Information on IMIA Regional Groups

APAMI
Asia Pacific Association for Medical Informatics

1 Membership of APAMI
APAMI’s currently active member societies include Australia (HISA), China (CIMA), Hong Kong SAR (HKSMI), India (IAMI), Japan (JAMI), Korea (KOSMI), New Zealand (HNZ), Philippines (PMIS), Sri Lanka (HISL), Singapore (AMBISS), Taiwan (TAMI) and Thailand (TMAI). There are observer members from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Nepal. Though Kazakhstan, Pakistan, and Vietnam were members as per past reports, we have been unable to elicit any updates from them.

2 APAMI 2016 Conference
The “9th Asia Pacific Association of Medical Informatics 2016” was held at The-K Hotel Seoul from November 2 until November 5, 2016. The organizing committee consisted of Hasuk Bae (Organizing Secretary), Jae-Ho Lee (Organizing Secretary), Kyoung-Hee Cho, Ju-Han Kim (Organizing Chairman), Inyoung Choi (Scientific Program), Hyoun-Joong Kong, Seol-Kyung Baek, Younghee Lee, Young Ah Kim, Soo-Yong Shin, Il Kon Kim, Hyeoun-Ae Park, Jinwook Choi, and Hun Sung Kim.

The conference was attended by 371 delegates from 15 countries coming from different spheres of Healthcare and Medical Informatics. Amongst some of the eminent speakers and delegates for the above conference were Fernando Martin-Sanchez, PhD FACHI and Dr Seong K. Mun (President, Open Source EHR Alliance) from the USA as well as Dr Yu-Chuan (Jack) Li FACHI from Taiwan.

104 Papers was received and 100 were accepted. The presentations were divided into oral & poster sessions. The oral session consisted of different scientific sessions grouped in ten topics; telemedicine for global health network, big data informatics, health data exchange, nursing informatics, Personal Health Record (PHR) and hospital system, Clinical Decision Support System, Electronic Health Record (EHR), mHealth for connected patient care, public health & national health strategy, and mobile health applications.

The conference received good support in the form of sponsorships from various government agencies and IT/healthcare companies. The total amount of registration fee and financial sponsorship was USD 151,448 USD.

Category  Sponsor / Supporter Name
Government  HIRA, NHIS, SSIS
Corporations  BIT computer, ORACLE, eCareTech, Philips, HP, LifeSemantics, Microsoft, GE, ZIKTO, Comtec System, HEALTHION
Universities  Seoul National University, LINC (IHE KOREA), Yonsei University Health System, Chungbuk National University

3 General Assembly Meeting of APAMI
The APAMI General Assembly meeting for 2016 was held at in conjunction with the APAMI 2016 Conference in Seoul, South Korea, on 4th November 2016 in the Haegeum Hall of the Hotel, Seoul, South Korea. The meeting was attended by a record 13 member organizations.

Some highlights of the APAMI GM include:

a. APAMI congratulates the Korean Society of Medical Informatics (KOSMI) for holding a high-quality and financially successful conference.

b. APAMI also congratulates the five winners of the APAMI 2016 Conference Bursary:

Md. Mohaimenul Islam - Bangladesh
Institution: Graduate Institute of Biomedical Informatics at Taipei Medical University
Title of accepted Paper: Association of Lipid Profile & HbA1c among T2DM patients: A cross-sectional Study in Bangladesh
Yisi Liu - China
Institution: Capital Medical University, Beijing
Title of accepted Paper: Improving Patients’ Medication Adherence and Lipid Level by Customized Short Message: a six-month Clinical Trial

Sushil Oommen John - India
Institution: The George Institute for Global Health India
Title of accepted Paper: Remote Monitoring in Home Peritoneal Dialysis: Seamless User-centered Provision of Risk-stratified Treatment in Peritoneal Dialysis

Aneesh Bhattarai - Nepal
Institution: B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences
Title of accepted Paper: Telemedicine Setup and Consultation Process in a Remote Health Post in Eastern Nepal - a cross-sectional Study

Pamod Amorkaran - Sri Lanka
Institution: Health Informatics Society of Sri Lanka
Title of accepted Paper: Disruptive Innovation in mHealth: A Case of Nutrition Monitoring from a LMIC

The next APAMI biennial conference is scheduled to be held in 2018; the tendering process will close 31 Jan 2017.

4 APAMI Executive
The APAMI leadership consists of:
President: Dr KH Cho (Korea)
Immediate Past President: Dr SB Gogia (India)
Past President: Dr Ying Wu (China)
Secretary: A/Prof Klaus D Veil (Australia)
Treasurer: Dr CP Wong (Hong Kong)

The national health informatics conference “HIC16” was held 24-27 July 2016 and attended by over 1,200 participants. Over 150 speakers covered topics such as clinical informatics innovation, electronic medication management, digital hospital design, Health IT standards and interoperability, health information workforce challenges, and more. HISA also held a “Hacking Health” event that allowed students and young professionals to pitch and develop digital health start-up products. Awards honoring the Australian e-Health pioneer Branko Cesnik were given to the best general and student papers. The scientific program was managed by the Australasian College of Health Informatics (ACHI).

ACHI has also published the first comprehensive directory of education programs for the Health Information Professions in Australia and New Zealand. The College had identified that many state, territories, and federal health authorities and health industry employers are unaware of the education options in the Health Information profession. The directory lists vocational, undergraduate, and postgraduate education and training programs; ACHI hopes this will encourage more Health Information professionals on the journey from entry-level to advanced and formal qualifications.

China
Lieping Wu - China Medical Informatics Association (CMIJA)
2016 has been a busy and exciting year for CMIJA. We organized and hosted the 14th National Congress on Health and Medical Informatics (CMIJA2016), Xiamen, China in September of the year. The conference was successful with over 700 attendees. The conference covered a range of topics in parallel forums, from medical informatics, mobile and tele-medicine, hospital information systems and integration, electronic medical record (EMR) and electronic health record (EHR), information processing and systems for Chinese medicine, cloud computing in
healthcare, nursing informatics, medical big data application, and medical imaging, and more. The conference promoted nation-wide the use of new technologies in medical practice and pushing for healthcare reforms with the themes of merging new technologies, exploiting big medical data, and discussing new medical reforms.

CMIA also worked hard to promote MedInfo2017. The delegations of CMIA were sent to APAMI2016, CJK2016, New Zealand, Australia, etc. to promote MedInfo2017 as well as scholarly activities. For example, the trip to APAMI2016 in Seoul, Korea, was very successful with the help of APAMI organizers. We are glad to see that the paper submissions to MedInfo2017 surpassed 600 with the Asia-Pacific region as the top contributor.

In APAMI2016 trip, CMIA delegates also attended the APAMI general assembly meeting to jointly discuss APAMI affairs along with the delegates from other member countries.

Hong Kong

C P Wong - Hong Kong Society of Medical Informatics (HKSMI)

In 2016 Hong Kong has made a major advancement by officially launching the Territory-wide Electronic Health Record Sharing System on 13 March 2017, linking the 40 public hospitals, 160 public clinics to the 12 private hospitals and more than 2,000 private institutions and private practitioners in Hong Kong. This system is the result of the five years hard work of preparation in all the essentials of standardized terminology and a robust legal framework. Tremendous training and lobbying efforts were spent to make this roll out smooth and successful. By the end of the year, more than 400 thousand persons opted-in to enroll into the system for the sharing, and practically all accounts, it was the best ever conference held in the last two decades.

Work has already been started to the second phase of the Electronic Health Record Sharing Platform that will include images sharing and patient portals.

India

Oommen John - President, Indian Association for Medical Informatics (IAMI)

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare officially released a revised National EHR Interoperability Standards for India in December 2016, after the initial release in 2013. Several members of IAMI have played a key role in the conceptualization, drafting, and policy advocacy for these standards, which is now officially launched. This endeavor has set the pathway for the ambitious Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP), which would serve as a national health information exchange. IAMI members are playing a strategic role in the consultations that are underway towards developing the roadmap for IHIP. India is also working towards a NDHA (National Digital Health Authority of India), which will provide the policy and legal framework for digital health in India. The current Centre for Health Informatics, National Health Portal (CHI-NHP) will evolve into a National Health Informatics Institute towards capacity building in health informatics.

In December 2016, the Second Revision of EHR standards (first released in October 2013) was released by the Ministry of Health. IAMI held its first ever Connectathon at St Johns Research Institute, Bangalore. Manick Rajendran, Sathish Ratakonda, Anirudha Nene, Shashi Bhushan Gogia, and Thanga Prabhu formed the core organizing team from IAMI. Over 20 Healthcare IT/EMR and imaging modalities vendors participated in the two days long event. The contest winners were provided clinical scenarios and challenged to create clinical records to demonstrate interoperability capabilities across modalities, such as imaging. Over 100 enthusiastic participants were able to witness ‘interoperability in real life’ for the first time, which opened avenues for further collaborations and partnerships. The report of the Connectathon was shared with the key stakeholders to increase its awareness in the healthcare ecosystem, and reinforce interoperability as the ubiquitous foundation for any meaningful usage of data.

IAMI members have been assisting the government in its various informatics efforts. IAMI has been en-gaged in providing thought leadership at different forums across the country and internationally, prominent amongst these have been Healthcare Leaders Forum, Transforming Healthcare with IT, and Health Informatics Summit. IAMI was well represented at APAMI 2016 with several original research papers in the various thematic tracks.

Ambient and exciting discussions - which had been continuing in IAMI’s various email forums, such as iami_gen@googlegroups.com and medinfo-india@yahoogroups.com - have now been shifted to an exclusive members-only forum. However, an APAMI wide group has been opened news@apami.org. Membership to the APAMI group is open to all across the globe.

IAMI members are currently engaged in preparing a policy paper for the introduction of health informatics in medical and nursing education through experiential learning. A draft paper has been prepared by active IAMI members along with contributions from mainstream academicians. A consultation meeting is scheduled at New Delhi in early January involving stakeholders from the Government, Healthcare Enterprises, and Regulatory Agencies. The proceedings of the meeting would be tabled to the Ministry of Health for their further consideration.
ISO TC 215 standards are being published in India through the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). Most of the key work is being done by IAMi members, who have been nominated, and they are actively participating in various global ISO WG meetings. A public symposium was held on 11 January 2017 that included IAMi members Rahl Qamar Siddiqui, Suman Bhattacharyya, Shashi Bhushan Gogia, and Supen Sarbadhikari as key speakers.

Current Office-bearers of IAMi are:
- President: Oommen John
- Vice President: Thanga Prabhu
- Secretary: Sathish Babu Rathakonda
- Treasurer: U S Mahalanobish
- International Representative: Senthil Nachimuthu
- IJMI Editor: Ajit Kumar

Japan
Prof. Tomohiro Sawa - International Committee, Japan Association for Medical Informatics (JAMI)

As of 31 December 2016, JAMI is consisting of 2,590 regular members, 636 affiliate members, and more than 500 members in other categories.

In June 2016, JAMI started with new board members. The former president Miho-ko Okada completed the term successfully and JAMI filed another history of prosperity. The president Kazuhioko Ohe has lead new board members since June 2016.

The annual spring conference was held jointly with the Japanese Society for Artificial Intelligence (JSAI) on June 2nd – 4th in Shimane prefecture. The theme of the conference was “Artificial intelligence as the foundation of next-generation medical ICT infrastructure”. More than 1,000 researchers from JAMI, JSAI, and others gathered and discussed on hot topics in biomedical informatics and the future of artificial intelligence.

The 36th Joint Conference on Medical Informatics was held on 21-24 November 2016 in Yokohama. More than 3,100 attendees joined to the conference and more than 300 presentations were made. During the conference, the 17th CJKM was held on November 22. More than 50 researchers from China, Korea, Japan, and other countries attended the conference and 18 presentations were made.

A new specialty of medicine, Japan board of public health and social medicine was established in December 2016. The board is consisting of the society of epidemiology, public health, occupational medicine, health administration, medical informatics, and others. The board will accept new fellows in spring of 2017.

New Zealand
Inga Hunter - Healthcare Informatics New Zealand (HiNZ)

In New Zealand, we are experiencing sustained and significant growth year on year. In 2016, our two hour free ‘Primer’ sessions for clinicians attracted record attendances of 40-60 clinicians (up from 5-10 people two years earlier). We believe this growth is being driven by a growing recognition of the importance of health IT in the clinical environment.

Healthcare Informatics New Zealand (HiNZ) as an organization is taking action to reduce fragmentation within the sector by forming proactive collaborations with other NGOs in the clinical and technology space and, in some cases, conducting joint events for members.

In November 2016, in recognition of the constraints of busy professionals with limited CPD funding, we co-located our two local conferences (HiNZ & the Nursing Informatics Conference) with two international tele-health events, to deliver four concurrent conferences in one week in Auckland, New Zealand. Delegates registered once and were able to attend any session across the four conferences. We kept registration fees affordable (only NZ$898 for a three day conference). We achieved a record HiNZ attendance of 1,100 delegate gate from 20 countries, including 260 speakers. We also had a 200% rise in author submissions to the HiNZ Conference compared to last year and exhibition bookings were 30% up on the previous year, representing a significant investment from local health IT industry.

Most of the growth in the submissions and registrations for the conference came from clinicians. It appears that the NZ market is moving from an ‘early adopter’ to an ‘early majority’ mindset, in regards to the awareness of, and engagement with, health IT by clinicians.

Philippines
Dr Alvin Marcelo - Philippine Medical Informatics Society (PMIS)

The Philippine Medical Informatics Society (PMIS) has expanded to more than 1,200 members and continues to nurture the society through social media - www.facebook.com/groups/philmedinfo. Several PMIS members provide civil society and professional representation to the National Health Governance Structure - the formal organizational process to develop a comprehensive eHealth program in the country. The National eHealth Program is led by the Steering Committee chaired by the Secretary of Health and comprises the Secretaries of Science and Technology, Information and Communications Technology, the President of PhilHealth, and the Chancellor of the University of the Philippines Manila. The Steering Committee evaluates stakeholder needs, sets directions, and monitors the progress of the national eHealth program.

PMIS members have been officially appointed to the following committees and working groups of the National eHealth Program:
- The Technical Working Group (an analog of the IT Strategy Committee as per the WHO-ITU National eHealth Strategy Toolkit). The TWG meets monthly and aligns, plans, and organizes the activities of the major stakeholder agencies along the directions set by the Steering Committee.
- The Standards Expert Group (SEG) was directed to create and maintain a catalog of standards for use by health information systems. The SEG extended their work with the production of the Standards Change Management Manual.
- The Privacy Expert Group (PEG) was directed to ensure that all eHealth systems in the country obtain proper guidance on how to comply with the Data Privacy Act of 2012.
- The Advisers Group represents the private sector and ranges representation from hospitals, ICT companies, and health professional organizations.
- The Electronic Medical Records Expert
Group (EMREG) comprises implementers of solutions in government frontline clinics.

- The Health Enterprise Architecture Expert Group (HEAEG) maintains the enterprise architecture for health sector in the country.
- The Risk Management Expert Group keeps track of business risks of the National eHealth Program.

A National eHealth Summit is being planned to be convened by the Secretary of Health with the assistance of the PMIS.

On the international side, PMIS founding chair is connected to the other APAMI members Drs. Boonchai Kijsayanotin (Thailand), Dr Anis Fuad (Indonesia,) and Mr. Jai Ganesh (India) and established the Asia eHealth Information Network (www.ahin.org) with support from the World Health Organization, Asian Development Bank, UNICEF, NORD, and other development partners. The goal of AehIN is to specifically support the national eHealth strategies of ministries of health in Asia. The 5th AehIN General Meeting will be co-hosted by the Ministry of Health and Sports Myanmar in Naypyitaw, March 6 to 10, 2017. An invitation has been extended to the president of APAMI to participate.

**Singapore**

*Adam Chee - Association for Medical & Bioinformatics Singapore (AMBIS)*

AMBIS recovered from a three-year “hiatus” with a new Executive Committee elected on the 25 April 2016, comprising:

- President: Dr. Adam Chee - BinaryHealthCare (BNHC)
- Vice-President: Dr. Lam Tze Hau - Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR)
- Secretary: Dr. Kenneth Ban - National University of Singapore (NUS)
- Treasurer: Dr. Hu Yong Li - Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR)
- Ordinary Committee Member: Mr. Gab Sim - The Healthcare Board (THCB)
- Ordinary Committee Member: Michael Xue Ming - Khoo Teck Puat Hospital (KTPH), Singapore

The following (key) activities were held in 2016:

- HL7 Singapore - AMBIS Joint Summit 2016, 19 August 2016, Singapore
- 15th International Conference on Bioinformatics (InCOB 2016), 21 - 23 September 2016, Singapore

AMBIS is the process of re-engaging the local stakeholders in the area of Health Informatics and also work-ing with HL7 Singapore to setup the National IHE Chapter for Singapore (housed under HL7 Singapore).

**South Korea**

*In Young Choi - Korean Society of Medical Informatics (KOSMI)*

As of January 13, 2017, KOSMI has more than 6,000 different types of members consisting of 223 life-time members, 130 full members, 43 student members, 5,669 Web members, and 12 institute members.

The Ministry of Health and Welfare of the Republic of Korea is continuously conducting a clinical informa-tion exchange pilot project. In 2016, patient care information from two large hospital groups was exchanged between the international terminology standard and the HL7 CDA standard. In 2017, the pilot business continues to expand through the exchange of medical information from six large hospital groups.

KOSMI plays a very important role in the field of biomedical informatics in Korea by providing opportunities for sharing and exchang-ing information and knowledge in the field. Main activities of the KOSMI include hosting regular biannual academic conferences, seminars on different topics, and publishing the Health Informatics Research (HIR), an official journal of KOSMI four times per year.

The spring conference was held at College of Medicine, Ajou University in Seoul from June 23 to June 24. The theme of the conference was “Future of Health Changed by Artificial Intelligence” and 334 members participated in the conference. There were three tutorials, 10 symposiums, 20 paper presentations, and 36 poster presentations. Three papers and one poster were awarded and recognized as the best papers and poster respectively at the conference.

KOSMI published the 22nd volume of the HIR in 2016. The KOSMI currently publishes two issues completely in English. In general, each issue publishes one review article, 6-10 original research articles, a case report, and two book reviews. The Journal was accredited by the Korea Research Foundation in 2006 and registered as one of the prestigious academic journals in Korea.

KOSMI organized “9th Asia Pacific Association of Medical Informatics 2016” at The-K Hotel Seoul, Seoul on 02nd – 05th Nov 2016 and the chairman of the organizing committee were Kyung-Hee Cho and Ju-Han Kim. The organizing committee consisting of Hasuk Bae (Organizing Secretary), Jae-Ho Lee (Organizing Secretary), In Young Choi (Scientific Program), Hyoun-Joong Kong, Seo-Kyung Baek, Younghee Lee, Young Ah Kim, Soo-Yong Shin, Il Kon Kim, Hyoun-Ae Park, Jinwook Choi, and Hyeun Jung Kim (Organizing Committees). The committee worked hard and toiled to make the conference a grand success. The conference was attended by 371 delegates from 15 countries coming from different spheres of Healthcare and Medical Informatics. Amongst some of the eminent speakers and delegates for the above conference were Fernando Martin-Sanchez PhD from USA, Dr Yu-Chuan (Jack) Li from Taiwan, and Dr Seong K. Mun from USA. A total of 104 Papers were received and 100 were accepted.

**Sri Lanka**

*Prof Vajira Disanayake - President, Health Informatics Society of Sri Lanka (HISSL)*

The HISSL board was reconstituted in February 2016 and now it is comprised of:

- President: Prof Vajira H. W. Disanayake MBBS, PhD, FNASSL
- President Elect: Dr Rohana Marasinghe MBBS, MSc (Biomedical Informatics), PhD
- Secretary: Dr Achala Jayatilleke MBBS, MSc (Biomedical Informatics), PhD
- Assistant Secretary: Dr Chaminda Weerabaddana MBBS, MSc (Biomedical Informatics)
- Treasurer: Dr. Pandula Siribaddana MBBS
- Assistant Treasurer: Dr. Premil Liyanage MBBS, MSc (Biomedical Informatics)
- Executive Vice Presidents: Dr. Prasad Ranatunga MBBS, MSc (Biomedical Informatics) (Conference and Events); Dr. Rikaz Sheriff MBBS, MSc (Biomedical Informatics) (Continuous Professional Development); Dr. Clive James MD, MSc
(Biomedical Informatics) (Standards and Inter-operability); Dr. Pamod Amarakoon MBBS, MSc (Biomedical Informatics) (Member Affairs); Dr. Rajalingam Niranjan (Clinical Information Systems) MBBS, MSc (Biomedical Informatics); Dr. Nishan Silva (Journal and Publications) MBBS, MSc (Biomedical Informatics); Dr. Janaka Wickramaratne MBBS, MSc (Biomedical Informatics) (Public Health Information Systems); Dr. Kusal Wijeweera MBBS, MSc (Biomedical Informatics) (Ethics and Accreditation)

The major activity for HISSL during the second half of the year 2016 included organizing and conducting the Commonwealth Medical Associations 24th Triennial Conference 2016 on the theme Digital Health for Health and Wellbeing (http://www.cma2016.org). The conference was a grand success. The HISSL is now partnering with the Commonwealth Medical Association as its main partner to establish a Commonwealth Digital Health Network and a Commonwealth Institute of Digital Health.

HISSL flagship project initiated in 2016, the District Nutrition Monitoring System (DNMS), has now been successfully implemented in three districts. It is now being scaled up to other parts of the country. The mobile app of the DNMS won the award for the best early stage app at the Billiionth mobile app of the DNMS won the award for the best early stage app at the mBilliionth mobile app of the DNMS won the award for the best early stage app at the mBilliionth mobile app of the DNMS won the award for the best early stage app at the mBilliionth mobile app of the DNMS won the award for the best early stage app at the mBilliionth mobile app of the DNMS won the award for the best early stage app at the mBilliionth mobile app of the DNMS won the award for the best early stage app at the mBilliionth mobile app of the DNMS won the award for the best early stage app at the m

We supported association members to apply and run national grants in:
1. CDC Clouds Development
2. Thintank in Wearable Devices and Internet of Things
3. Development of Standards for Personal Health Records
4. Upgrading the Claim Clouds of our National Health Insurance

TAMI also actively promoted Graduate Programs in Biomedical Informatics and attracted more young professionals. TAMI encouraged local submissions for the Medinfo 2017 and joined the Medinfo 2017 LOC to prepare for the conference.

We are running and upgrading the Medical Informatics Competency Exams and we have the first Full-score candidate.

In addition, TAMI founded the Taiwan Association of Medical Informatics Foundation and moved to own offices.

For more information, please contact APAMI Secretary A/Prof Klaus Veil at Secretary@APAMI.org

Thailand
Dr. Boonchat Kijsanayotin - Vice President, Thai Medical Informatics Association (TMI)
The Thai Medical Informatics Association (TMI) has played a crucial role in the field of biomedical and health informatics in Thailand by working with both local and international health communities and industries to increase sharing and exchanging news, information, and knowledge in the field. As of July 2016, TMI has 544 registered members and around 50% are health care professionals.

Regular activities of the TMI include hosting biannual academic conferences, a mid-year healthcare CIO and annual national health IT conference. Several Health IT/eHealth seminars/workshops on different topics such as health data analytics workshops and introduction to health IT/eHealth seminars have been provided to members and general public. In 2017, our mid-year Healthcare CIO forum was held with the HIMSS Asia Pac 2016 Conference in Bangkok on 24-25 August 2016. There were 113 CIO-level participants attending our midyear CIO forum. TMI's 2016 annual and national health IT conference was successfully held in Bangkok on 23rd-25th November 2016; 312 Health IT professional attended the conference. The theme of the conference was “Health Information Exchange for Better Healthcare”

TMI has published the Health IT Quality Improvement Framework (HITQIF) including the hospital IT improvement guideline and has worked together with the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) to implement the framework and guideline in 34 public and private hospitals. TMI also launched its official journal this year: The Journal of the Thai Medical Informatics Association (JTMI), the official journal of the Thai Medical Informatics Association (TMI), publishes biannually peer-reviewed original articles in English and Thai. TMI also communicates with members and public through TMI Newsletter, which publishes every 3 months, mailing list and social media.

Together with representatives from the Philippine Medical Informatics Society (Philippines), HISSL (Sri Lanka), FIKI (Indonesia), TMI and MOPH health-IT leaders were able to undergo training on IT Governance (COBIT5 Foundation and Implementation) with support from WHO, AeHIN (Asia eHealth Information Network), and NORAD.

For more information, please contact APAMI Secretary A/Prof Klaus Veil at Secretary@APAMI.org

APAMI Web Site
http://www.apami.org
Helina
Activities of the Pan African Health Informatics Association

Helina Conference 2017
A Call for Papers was sent out in November for full papers, work in progress, and case studies to be submitted for consideration for the HELINA 2017 conference. The HELINA Board appointed a scientific program committee and has been working with the Local Organising Committee (LOC) of the Burundi Health Informatics Association to organise the 10th HELINA Conference in Bujumbura, Burundi, in 2017. The conference is expected to attract about 200 – 250 people from across the world. The title of the conference is “Integrated Health Information Management Resources for Global Healthcare Strategies”. The following topics are proposed as the main themes for the conference:

- National and Regional eHealth Strategies and Policies
- Health Information Systems Interoperability
- Human Information Systems Interoperability
- Human Capacity building for eHealth
- Sustainable systems implementations

In September 2016, HELINA was invited to participate in the 4th Annual Africa Hospital Expansion Summit in Accra, Ghana. The Association was represented by Frances Baaba da-Costa Vroom, Secretary to the Board, and Dr. Innocent Nanan, Treasurer. Frances gave a presentation on behalf of HELINA on the topic “Converting a conventional hospital into digital one. Assuring connectivity and all-round ICT framework to boost the much needed investments in eHealth and centralized patient data management”. The conference was a good platform to promote HELINA and advertise the upcoming HELINA 2017 conference in Burundi. There were about 150 – 200 participants at this conference.

Activities of the Data Mining and Big Data Analytics Workgroup
This Working Group is chaired by Dr. Georges Nguefack-Tsague, Senior Lecturer of Biostatistics and Health Informatics at the Department of Public Health, University of Yaoundé, and Co-Chaired by Mr Samuel Dery, Assistant Lecturer at the Department of Biostatistics at the School of Public Health, University of Ghana. The objectives of the WG are:

1. Promoting data mining and big data analytics in Africa;
2. Promoting the secondary use of big data;
3. Strengthening stakeholders in health informatics in Africa with practical (software based) skills in data mining and big data analytics.

The format of the Working Group is through work sets, consisting of members who have volunteered to give their time and expertise in specific planned activity on behalf of HELINA.

Each work set has a responsible coordinator. The role of the coordinator is to recruit and manage the activities and projects within the work sets and prepare progress reports for the Chair to present to both HELINA Board and HELINA General Assembly when requested.

Activities in 2016
A - Background
1) The platform for web discussions has about 30 members (https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8481534).
2) Activities of work set One: Analysing Demographics and Health Surveys (DHS) data in various African countries. The Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) Program has collected accurate and representative data on population, health, HIV, and nutrition through many African countries. This tremendous amount of information is freely available to the public and is underutilized. The objective of this work set is to promote the use of data mining techniques to analyse DHS data in various African countries.

At the Cameroon Health Research Forum (CaHReF) held on 23-26 August 2016 at Yaoundé, the following themes were accepted as abstract presentations by members (Cameroon, Benin, Burkina-Faso, Madagascar) of the work set One:

a) Factors affecting uptake of intermittent preventive treatment of Malaria among pregnant women in Cameroon (Dr. Georges Nguefack-Tsague, Cameroon)
b) Factors associated with intermittent preventive treatment of Malaria among pregnant women in Benin: 2011-2013 (Rémy Houguevou, Benin)
c) Treatment or counselling of mothers toward fever in Burkina Faso-EIPBF 2014 (Mahamoudou Kabore, Burkina-Faso)
d) Determinants of uptake of intermittent preventive treatment of Malaria among pregnant women in Madagascar (Jean Baptiste Tarzan Ndremitsara, Madagascar)

Helina Education Working Group Report
HELINA Education working group was launched as an official working group (WG) under the leadership of Professor Graham Wright at the meeting of the HELINA Board on March 2015. The main aim of the working group is to foster the objectives and policies of HELINA by providing a platform for the development of initiatives to support the membership of HELINA in relationship with Health Informatics Education, Training, and Research.

Website Progress
A website for the HELINA Education Working Group has been set up at http://wg-education.helina-online.org/. It currently has basic information on the WG, its aims and members, and on planned activities. Workset leaders will add further information on activity, and update aims and objectives.

Other Communication and Online Groups
A LinkedIn Group has been set up https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8274552. The one-stop access point for Health Informatics’ training materials will help to:
- Reduce the time and effort to share content or learning materials across Africa.
- Support re-use and re-purposing which is especially beneficial with Health Informatics learning resources.
- Allow cost efficiencies and decrease duplication of effort.
- Encourage improvement in teaching practice and offer a one-stop access point for Health Informaticians and support course development.
- Encourage multidisciplinary collaboration and sharing.
- Provide 24/7/365 accessibility.
A YouTube repository of Keynote and Inaugural Addresses is being tested at https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLw9K-8MaSa0Q9ODGjzpLvKOFs1GAPapV2d which is intended to be the prime repository for video materials. Copies of Videos can be sent directly to: neachorib@ gmail.com or shared with us through Drop box ID: neachorib@gmail.com Nutefe Elikplim Achoribo (Coordinator work set Two)

Suggested playlists are Engineering for Change, Masterclass sessions, Health Informatics Research, Health Informatics Africa, What is Health Informatics?, keynotes, and inaugural addresses. It is hoped that HELINA events will stream into this repository.

HELINA Nursing Special Interest Group (NSIG) Report
The HELINA Nursing Special Interest Group (NSIG) was established by HELINA (The Pan african Health Informatics Association - www.helina-online.org) in April 2016 from the Southern Africa Nursing Informatics SIG.

The group has a LinkedIn site https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8369314 for communication and is represented on the IMIA-NI General Assembly by Professor Graham Wright who is a fellowship member of IMIA-NI. The group has been awarded the honour of organising the IMIA-NI 2018 congress in South Africa and suggested the title “Transformation through Implementation Science: using information to improve patient care”.

The format was expected to be different from a normal IMIA-NI congress and based on four colloquia, each of which consists of a 90 minute research based presentation, followed by 30 minutes of questions. In addition, there will be a paper stream for expert and neophyte presenters with the latter being supported by the HELINA Education WG to prepare papers. After substantial effort by the team, it was agreed with the IMIA-NI not to pursue the event until the Board has undertaken significant review of the “lite” design of the congress.

The group is still exploring funding opportunities to run a colloquium and will be helping to organise the Nursing Informatics sessions at HELINA 2017 in Burundi. Electronic links on YouTube and LinkedIn have been set up to provide initial contact information https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbmuuQGQdZORnhx7LVf50HEw www.linkedin.com/groups/8369314

IMIA-LAC
Health Informatics Association for Latin-America and Caribbean

1 Membership of IMIA-LAC
To date, 12 medical informatics societies constitute the Federation of Health Informatics for Latin America and Caribbean: Argentina (A AIM, Hospital Italiano), Bolivia (SOBOTIM), Brazil (SBISS), Colombia (ACIESA), Costa Rica (MoH), Chile (ACHISA), Cuba (MoH/SCIM), El Salvador (IMHS), Mexico (AMIM), Peru (SOPTIS), Puerto Rico (SHILAC) and Uruguay (SUIS).

2 IMIA-LAC Board Meetings
The Region is working to consolidate its governance and improve its viability. IMIA-LAC has societies which work on their local objectives, and share with its peers capabilities and experiences. Infolac, the official event of our organization received sponsorship from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) through the Cuban Ministry of Health. After many, prolonged negotiations, finally an official proposal from the Cuban Society of Medical Informatics and the Ministry of Health to host Infolac 2018 in March 2018 has been issued and was approved by the IMIA-LAC Board.

IMIA-LAC will work with the different regional societies to incentivize academic participation, collaboration with other regions and societies, and to integrate regional working works.

The current IMIA-LAC Board includes:
President: Dr. Amado Espinosa (AMIM)
President-elected: Dr. Claudio Giulliano (SBISS)
Secretary: Dr. Erika Caballero (ACHISA)
Treasurer: Dr. Carol Hullin (ACHISA)

3 Members’ Activities 2016-2017

Argentina
Sept 6-8, 2016, the Asociación Argentina de Informática Médica (A AIM), the Asociación HL7 Argentina, Sociedad Argentina de Bioingeniería (SABI), and the Sociedad Argentina de Informática (SADIO) hosted the Congress on Health Informatics CAIS 2016. More than 300 people linked to the field of health and technology attended in the Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires.

In this latest CAIS event, emphasis was given to the newest advances in information technology available to health care organizations that are designed to increase the productivity of the health care team and improve the quality of health care processes.

To fulfill this objective, the various developments and applications of Information Technology (ICTs) were reviewed, which were strengthened by working in an integrated way through interoperability and the adoption

Journal of Health Informatics in Africa (JHIA)
JHIA has published a new issue in December 2016 with papers in French and English. According to the editor, Dalenca Pottas, the topics dealt with in the papers are varied yet common in striving to build on and improve capacity in resource constrained settings, whether for health care practitioners, healthcare institutions, or within communities. A special issue with best papers of the upcoming HELINA 2017 conference will be published in July 2017.

Acknowledgements
I would like to thank Frances Da-Costa Vroom, Professor Graham Wright, and Dr. Georges Nguefack-Tsague for their contribution to this report.

Regional Editor
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IMIA Yearbook of Medical Informatics 2017
of standards that allow the exchange of information between the different applications and systems used in the context of health care organizations.

At the University Institute of the Italian Hospital and the Standards Association, the organizations celebrated their Symposium of ICT in Healthcare where the Department of Health Informatics together with experts from government, hospitals, companies, and associations shared their experiences with each other and international participants. Academic involvement was outstanding and the participation of the medical informatics students was lively.

**Brazil**
The Brazilian Congress on Health Informatics (CBIS) is the main national event in the area, conducted biennially by the Brazilian Society of Health Informatics (SBIS) since 1986. It promotes the debate of current issues, particularly on resources, devices, and methods to optimize the storage, retrieval, and management of biomedical information in the context of the different scenarios such as Health Information Systems, Electronic Patient Record, Telemedicine, Decision Support Systems, Signal Processing Biological, Medical Image Processing, Internet Health, and Health Information Standardization.

In its 15th edition, the CBIS 2016 was held from November 27 to 30, in Goiânia - Goiás, through a partnership between SBIS and the Federal University of Goiás. The central theme was “Transforming Health”. For this, the event counted on the participation of active actors in the process of construction of the National e-Health to strengthening the National Health Information and Informatics Policy. The meeting constituted an important investment in narrowing the gap between educational institutions and the recognized class entities in several governmental priority areas for health and information technology (IT). Advances in health in an increasingly technological world with a look in the past, present, and future received a special focus during the congress with the challenges in human resource development as a special sub-topic.

**Cuba**
After the hard, dedicated work from our Cuban colleges, we received the support of the Cuban health authorities to host Infolac 2018 in La Habana, 16-20th April 2018. The conference will be organized together with the Ministry of Public Health, the Cuban Society of Medical Informatics, and the Academy of Informatics. The Pan American Health Organization has already congratulated our colleges in Cuba and offered their support

**Mexico**
A new collaboration between AMIM and the VP for eHealth from the Industry Chamber of ICT was kicked off with an active agenda of collaboration to support international standards for the electronic medical record, to advance the integration of medical devices projects, and to integrate device data into the ECE formats, and to train professionals from both organizations in the details of the joint domains.

**Nursing Informatics Group**
The Mexican Medical Informatics Association has been honored to host the organization of NI2018 light Conference in Mexico. The conference will help to foster the further development of the Mexican Chapter of NI with the support of the most important authorities and the healthcare sector. The conference will be held in June 2018 in Guadalajara, Jal.4.

**4 IGF**
IMIA-LAC was represented during the 10th meeting of the Internet Governance Forum, where representatives from different international NGO met to discuss the challenges that the internet adoption means. Healthcare will be one of the sectors with the fastest growth in terms of digital transformation and introduction of the internet to the healthcare services. Academia, government, and industry engaged during this conference in an intensive collaboration to avoid gaps among the economies of the countries represented.

**5 Institutional Relationships**
After AMIA 2016, a formal process of collaboration among the IMIA-LAC working groups was organized. The AMIA president Doug Fridsma expressed interest in finding areas of collaboration. These areas will be further elaborated during the year together with the members of the region.

A formal meeting to define the agenda with EFMI will be organized in June 2017 during a meeting to prepare the first draft in Mexico.

Regional Editor
Dr. Amado Espinosa
IMIA-LAC President

**IMIA-LAC website**
www.imialac.org
North American Medical Informatics (NAMI)

Health Informatics in Canada

COACH: Canada's Health Informatics Association

Canada’s Health Informatics Association (COACH) celebrated its 40th Anniversary in 2015. COACH connects, inspires, and educates the digital health professionals creating the future of health in Canada. Our members are a diverse community of accomplished, influential professionals working to make a difference in advancing healthcare through information technology.

COACH fosters network growth and connection; brings together ideas from multiple segments for incubation and advocacy; supports members through professional development at the individual and organizational level; and advocates for the Canadian digital health industry. COACH offers a broad range of services for networking and professional development, national conferences and regional events, thought leadership and best practice sharing, and training and education services as well as specialized career resources and professional certification.

COACH Highlights – 2016-2017 fiscal year

- Membership continues to grow. For the third year in a row, COACH has surpassed the 2,000 member mark (2,201 members in 2016-17).
- Participation in CHIEF (Canada’s Health Informatics Executive Forum) continues to be strong with over 110 public sector and private sector leaders from across Canada.
- The Future of Digital Health and the People Who Benefit was the theme of this year's e-Health Conference and Tradeshow, Canada’s national digital health conference, which took place in Toronto June 4-7, 2017. Conference content is available via the new e-Health Virtual Library. See “Resources” at www.coachorg.com.
- In the Spring of 2016, COACH conducted the first ever Digital Health Leadership Survey in Canada. It was circulated to more than 300 leaders in the healthcare service delivery sector across Canada. In the fall of 2016, COACH released the inaugural National Digital Health Leadership Report, which provides insights based on the survey results.
- Webinar Wednesdays were introduced in 2015-2016 as an innovative method to cover a broad range of emerging topics for members. The webinar format maximizes accessibility for members to attend sessions, without need to incur time and cost for travel. The sessions have been very well received in 2016-17, attracting more than 1,000 attendees.

New Initiatives

Several online initiatives were released in the Autumn of 2016 to inform and empower COACH members:

1) Updated COACH Website – to enhance member experience, the refreshed website features a fresh design and improved navigation.

“The site refresh stems from COACH’s deep commitment to being responsive and future-focused for our members, the health informatics profession and the digital health industry in Canada,” said CEO Mark Casselman. “Innovation is a big part of the industry and this first set of updates to the website will better support members and professionals in leading practice, building professional networks, and creating content in health informatics and digital health.”

2) COACH Communities of Action (COA) provide COACH members who share a common interest or passion in the health informatics (HI) field with the opportunity to learn, collaborate, network, and publish. Operating as a community of equals with Leaders, Managers, and Core Working Groups, COA participants exchange ideas and information, enhance their understanding of a particular HI subject, and seek answers to specific questions. Our volunteers collaborate towards a common goal of producing serviceable documents for COACH stakeholders within a 6-month cycle, to advance the creation and adoption of HI solutions. Examples of COA include Home and Community Care, Consumer Digital Health, HI education, and eSafety.

3) Redesigned weekly member communications email - called PULSE, the new weekly email has been formatted to be easy and quick to scan for content of interest.

Upcoming COACH Conferences and Events

2017 CHIEF Spring Symposium – Taking place June 2-3, 2017 in Toronto, this event convenes the members of Canada’s Health Informatics Executive Forum (CHIEF) to explore three main themes in depth: 1) Digital Health Leadership; 2) Patient Engagement; 3) Data and Analytics. This event will enable members to network, collaborate, and enhance their leadership roles in eHealth.

e-Health Conference and Tradeshow 2018 - May 27 - 30, 2018, Vancouver, British Columbia - This year, e-Health showcases the many successful products, success stories, and leaders in our nation’s digital health journey. With an impressive roster of keynote presenters (8), speakers (250+), educational sessions (160+), and exhibitors (85+), over 1,500 eHealth attendees will enjoy exceptional education and networking opportunities. The highly anticipated Canadian Health Informatics Awards (CHIA) Gala returns as well. A “Start Up Zone” is available to new companies who want to join the exhibitor floor. Visit www.e-healthconference.com for regular updates.

eHealthAchieve 2017 – scheduled for November 6-7, 2017 in Toronto, this annual eHealth forum is one of the most respected healthcare events in North America. Further details are forthcoming.

Webinar Wednesdays are popular with our members, since they provide a way for busy health informatics professionals to keep up-to-date on emerging issues and trends. Upcoming Webinars for 2017 include:

- CIHI’s Digital Health Strategy: How Stakeholder Engagement has Driven the
Evolution of CIHI’s Digital Footprint
• SPARKing a Pathway to Access Patient Health Data
• Moving Precision Medicine Forward in Canada
• Using Technology to Implement Ontario’s first Quality Standards in Mental Health
• OntarioMD Integration Update: Part of Something Bigger – EMR’s Supporting Patients, Practices and the Health System

COACH Webinar with IBM
• Providing and Managing Publicly Funded Physiotherapy Visits via Private Clinics
• Independent Verification and Validation: Keeping Projects on Track in Health Organizations
• Your Home, Your Health System: CIHI’s Public Reporting Tool is Supporting Quality Improvement in Long-Term Care

Recently Completed COACH Conferences and Events

**eHealth 2016**: Reimaging Healthcare Delivery – took place in Vancouver, Canada from June 5 to 8, 2016. Over 1,500 attendees included “C-level” executives, professionals in telehealth and health informatics, clinicians, data analytics leaders, and emerging professionals. Over 150 education sessions were delivered, with presenters from 6 different countries. Topics included consumer health, privacy standards, analytics, data governance, e-prescribing, telehealth, clinical satisfaction, and more. New features included spontaneous “flash” rants and Innovation Alley, which showcased start-up companies on the trade show floor. The pre-conference Sunday Symposium was very well received by delegates. It featured fascinating presentations on FHIR, interoperability, and telehealth. The third annual Hacking Health Hackathon took place as part of the conference, which brought together interprofessional teams of clinicians, designers, and Health IT experts in a competition to develop the best prototype solutions to real-world eHealth problems. The 11th annual star-studded COACH/CHIA (Canadian Health Informatics Awards) Gala also took place during the event.

**eHealthAchieve 2016** took place on November 7 and 8, 2016 in Toronto. The theme was “Healthcare Innovations: Enablers, Challenges, and Gaps”. Keynote speakers included Don Tapscott and William Charnetski. Presentations included topics such as Internet of Things in Health, Cloud Computing, and Data Analytics.

**Webinar Wednesdays** have provided a convenient way for busy health informatics professionals to keep up-to-date on emerging issues and trends. Topics in 2016 – 2017 have so far included:

- What Telehealth Can Do For You
- HL7 FHIR: Time to Pay Attention
- COACH Privacy and Security for EMR’s
- Jurisdictional Adoption & Implementation Experiences with the COACH eSafety Guidelines in Alberta and Ontario
- How Master Data Management Can Revolutionize Your Healthcare Data

**COACH/ANHIX 2017 Conference – Alberta’s Clinical Information System: The New Frontier** took place on Feb 8, 2017 in Calgary, Alberta. It featured public and private sector leaders sharing their vision for the provincial Clinical Information System. Over 130 attendees discussed Integrated Health Records, Precision Medicine, and Digital Health Leadership.

**UPONDIGITAL: The Ontario Update on Digital Health 2017** took place in Toronto, Ontario on March 6, 2017. Public sector leaders from across the province presented perspectives and engaged their peers from public and private sector in discussion related to the challenges and opportunities of innovation in Ontario: Are we strengthening our healthcare system? Are innovations creating value? What more needs to be done to the Digital Health Innovation Ecosystem (DHIE) to produce better outcomes and improve patient experience?

**Ahead of the Curve: Patient Engagement & Connected Care** took place in Vancouver, British Columbia on March 27, 2017. It featured thought leaders sharing their insights on the shift towards new models of care delivery, enhanced connectivity between Canadians and their healthcare providers, and the rapid introduction and availability of innovative technologies across Canada. This networking breakfast event featured engaging discussion about the people, processes, and technologies enabling the next generation of patient engagement and connected care.

**Progressive Partnerships: Digital Health Collaboration and Innovation - Thursday, May 11, Algonquin College, Ottawa Ontario** - Successful collaboration between public and private sector digital health teams was the topic of this breakfast workshop session in Canada’s national capital area.

**New and Updated Publications**

The following COACH publications were released or updated in 2016-2017:

**NEW: 2016 National Digital Health Leadership Report: A Current State Snapshot** was released in November 2016. “COACH went directly to digital health leaders for their experiences and insights
about how digital health innovation is impacting care and the health system,” said COACH CEO Mark Casselman. “Our report brings forward a valuable snapshot of what is happening now across Canada, and will help inform a roadmap for health system transformation going forward.” Features: 1) gain crucial insights into career growth areas; 2) understand management priorities; 3) see what the innovators are implementing.

**UPDATED: Putting It Into Practice – Privacy and Security for Healthcare Providers Implementing Electronic Medical Records Special Edition V3.** With electronic medical records (EMRs) now part of mainstream of medical practice across Canada, having a guide that explains privacy and security best practices in Canada in concise, easy-to-understand terminology is even more important in protecting valuable personal health information. COACH’s new edition of this guide contains refreshed content, including an extensively updated section on legislation and regulation.

“Across the country, we have seen jurisdictions working diligently over the three years since the previous edition was published, so that laws better reflect and support the clinical reality of digital technology when it comes to the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of personal health information and healthcare delivery overall,” said Geoffrey Pille, Chair of the COACH Privacy and Security Expert Working Group, which led the update. “The new edition includes important information along with links to key resources reflecting the latest in jurisdictional regulation.”

**Putting It into Practice** is designed to support community providers in making better, more informed decisions about implementing privacy and security best practices in an office setting when using electronic record systems as they collect, use, access, share, and store personal health information. Written for practitioners, it is intended to enhance awareness and assist providers with the often complex decision-making around the selection, implementation, maintenance, and support of an electronic record system. The importance of jurisdictional-specific conformance standards, agreements, and privacy policies is also outlined.

**Putting It into Practice** can be purchased from the COACH Store as an eBook PDF, including bookmarking, hyperlinks, and hover definitions, or hard-copy book (print on-demand).

**Standards**

COACH is an active participant through its leaders and members in the development and implementation of international standards for health information as the key to electronic health record (EHR) initiatives in Canada and worldwide. COACH also contributes to international standards development through members’ involvement with the ISO Technical Committee on Health Informatics (TC 215), HL7 and SNOMED International.

**COACH’s 2014 – 2017 Strategy**

The COACH 2014-2017 Strategic Plan is the culmination of a comprehensive process featuring strong membership engagement through surveys and focus groups, Board-led assessments of all COACH’s primary programs and services, input from COACH’s eHealth and CEO Advisory Council, an internal program assessment and metrics report developed by our staff, facilitated Board workshop and review sessions and strategy development. As a foundation to the COACH Association and to demonstrate Canadian leadership in the area of Health Informatics, COACH uses the following definition of Health Informatics: The intersection of clinical, IM/IT and management practices to achieve better health.

The COACH mission is to connect, inspire and educate the digital health professionals creating the future of health in Canada. COACH’s values are:

• Demonstrate leadership by introducing innovation that accelerates the transformation of health service delivery
• Value collaboration through sharing of health informatics and digital health-knowledge and experience with others
• Recognize the diversity of our membership
• Remain committed to continuous learning
• Be guided by professionalism, integrity and ethics
• Respond to and serves the needs of the members and the health system

The COACH 2014-2017 Strategy is comprised of five main strategic goals and objectives:

1. **Enhance Membership Value Through Network Growth and Connections** - COACH will deliver high membership value through a large, integrated professional network that includes traditional sectors, new segments, and innovative service offerings.

2. **Connect Communities (Digital and Physical)** - COACH will deepen existing and build new relationships with partners to improve access to information, enhance value exchange, and develop regional infrastructure to support member activity.

3. **Empower Professional Development And Advocacy** - COACH will support members through professional development at the individual and organizational level and advocate for the Canadian digital health industry.

4. **Implement Digital Business Platform** - COACH will operate effectively and efficiently with technology enabled services to engage and support membership needs seamlessly.

5. **Build Brand Awareness and Brand Value** - COACH brand is recognized, valued, and respected within the digital health industry.

**Programs and Services**

2016-2017 services and programs include:

• COACH membership opportunities
  ○ COACH offers Corporate, Start-up, Academic, and Individual Memberships
  ○ Position postings are available to all members and also non-member organizations looking to fill job postings.
  ○ Volunteer opportunities exist all across the Association and COACH engages with over 240 volunteers annually.
Information on IMIA Regional Groups

- CHIEF (Canada’s Health Informatics Executive Forum) provides an effective access channel to thought leaders and expert-level knowledge, both nationally and internationally, and advances career development for Canadian Health Informatics Leaders

- **National eHealth Conference and Regional Events**
  - Canada’s National eHealth Conference and Tradeshow (co-hosted by COACH, Canada Health Infoway, and Canadian Institute for Health Information)
  - Symposiums with COACH and partner provincial jurisdiction HI organizations
    - Alberta Network for Health Information Exchange (ANHIX) Symposium
    - Ontario UpOnDigital Conference
    - Ontario Hospital Association Health Achieve

- **Education and Training**
  - Health Informatics education is available from COACH in both online and in-person/classroom sessions in locations across the country. Visit coachorg.com for a complete schedule of upcoming courses.

- **Thought Leadership and Practice Tools**
  - Health Informatics Professionalism
    - CPHIMS-CA Certification
    - HIP® Competency Framework
    - HIP® Core Competencies
    - HIP® Career Matrix
    - HIP® Role Profiles
  - Communities of Action
  - Key Documents, Guidelines and White Papers
    - Guidelines for the Protection of Health Information - Main Edition
    - Privacy & Security Special Edition: Putting it into Practice – Privacy & Security for Healthcare Providers Implementing EMRs
    - Privacy & Security Special Edition: Privacy & Security for Patient Portals
    - Privacy & Security Special Edition: Access Audits for Electronic Health Records
  - Journals
    - HICSS
    - IMIA Yearbook

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Biomedical and Health Informatics Activities in the United States

AMIA — Informatics Professionals. Leading the Way.

AMIA represents more than 5,400 healthcare professionals, students, informatics researchers, practitioners, and thought-leaders in biomedicine, healthcare, and science. AMIA’s members are subject matter experts in the science and practice of informatics as it relates to clinical care, research, education, and policy. They address challenges across the continuum of the health ecosystem—consumers and patients, healthcare providers and care delivery systems, population and public health, and basic and clinical research with the ultimate goal to advance better health, better healthcare, and improved efficiency through the use of informatics and information technology.

2015-2020 Strategic Plan: Working Together to Transform Health and Healthcare

In 2015, AMIA introduced a new strategic plan to guide the organization and its members into the next era of informatics. The strategic plan focuses on three core directives: the issues that matter most to members and leadership—advancing professional growth for our members, creating impact in health and healthcare, and enhancing leadership for the profession.

In 2016 and 2017, AMIA is focusing on a communications plan to raise awareness that informatics and informaticians are the key to transforming health and healthcare outcomes. We are changing the way we talk about ourselves, our members, and the field of informatics. We are going to be telling stories about why our members do what they do.

At the AMIA 2016 Annual Symposium, we launched the #WhyInformatics campaign. The campaign is designed to inform policymakers, the media, and organizations in the healthcare space that millions of people benefit from informaticians’ ability to accelerate healthcare’s transformation. We do this by collecting, analyzing, and applying data directly to care decisions.

We invite our international colleagues at IMIA to get involved. We know that a conversation about informatics can be difficult for people who do not have a deep understanding of how we collect, analyze, and use health information. It often requires understanding different disciplines and the intersection of those disciplines. Too often, we lose audiences outside of our field because we forget to frame the conversation in a way that helps them understand informatics. We talk about what we do and forget to say why we do it.

By flipping our conversations and focusing on the “why,” we can begin to share our passion for improving health and healthcare—something that touches everyone.

Advancing Professional Growth for Our Members

AMIA enhances our members’ abilities to lead, transform, and improve care through excellence in the practice of informatics, basic and applied informatics research, and education and training of informatics professionals. Some of these program highlights include AMIA events and publications.

Joint Summits on Translational Science

AMIA’s Joint Summits on Translational Science continue to represent the best opportunities for networking with others in the translational bioinformatics (TBI) and clinical research informatics (CRI) communities. San Francisco in springtime continues to the West coast home for the Summits.

The 2017 TBI summit discussed timely challenges of managing clinical and research data, as well as the growing complexity and size of the data. Summit attendees discussed the need for investment in informatics personnel, computational hardware and software across academia, government, and industry. The CRI summit included discussion about the same issues adding in healthcare consumer involvement and public health concerns. It also featured sessions on new informatics theories, tools, and solutions that are needed to accelerate our knowledge discovery, translation, application, and implementation of solutions.

2017 was the second year of a new feature at the Summits focused on informatics implementation. These engaging sessions provided a forum for the presentation of information and ideas, from best-of-breed software teams geared specifically to support existing or new CRI/TBI/EDM implementation experts. Content for the four-day event included invited talks and panel discussions from leaders in the field as well as opportunities for networking between new and established implementers.

The HL7-AMIA Datathon was offered as a preconference activity this year and provided an introduction to the use of HL7® FHIR® (Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources) to access clinical data to support informatics research activities and allow participants to evaluate how FHIR can support research. The hands-on workshop offered participants the opportunity to work directly with other colleagues in attendance at the Summits as well as senior members of the FHIR standards development team.

Led by Jason Moore, Peggy Peissig, and Bernie LaSalle the program offered exciting and informative panels and attracted over 600 individuals. Keynotes include Neil M. Richards, Washington University, who spoke on privacy, information law, and freedom of expression; and the return of two favorites, Russ Altman, Stanford University, presented the Translational Bioinformatics Year-in-Review and Peter Embi, Regenstrief Institute, presented the Clinical Research Informatics Year-in-Review. The implementation track keynote panel featured Bernard LaSalle, University of Utah Health Science Center and Leslie McIntosh, Washington University in St. Louis.

To see more about the Summits, visit www.amia.org/jointsummits2017

iHealth Clinical Informatics Conference

In May, AMIA hosted the fourth iHealth conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. iHealth convenes clinicians, informatics professionals, and other interested parties, who share and learn about improving team-based, integrated health care driven by data, and evidence to impact outcomes for patients, families, and communities.

In 2017, the event covered a spectrum of issues including developing and incorporating patient engagement strategies, analyzing population health data, and using innovative mHealth solutions. iHealth continues to provide a forum that focuses broadly on how applied clinical informatics contributes to improvements in health and health care.
Co-chairs Victoria Tiase and David Liebovitz focused this year’s conference on the objectives of applying evidence- or experience-based models to improve informatics practice. They also planned sessions to connect current U.S. health policy ideas and laws to potential disruptions of health care. iHealth attendees welcomed David B. Nash, Jefferson Collect of Population Health, as the opening keynote.

To see more about iHealth, visit www.amia.org/ihealth2017

InSpire: Developing the Health Informatics Workforce of the Future Conference

The second InSpire conference was held in June in La Jolla, California. The conference was developed from the 10-year experience of the Academic Forum Annual Conference and is designed to link the work of educators and the needs of employers. Content will cover state-of-the-art approaches and best practices in education, research, and training; and building, supporting, and strengthening the academic informatics community. Fostering innovative approaches in informatics education to advance the health informatics workforce of the future is the goal of the meeting. The conference is intended for faculty and program staff and multidisciplinary informatics professionals at all levels.

Karen Monsen led a diverse program committee of informatics leaders to connect academia and industry to advance the informatics workforce. A major goal of the meeting is to bring together the educators who produce informatics graduates with the industry and employers who want to shape and hire highly skilled and highly qualified informaticians.

To see more about InSpire, visit www.amia.org/inspire2017

Annual Symposium

AMIA hosts the foremost symposium for the science and practice of biomedical informatics in the U.S. The 2016 Scientific Program Committee, led by Wanda Pratt, worked diligently to create compelling content, but the heart of the meeting is found in the connections and interactions of members and attendees. More than 2,300 members, registrants, and exhibitors experienced AMIA 2016. This year the AMIA Twitter community included 1,515 participants generating more than 10,000 #AMIA2016 tweets and more than 22 million impressions.

Last year’s meeting featured full-length papers, abstract presentations, posters and panel discussions including didactic and interactive panels with extensive audience participation, cutting-edge policy presentations, keynotes, tutorials, system demonstrations, and pre-symposium workshops.

A new Board of Directors Task Force, Women in AMIA, made an impact on AMIA 2016 with the introduction of the Career Development for Women in AMIA special event. More than 35 women volunteered as career development guides. They were teamed up with more than 90 women to provide one-on-one career guidance for early and mid-career women in informatics. The task force’s work was also behind the introduction of childcare services during the symposium. The group includes subcommittees to address issues related to leadership, career advancement, networking, and mentoring.

AMIA 2016 featured the “Why Informatics?” story series where attendees submitted videos at the video booth describing their passion for informatics. The content of the symposium featured keynote addresses by Jessica Richman talking about the microbiome, Patricia Flatley Brennan speaking about new directions for the U.S. National Library of Medicine, and Eric Horvitz speaking about his career in informatics leading the Microsoft Research Lab. The symposium also provided a venue for the rising generation of informaticians with opportunities such as the continuation of the high school scholars program, student paper competition, and student design challenge.

Mark your calendar for the 2017 Annual Symposium, November 4-8 in Washington, D.C. We hope you will join us! www.amia.org/ama2017

JAMIA

JAMIA continues to provide members and subscribers with the best in biomedical and health informatics publishing as the premier journal in the field. Lucila Ohno-Machado and the JAMIA Editorial Board published a special issue on outcomes data to improve and develop new predictive models and corresponding decision support systems. The journal also featured sections focused on enhancing patient engagement, research on person-generated health and wellness data, and precision medicine.

A highlight of the 2016 volume year was the article, “Impact of commercial computerized provider order entry (CPOE) and clinical decision support systems (CDSSs) on medication errors, length of stay, and mortality in intensive care units: a systematic review and meta-analysis.” Read it today at https://academic.oup.com/jamia/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/jamia/ocw145.

JAMIA also published an article about the impact of informatics on social media that was shared widely in June entitled “Translating evidence to practice in the health professions: a randomized trial of Twitter vs Facebook.” The article is also freely available as an editor’s choice on the JAMIA website at https://academic.oup.com/jamia/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/jamia/ocw085.

Applied Clinical Informatics

AMIA members continue to receive the journal Applied Clinical Informatics as part of their membership. As the official eJournal of AMIA and IMIA, ACI publishes approximately 100 peer-reviewed articles per year. It aims to establish a platform that allows sharing knowledge between clinical medicine and health IT specialists as well as bridging gaps between visionary design and successful and pragmatic deployment.

In 2016, ACI published several open access articles that circulated through the informatics community and included one on cholesterol management and CDS https://aci.schattauer.de/contents/archive/issue/2440/issue/special/manuscript/27136/show.html and the other on clinical information literacy https://aci.schattauer.de/contents/archive/issue/2440/issue/special/manuscript/27178/show.html. A highlight in 2016 was an AMIA Board of Directors commissioned paper on

The Chief Clinical Informatics Officer (CCIO) which is freely available at https://aci.schattauer.de/en/contents/archive/issue/2290/issue/special/manuscript/25654/show.html
Creating Impact in Health and Healthcare

AMIA continues to develop its brand of evidence-based public policy in Washington, D.C. Notably, AMIA published policy principles and positions further defining the emerging domain of health informatics policy. Not unlike environmental policy, security policy, or welfare policy, health informatics policy is a distinct policy domain that seeks to optimize care delivery and care experience, improve population and public health, and advance discovery through the collection, analysis, and application of data.

AMIA published the first of several pillars of health informatics policy in 2016, including health IT safety, data sharing in research, workforce, education, and patient empowerment. 2017 will include additional areas focused on health IT standards, informatics-driven quality measurement, and public health. AMIA will use these policy principles and positions to articulate to its members, policymakers, and other stakeholders those issues and conversations we consider most important.

AMIA also established more than twenty ad hoc response teams, leveraging the expertise of more than 150 AMIA members, to help the federal government develop policy across a range of issues spanning clinical care, research, and public health. These recommendations were vital in helping the federal government establish a new payment system for U.S. providers, improving health and health care. Maintaining the quality and integrity of the science and the field, and meeting the diversity of educational offerings, professional careers, and AMIA programs will require a range of different accreditation, certification, and organizational recognition.

In a presentation at AMIA 2016 Annual Symposium, AMIA President and CEO Doug Fridsma described the current ways AMIA is working to address current gaps in accreditation, certification, and recognition programs to provide a full suite of programs to support education and professionalization.

The goal of these efforts will be to support individuals at all levels of professional development and articulate a career pathway that allows every individual to achieve their professional potential in support of the demand for a skilled workforce of informaticians.

10x10 Programs

AMIA believes that strengthening the breadth and depth of the biomedical and health informatics workforce is a critical component in the transformation of the healthcare system. AMIA is committed to the education and training of a new generation of clinical, public health, research, and translational bioinformatics informaticians. AMIA’s 10x10 utilizes curricular content from existing informatics training programs and other AMIA educational initiatives with a special emphasis toward those programs with a proven record of accomplishment in distance learning. The content provides a framework, but also covers plenty of detail, especially in areas such as electronic and personal health records, health information exchange, standards, terminology, and health care quality and error prevention.

AMIA also offers an internationally-focused variation of the successful 10x10 program called i10x10. Courses qualifying for the i10x10 program should be endorsed by a local or regional IMIA member society. Global partners interested in offering courses and learning more about i10x10 should contact AMIA (no application fee is required for submission of a proposal).

New course partners joined the 10x10 program including Duke Center for Health Informatics at Duke University and the University of Illinois at Chicago.

To see more about 10x10, visit www.amia.org/education/10x10-courses

Membership Communities

With more than 5,400 members, communication and collaboration among AMIA members is key to advancing the goals of the organization and its membership and to improving the profession itself. AMIA supports networks that serve as channels through which current members can exchange information on specific areas of biomedical and health informatics with colleagues and become involved in the development of positions, white papers, programs, webinars, pre-symposia, and other activities that benefit the informatics community. These communities take shape in the form of Discussion Forums and Working Groups. Each group produces work product and facilitates an online community that fosters
engagement among members, as well as collaboratively across groups.

Within AMIA, there are three other significant communities—the Academic Forum, the Industry Advisory Council, and the American College of Medical Informatics.

The Academic Forum exists to serve the needs of post baccalaureate biomedical and health informatics training programs. It offers a place for academic leaders and faculty from nearly 70 programs to discuss national research initiatives in informatics and its roundtable addresses objectives for education and research by facilitating collaboration across academic units. Participants focus on a range of issues important to faculty such as management, promotion criteria, recruitment, models of success in building informatics programs, salary scales, and advocacy within academic environments. Forum members plan their annual meetings and participate in task forces that address important educational and certification/ accreditation issues that are related to the clinical informatics developments.

The Industry Advisory Council (IAC) plays a unique and powerful role in healthcare, academia, and product research and development. As the primary convener of some of the most influential informatics meetings in the healthcare industry, our corporate members engage directly with established and emerging leaders in informatics. Through the Industry Advisory Council, corporate members serve as counsel to and as an influential feedback channel for board-initiated collaborations and investigations. Active participants in the IAC have played a vital role in advancing public policy while deepening their reach in the informatics community.

The American College of Medical Informatics (ACMI) is a college of elected fellows from the U.S. and abroad who have made significant and sustained contributions to the field of biomedical and health informatics. It is the center of action for a community of scholars and practitioners who are committed to advancing the informatics field. The College exists as an elected body of fellows exceeding 400 individuals.

In 2016, ACMI selected Dr. David W. Bates as the recipient of the 2016 Morris F. Collen Award of Excellence. Dr. Bates is Chief, Division of General Medicine at Brigham and Women’s Hospital as well as Medical Director, Clinical and Quality Analysis at Partners HealthCare System, Inc.
European Federation for Medical Informatics (EFMI) - A Brief Outline

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Objectives
The European Federation for Medical Informatics Association (EFMI), a federation of national societies in 30 countries, is the leading organization in medical informatics in Europe. EFMI is organized as a non-profit organization concerned with the theory and practice of Information Science and Technology within Health and Health Science in a European context.

The objectives when founded in 1976 were:
• To advance international co-operation and dissemination of information in Medical Informatics on a European basis;
• To promote high standards in the application of medical informatics;
• To promote research and development in medical informatics;
• To encourage high standards in education in medical informatics;
• To function as the autonomous European Regional Council of IMIA

Activities and Governance
All European countries are entitled to be represented in EFMI by a suitable Medical Informatics Society. The term medical informatics is used to include the whole spectrum of Health Informatics and all disciplines concerned with Health Informatics.

The organization operates with a minimum of bureaucratic overhead. Each national society supports the federation by sending and paying for a representative to participate in the decisions of the Federation’s Council, the membership assembly. Apart from the Council, an elected board consisting of nine members governs EFMI.

English has been adopted as the official language, although simultaneous translation is often provided for congresses in non-English speaking countries.

Membership and Organization
Currently 30 countries have joined the Federation, including Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, The Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, The Republic of Moldova, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, The Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and The United Kingdom. All representative societies in countries within the European Region of the WHO are entitled to apply for membership.

EFMI is also open for institutional membership. Typical institutions, which become EFMI members, include universities, research organizations, federations, companies, and organizations. Currently, 12 organizations have become institutional members of EFMI: eight academic institutions, public or private organization, non-profit organization and four industrial and corporate organizations.

EFMI has a long tradition in working groups (WG) which are organizing and supporting events and projects on a European basis but also worldwide in close co-operation with national and international WGs and institutions. EFMI does not offer personal membership except for the working groups

Congresses and Publications
EFMI organizes two main series of conferences: the Special Topic Conferences (EFMI-STC) and Medical Informatics Europe (EFMI-MIE). In conjunction or independent of the main congress series, working groups contribute to organize topic specific workshops, tutorials, and seminars, in the EFMI series and elsewhere.

As EFMI was founded in 1976, it celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2016. Therefore, several special events were organized during the STC in Paris and MIE in Munich. These included a workshop on focusing on European Medical Informatics History: “People and Events” (Mihalas et al) given at STC2016, and a workshop “EFMI at 40: Anticipating the future – appreciating the past” (Hoerbst et al) as well as an EFMI-IMIA summit during MIE2016 in Munich.

Medical Informatics Europe Conferences (MIE)
So far 28 MIE conferences (Medical Informatics Europe) have been organised by the national members and EFMI, with up to more than 1000 participants. The conference includes peer-reviewed presentations according to the type of paper as oral or poster presentation. Workshops and tutorials prepared or supported by EFMI working groups are an essential part of MIE conferences.


Special Topic Conferences (STC)
STCs are conferences, specialized in current topics. Special Topic Conferences follow a successful concept including the following components:
• Organization by a member society in combination with its annual meeting
• Topic defined to the needs of the member society
• Relevant EFMI Working groups are actively involved
• Contributions mostly on invitation
• Small 2-day conference with 100+ participants


Publications
The conference proceedings of the EFMI conference series are published in close co-operation with IOS Press in its Medline indexed series “Health Technology and Informatics” for the last years. In recent past, EFMI has taken the decision to make their conference proceedings available through open-access. A selection of outstanding papers from the EFMI conferences is regularly published in Special Issues in the Journal Methods of Information in Medicine.

In addition to the already mentioned Journal Methods of Information in Medicine, EFMI has two further official journals, the European Journal of Biomedical Informatics, and the International Journal of Medical Informatics.

Communication
Beginning in 2013 the EFMI information system was completely revised and the old system replaced. This included an adaption of the underlying information system concepts to the current needs of the EFMI members as well as a relaunch of the EFMI website. EFMI is currently running an up-to-date information system to support external and internal communication as well as the collaboration of EFMI members and working groups. The system is exclusively based on open-source solutions. In 2014, the decision was taken to start an EFMI facebook-site, which is currently extended and linked to other EFMI content.

Further information about EFMI and EFMI related activities can be obtained via EFMI’s website: http://www.EFMI.org

Current EFMI Board Members

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University of Geneva
Division of Medical Information Sciences
Geneva, Switzerland

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