMIA People & Organizational Issues WG Doctoral Symposium

Organizational and Social Issues

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Primary Health Care Informatics

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Objectives:

To promote primary care informatics by:

- acting as a forum for exchange of ideas between WG members
- Providing information to its members to assist them in progressing primary care informatics in their own country
- Increasing the understanding of primary care informatics issues with a view to publishing the results of these discussions

Recent Activities:

- The journal, Informatics in Primary Care, was re -launched by Radcliffe Publishing, with endorsement from IMIA WG5 and involvement of members of the working group on the Editorial Board. The journal received Medline listing in September 2003, and since then is receiving an increasing volume of submissions from international sources. Full text is available to personal and library subscribers at: www.radcliffe-oxford.com/ipc, and is now free full-text for papers over a year old.
- Members of the working group continue to liaise at an international level on key local and regional initiatives in primary care informatics. Our key international partners include EFMI Working Group 7 (Primary Care), Informatics Working Party of WONCA (The World Organization of Family Doctors), and the American Medical Informatics Association's Primary Care Informatics Working Group.
- The WONCA Informatics Working Party held a 2-day workshop in Prato, Italy, in August 2006; 18 delegates participated to start the preparation of 6 position papers for publication in a special issue of Informatics in Primary Care, on Security, Clinical Decision Support, Information Sharing, Meeting Patient Needs, Education and Support for Family Doctors and Staff, and Quality and Secondary Uses of Data.
- the Primary Care Informatics Day at Medinfo 2007 in Brisbane with our key international partners. There was 2 international keynote speakers, at the beginning and end of the day, with the rest of the time used for workshop sessions on "show & tell" for new developments, and discussions on the principles derived in the position papers from the WONCA meeting.

Security in Health Information Systems

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Objectives:

To examine the issues of data protection and security within the health-care environment. The Data Protection in Health Information Systems Working Group addresses state-of-the-art security of distributed electronic patient records (EPR).

Recent Activities:

The working group conducted a working conference in Dijon France, Thursday April 27 to Sunday April 30, 2006. Francois Allaert (FR) was Chair of the Local Organizing Committee. Francis Roger France (B) Chair of the Scientific Program Committee. The theme of the conference was: SECURE eHealth Managing risk of patient's data
Four themes had been defined. These were chaired by specific coordinators:

- Telecommunication and Wireless Technologies - F. Allaert
- Ethics and Laws for eHealth in Telemedicine - E. Kluge
- Long Term Data Preservation and Intelligibility - A. Bakker
- Security of Community Wide Health Care Records - N. Gaunt

The conference was attended by 43 participants from 14 countries, including

representatives of private industry, governmental organizations and academia. Sixteen of the presented papers were selected for publication in an upcoming Special Issue of the International Journal of Medical Informatics, which is expected to be published early in 2007, with electronic versions of the papers being perhaps available in 2006 already. The publication will include the recommendations worked out during the conference.

The conference coincided with the thirtieth anniversary of the working group, which was inaugurated on the instigation of Francois Gremy, France, in June 1976 under the leadership of Gerd Griesser, then Director of the Institut fuer Medizinische Dokumentation und Statistik, of the Christian Albrechts Universitaet zu Kiel, Germany, later President of this University.

The memory of Gerd Griesser was revived by instituting the Gerd Griesser Award for the best paper contributed by a student or young investigator to one of the working group s working conferences. This award was created on the initiative of Ab Bakker, Leiden, past chair of the Working Group, by the Board of the Dutch Foundation -International Conferences in Medical Informatics- (ICMI) and carries a value of 1,000 Euro. An international panel of 5 judges unanimously and independently selected Dr. Becker's paper "Information Governance in NHS's NPfIT: A Case for Policy Specification" as the best paper, noting in particular the importance of the issue addressed, the originality of the chosen approach, and the clarity of presentation. Dr. Moritz Y. Becker is a member of the Security Group at Microsoft Research in Cambridge, UK.

During its business meeting at the conference, the Working Group decided to adopt a more regular mode of leadership transition with the election of a Vice-Chair every three years, who is to succeed the current Chair, and to endeavour to achieve alternation between continents in the provision of leadership. Accordingly, Francois Allaert, France, and Kiyomu Ishikawa, Japan, were elected as Chair and Vice- chair respectively to succeed Jochen Moehr, Canada.

Our proposal for the joint session with WG1 and JHIFT was accepted by MEDINFO 2007. It is scheduled in Brisbane on August 21 as an Educational Program (S080).

Future Activities:

Dr. Ishikawa (Co-chair of SiHIS WG) is going to host WG4 meeting at Hiroshima from November 21 through 24, 2009 where and when JCMI 2009 and APAMI 2009 are going to be held.

Goals and Objectives:

The aim of this working group is the study and promotion of research and development in the area of smart homes and ambient assisted living applications. A "smart home" is a residential setting equipped with a set of advanced electronics, sensors and automated devices specifically designed for care delivery, remote monitoring, early detection of problems or emergency cases and promotion of residential safety and quality of life. Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are utilized to allow individuals to live independently in their preferred environment. Thus, systems are patient-centered rather than institution-centered as they are designed to address the needs of individuals, their families and caregivers rather than these of health care facilities. Furthermore, such technologies can allow for the detection of emergencies and provide the means to increase social interaction and minimize isolation for residents (by increasing access to information, entertainment resources and communication with peers). The Working Group provides a forum for ongoing discussion and a collaborative platform for research and development combining expertise in engineering, sensor technologies, ubiquitous computing, health systems, gerontology and human

Smart Homes and Ambient Assisted Living

Chair (2006 - 2009):
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computer interaction. We will address not only technical challenges but also the end users' needs, ethical, clinical and policy issues and the design of sustainable and non-obtrusive interventions, providing a holistic examination of the current status and future trends in smart homes and ambient assisted living.

Recent Activities:

Conferences/ Events:
- The IMIA WG on Smart Homes and Ambient Assisted Living co-sponsored *the IASTED International Conference on Assistive Technologies AT 2008* held April 16 – 18, 2008 in Baltimore, Maryland, USA.
- We sponsored a workshop on Smart Homes and Ambient Assisted Living during the *4th IET International Conference on Intelligent Environments (IE 08)* held 21 - 22 July, 2008 at the University of Washington, Seattle, USA (supported by IEEE and AAAI).

Workshops/ Tutorials:
The following were sponsored by the IMIA WG on Smart Homes and Ambient Assisted Living during Medinfo 2007 in Brisbane, Australia:
- Demiris G, Afrin LB, Courtney KL, Goossen W, Lovis C, Vimarlund V. Patient-centered Applications and Mobile Health: Promoting Disease Management and Wellness. Workshop presented at the 12th World Congress on Health/ Medical Informatics Medinfo 2007, Brisbane, Australia, August 19, 2007
- Koch S, Demiris G, Marschollek M, Vimarlund V. From Evolutionary to Revolutionary Home Healthcare. Tutorial presented at the 12th World congress on Health/ Medical Informatics Medinfo 2007, Brisbane, Australia, August 20, 2007
The following workshop was sponsored for **MIE 2008**:
- Demiris G, Marschollek M**.** Smart Homes and Ambient Assisted Living: Redefining Technology in the Home. Workshop to be presented during Medical Informatics Europe MIE 2008, Gothenburg, Sweden

Working Group Website:
The WG website was created in December 2006. The site is at http://www.health-smarthomes.org/
The site includes information about existing research projects and other related resources, as well as links to related organizations, announcements and events. It is being updated regularly.

Working Group Listserv:
The WG listserv smarthomes@u.washington.edu was established in December 2006 and at the time of writing this report, it includes 203 members.

Future Activities:

We aim to complete a registry of ongoing smart home and ambient assisted living projects. This registry has been initiated and includes several entries, however we plan on inviting researchers and designers through our website and listserv as well as individual members' professional networks to register their projects with our database to allow for a comprehensive assessment of ongoing efforts worldwide as well as for identification of collaboration opportunities. We will continue to promote dissemination of the working group members' work with theme issues, workshops and tutorials. Finally, we plan on organizing a special topic conference focusing on the WG areas in the next two years.

Objectives:

- To advise about standards from an academic perspective
- To promote the mutual identification of needed standards world-wide
- To share information to facilitate mutual coordination of standards development in health informatics

Expanded description of the content areas that will be worked on by the Working Group

- WG 16 itself does not create new standards; rather, it devotes its activity on promotion of mutual identification and coordination by posting and maintaining an inventory of health informatics standard activities.
- Usually, standard development activities are by volunteers, vendors, and immediate users. It is quite natural and fine for them to devote efforts to acquire fruitful outcomes. Sometimes, however, potential future users' profit could be underrated.
- IMIA is academically oriented, and is a world-wide organization which has connections with countries which participate less currently in existing standard development activities.
- Therefore, IMIA WG 16 inputs thoughtfulness for future users and for multicultural environments, as advisory to standard development activities.

Recent Activities:

IMIA WG16 for standards has been organizing annual workshops at the time of international MI conferences, such as MEDNIFO 2007, APAMI 2006, MIE 2005, etc. Also it continues to contribute to ISO/TC215 (Health Informatics) as type D liaison.

Future Activities:

Planned event is in Hiroshima in conjunction with the JCMI 2009 and the APAMI 2009 late November.

Recent Activities:

Significant progress has been made with respect to our two current main activities: The development of statement on reporting of evaluation studies in health informatics (STARE-HI) and the development of guidelines for good evaluation practice in health informatics (GEP-HI).

STARE-HI has now been published in the International Journal of Medical Informatics in the first issue of 2009. A related article is submitted to BMJ. The former chair, Jan Talmon has been part of a panel on evaluation at AMIA2008. The former co-chair, Jytte Brender, is in charge of the preparation of an explanation paper that details the various aspects of STARE-HI. Michael Rigby will present STARE-HI related papers at IEEE 2009 conference and IADIS e-Health 2009 (EH 2009). STARE-HI has been submitted to the EQUATOR website. We started a delphi-study to adapt STARE-HI for conference proceedings. Results will be available at Medinfo 2010.

The HFE WG has organised a workshop on guidelines for and reporting of Human Factor Engineering studies in December 2008 together with members of our WG.

We hope to present a pre-final draft of GEP-HI at workshops of MIE2009 and AMIA2009.

Members of our core team contacted the Alliance for Clinical Excellence (ACE), a key global initiative which was formed in response to a growing global demand in the healthcare industry for predictive, evidence-based metrics to determine the cost-and-benefit equation of IT in Healthcare. First meetings between ACE representatives and Jan Talmon and Michael Rigby are planned to discuss possibilities for collaboration.

Standards in Health Care Informatics

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Technology Assessment & Quality Development in Health Informatics

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All activities have been undertaken in collaboration with the EFMI working group on Evaluation, lead by E. Ammenwerth.

Future Activities:

- Further development GEP-HI
- Adaption of STARE-HI for conference papers and specific types of evaluation studies such as Human Factor Engineering and Evaluation
- Development of accompanying papers with supportive evidence for STARE-HI
- Workshops on evaluation methodology at MIE, MEDINFO and AMIA conferences
- Exploration of other directions of Quality Development
- Exploration of cooperation with ACE

Telematics in Health Care

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Objectives:

- To explore the rationale and perspective of Health Telematics
- To promote the design and development of open architecture and interoperability tools
- To promote the analysis, design and development of methodologies and applications to support collaborative work in healthcare information systems
- To share experiences on E-health, Telemedicine and Professional Healthcare networks

Recent Activities:

After the meetings of London (Medinfo 2001), Lille (2002), Saint-Malo (2003), San Francisco (2004) and Geneva (2005), the activities of the Working Group "Telematics in Healthcare" in 2006 were devoted to find new directions in the study of the development of Telemedicine and Communicating Medicine. In the workshop of Geneva (2005), it was clearly established that Telematics is now a natural and important part of Medical Information Systems, particularly in Regional Information Systems. The development of large national projects concerning Patient Shared Records demonstrates also that Telematics is now embedded in most of Medical Information applications.

That is why 2006 was devoted to come into contacts with other fields of the Medical Information domain:

- We worked actively in the organisation of the workshop in Lille, France (21-24 May 2006) on "Human Factors Engineering in Medical Informatics", devoted to the study of the influence of Human Factors on the potential impact of medical informatics applications on the quality of healthcare, on the potential reduction of risks and errors. We shared our experiences by giving examples and testimonies of usability studies for Hospital Information Systems, Telemedicine, Distant Training, and e-Health.
- Knut Bernstein (co-chair) participated in the workshop of the IMIA HIS Working group: "Expanding the Scope of Health Information Systems from Hospitals to Regional Networks, to National Infrastructures, and Beyond" IMIA HIS Working Conference hosted by INA, Instituto Nacional de Administração in cooperation with IMIA WG Telematics in Healthcare in Oeiras - Portugal July 2-4, 2006.