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Editors

Editorial

Sharing Knowledge and Information

This 1993 IMIA Yearbook of Medical Informatics is the second in what we hope will be a long series of annual publications for the international medical informatics community. Because of the success of the 1992 Yearbook, the IMIA Board and its General Assembly decided to proceed with the publication of Yearbooks, considering this a major project within IMIA to share insight and experience worldwide. For that reason, the title for this 1993 Yearbook, *Sharing Knowledge and Information*, is also particularly appropriate. The number of Yearbooks distributed worldwide will once again approach the 10,000 mark this year.

The material in this Yearbook has been carefully selected with the help of many individuals. The IMIA national societies, Working Groups and Special Interest Groups provided the editors with background material that is of interest to members of medical informatics societies, industries and health care institutions. The editors also invited experts in certain areas to write review articles on specific subjects. This year the papers are on *The Unified Medical Language System* (D.A.B. Lindberg, B.L. Humphreys and A.T. McCray, USA), *Security in Medical Information Systems* (A.R.

Bakker, The Netherlands), and *Standardization in Medical Informatics* (G. J. E. De Moor, Belgium). Because of the interest in these articles, which serve to inform the broad readership in medicine and health care of the state-of-the-art and trends in current research areas, the editors plan to increase the number of such reviews in future years.

The articles in this Yearbook belong to the best that appeared in 1992 - but there were many more, and a balanced selection had to be made with the help of about 35 referees from different countries who assisted the editors in their final selection. Each article was reviewed by at least three referees, and reviewers looked specifically at the following criteria: significance to medical informatics, health care and/or medicine; quality of scientific and/or technical content; originality and innovativeness; reference to related prior work; and organization and clarity of presentation. On this basis (given the number of pages allotted to articles) 46 articles were selected. Because of page limitations, several very good articles could regretfully not be incorporated. For that reason, as in the 1992 Yearbook, a full list of articles has been included that were indexed by the National Li-

brary of Medicine and that appeared during 1992. The section on selected articles is concluded by an authors' index and a subject index.

This year the editors approached, for the different Sections of the 1993 Yearbook, six experts and requested them to give an introductory synopsis and commentary on the selected articles, in this way obtaining a state-of-the-art review of the six subject areas. The sections and Guest Editors are: *Health and Clinical Management*, Kathryn J. Hannah, Canada; *Integrated Information Systems*, Alexa T. McCray, USA; *Patient Record Systems*, A. Nowlan, UK; *Image and Signal Processing*, H-P. Meinzer, Germany; *Decision Support Systems*, J. Wyatt, UK; and *Knowledge-Based Systems*, M.G. Kahn, USA.

As in the 1992 edition, several industries have given support to the 1993 Yearbook by placing advertisements in the Yearbook. In coming years, industries in the rapidly expanding field of health care informatics will be encouraged to participate more actively in the Yearbook. Institutions, member societies, and industries will find one page announcing the 1994 IMIA Yearbook on Medical Informatics, with the title *Advanced Communications in Health Care*. Medical investigators, professional workers in medical informatics, chairs of working groups, IMIA representatives, health care managers, and companies are kindly invited to send their ideas and material as early as possible to the editors of the IMIA Yearbook. For the 1994 Yearbook, the editors will accept suggestions for articles to be included in the Yearbook that have been published in the time period Sep-

tember 1992 through December 1993. In subsequent years a similar approach will be taken. This will allow suggestions to be made for articles that may have appeared too late in a previous year for timely inclusion in the Yearbook.

We hope that this Yearbook will again further stimulate our field of medical informatics, encouraging researchers to write publications of high scientific content, and assisting designers of systems and industries to select promising areas for development of information systems for the worldwide health care community.

Acknowledgment

The editors are most indebted to the referees and guest editors for having put so much effort into the production of the 1993 Yearbook. The editors also would like to acknowledge the very substantial time and effort contributed by the five managing editors (Peter Branger M.D., Marcel Hekking M.Sc., Freek van den Heuvel M.D., Peter Moorman M.D., and Jifke Veenland M.Sc) and secretaries (Desiree De Jong and Rosa Scholte) of the Department of Medical Informatics of the Erasmus University in Rotterdam. They were most helpful in collecting papers and all other material for the Yearbook, corresponding with authors, referees, reviewers, synopsis writers and journal publishers, and preparing the Yearbook for the Publisher. The support of the Publisher, Schattauer Verlag in Stuttgart, is also gratefully acknowledged. We want to thank all IMIA Member Societies and Working Groups who contributed to the Yearbook.

List of Referees who contributed to the selection of articles in the 1993 IMIA Yearbook of Medical Informatics

M.J. Ackerman (USA)
T. Barsalou (Switzerland)
J.R. Beck (USA)
P.D. Clayton (USA)
P. Degoulet (France)
C.J. McDonald (USA)
L.M. Fagan (USA)
M. Fieschi (France)
R.A. Greenes (USA)
A. Hasman (The Netherlands)
P. Haug (USA)
R. Haux (Germany)
G.H. Hayes (UK)
C. Jaffe (USA)
S. Kaihara (Japan)
F.J. Leven (Germany)
D.R. Masys (USA)
J. Michaelis (Germany)
P.L. Miller (USA)
R.A. Miller (USA)
M. Okajima (Japan)
V.J. Patel (Canada)
H-U. Prokosch (Germany)
D.J. Protti (Canada)
A.L. Rector (UK)
O. Rienhoff (Germany)
A. Rosenfalck (Denmark)
P. Rubel (France)
C. Safran (USA)
N. Saranummi (Finland)
W.V. Slack (USA)
B.G. Solheim (Norway)
W.W. Stead (USA)
T. Timpka (Sweden)
J. Zvárová (Czech Republic)

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