

Information on EFMI Working Groups

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EFMI is a nonprofit organisation concerned with the theory and practice of Information Science and Technology within Health and Health Science in a European context. Its activities focus on annual conferences, MIE (Medical informatics Europe), STC (Special Topic conference), tutorials and workshops. EFMI publishes proceedings and special issues of its activities in scientific journals. It has national societies in 31 member countries in Europe. Personal members are welcome in working groups. The EFMI portal provides very actual international news and information about the use of computers in health care. <http://www.EFMI.org>

Working Groups

CARDS - Cards in Health Care, Social Security and Welfare
Paul Cheshire, UK; Peter Pharow, Regensburg
(paul.cheshire@atosorigin.com,
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EDU - Education in Health Informatics
John Mantas, Athens; Arie Hasman, Amsterdam (jmantas@cc.uoa.gr,
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EHR - Electronic Health Records
Bernd Blobel, Regensburg (bernd.blobel@klinik.uni-regensburg.de)

EVAL - Assessment of Health Information Systems
Elske Ammenwerth, Innsbruck; Pirkko Nykanen, Tampere; Jytte Brender, Aalborg
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HOFMI - Human and Organisational Factors of Medical Informatics
Jos Aarts, The Netherlands; Marie-Catherine Beuscart-Zéphir
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IDR - Informatics for the Disabled and Rehabilitation
Cristina Mazzoleni, Italy
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IPAM - Information Planning and Modelling in Health Care
Bryan Manning, Goring-by-Sea
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MCRO/MBDS - Casemix, Resources Management and Outcomes of Care
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MICIT - Medical Informatics in Countries in Transition
Lacrimioara Stoicu-Tivadar, Timisoara; (lacrimioara.stoicu-tivadar@aut.upt.ro)

MIP - Medical Image Processing
Alexander Horsch, Munich; Thomas Wittenberg, Germany; Vytenis Punys, Kaunas
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NLU - Natural Language Understanding
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NURSIE - Nursing Informatics in Europe
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PCI - Primary Care Informatics
Simon De Lusignan, London
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SSE - Safety, Security and Ethics
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TRACE - Trace ability of supply chains
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Information on EFMI Working Groups

EFMI WG CARDS

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Co-Chair:

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Former Chairs (2004-2006)

Claudia Hildebrand (Germany)
Tomáš Tripsovský (Czech Republic)

Homepage: <http://CARDS.EFMI.Info>

Objectives:

EFMI WG CARDS aims at being a European competence centre to watch ongoing activities and to provide knowledge to policy makers and systems designers involved in projects related to personalised, portable devices (PPD) like cards, tokens, and similar technologies in the domain of healthcare and welfare:

- Competence and know-how focused on health care identity management (ID) schemes
- Vision of personalised, portable device technology applications.
- Marketing, dissemination and deployment of WG ideas and results on national and European level

Recent and Future Activities:

The following activities are planned for

- PPD oriented competence and know-how
- Vision of Smartcard technology applications
- Marketing, dissemination and deployment of WG ideas and results

The activity plan is being resumed on a yearly basis. The 2008 work plan is to be discussed during the October 2007 meeting.

The EFMI Working Group "CARDS" co-operates with EHTEL so as with other activities appearing in this professional sector like the World ID steering committee or SDO (especially ISO TC 215, CEN TC 251, and CEN TC 224). Liaison persons link between the WG and the identified bodies.

EFMI WG EDU

Education in Health Informatics

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Co-Chair:

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Objectives:

- To disseminate and exchange information on Health and Medical Informatics (HMI) programs and courses.
- To advance the knowledge of how HMI is taught to health care professionals, to students in Europe
- To promote a database on programs and courses on HMI education
- To produce international recommendations on HMI education
- To support HMI courses and exchange of students and teachers.

Recent and Future Activities:

- WG was held during the MIE2006 Conference in Maastricht
- Globalization of Health Informatics Education, Studies in Health Technology and Informatics, Edited by: E.J.S. Hovenga and J. Mantas 2004, 276 pp., IOS Press, Volume 109hardcover ISBN: 1 58603 454 5.
- The STC conference "Health and Medical Informatics Applications - Educational Aspects" took place in Athens, Greece in 19-20 March 2005
- Task force and workshops to revise the recommendations on HMI Education
- Workshop/conference preferably in Athens in September 2007.

EFMI WG EHR

Electronic Health Records

Chair:

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<http://www.EFMI.org>

EFMI WG EVAL

Assessment of Health Information Systems

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Objectives:

The working group deals with the issue electronic health records in the different levels of development. Such levels concern the case level, organisational level, regional level, national level, and international level. In that context, the Working Group supports

- studies on specification, implementation, and promotion of standards for EHR,
- the modelling of its architecture and its interoperability, as well as
- the education on that topic.

Recent and Future Activities:

The following activities have been realised:

- WG meeting was held during the MIE 2006 in Maastricht
- Workshop organised on "Semantic Challenge for Interoperable EHR Architectures" at MIE 2006 in Maastricht.
- Workshop at STC 2007 "Medical Informatics in Enlarged Europe", Brijuni, Croatia. The results have been published in J.S.Bryden, S.deLusignan, B.Blobel, M.Petrovecki (Edrs.): Medical Informatics in Enlarged Europe. IOS Press and Aka, Berlin 2007.
- Joint workshop with EFMI Working Group „Security, Safety and Ethics" entitled „The Paradigm Change Challenge towards Personal Health", at the ICMCC 2007, 8-10 June 2007 in Amsterdam. The results have been published in L.Bos and B.Blobel (Edrs.): Medical and Care Compunetics 4. Series Studies in Health Technology and Informatics, Vol. 127. IOS Press, Amsterdam 2007.
- Contribution to the International Conference „eHealth: Combining Health Telematics, Telemedicine, Biomedical Engineering and Bioinformatics to the Edge", 2-5 December 2007 in Regensburg

Objectives:

- To foster interdisciplinary discussion on evaluation issues in health informatics.
- To support communication of experiences by organizing tutorials and workshops.
- To promote European networking on evaluation issues in health informatics.

Recent and Future Activities:

- STARE-HI guidelines (Standards for Reporting on Evaluation Studies in Health Care). <http://iig.umat.at/efmi>, comments are welcome.
- Good Evaluation Practice Guidelines (GEP-HI) have been initiated.
- Workshop on Publication of IT evaluation studies and on publication bias was held at MIE 2006 in Maastricht.
- The Declaration of Innsbruck was reprinted in the IMIA Yearbook of Medical Informatics 2006
- Participation in the Scientific Program Committee of the Human Factors Engineering in Health Informatics, June 7 - 8 2007, Aarhus, Denmark.
- Handbook of Evaluation Methods for Health Informatics by Jytte Brender, Academic Press, 2006, ISBN 0123704642
- Web-based Evaluation Inventory of more than 1.250 IT evaluation studies in healthcare, <http://evaldb.umat.at>.
- Web-based Evaluation Inventory of more than 1.250 IT evaluation studies in healthcare, <http://evaldb.umat.at>.
- Workshop on STARE-HI and GEP-HI at Medinfo 2007, Brisbane

EFMI WG HOFMI

Human and Organisational Factors of Medical Informatics

Chair:

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<http://www.EFMI.org>

EFMI WG IDR

Informatics for the Disabled and Rehabilitation

Chair:

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<http://www.EFMI.org>

Objectives

- To organize workshops and tutorials dedicated to the WG topics
- To establish networks of people involved in human and organizational issues in the healthcare domain, and to learn about new developments and their activities
- To disseminate knowledge about human and organizational factors in medical informatics by various activities, such as conferences, educational events, publications.

Recent and Future Activities:

- Special issue with papers presented at the conference Information Technology in Healthcare: Sociotechnical Approaches, Portland/Oregon 2004 (Int J Med Inform 2007;76:Suppl 1-260).
- The conference “Human Factors Engineering in Health Informatics”, Aarhus 7 and 8 June.

Objectives:

- Support of research, developmental work and education/information in the field through a systematic progressive collection of the relevant literature and the promotion of a discussion forum
- To promote a multidisciplinary collaboration among the healthcare and informatics professionals on one hand, and the consumer associations on the other hand in order to pursue, and also spread the culture of, accessibility and usability.
- To involve researchers belonging to different disciplines and users through the organization of workshops

Recent and Future Activities:

The WG is at its very beginning.

A list of interested people has been collected. On March 7th 2007, a work meeting, with Italian participants of the most representative research institution in the field of rehabilitation, has been organized in Pavia.

A questionnaire will be circulated to gather consensus on the most relevant and “popular” fields of interest. Moreover, we are designing a database to collect and catalog papers published on both medical informatics and medical literature about the informatics topics related to rehabilitation and disabilities.

EFMI WG MCRO

MBDS - Casemix, Resources Management and Outcomes of Care

Chair:

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Co-Chair:

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EFMI WG MICIT

Medical Informatics in Countries in Transition

Chair:

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Objectives:

- The organisation of special topic conferences, workshops, teaching sessions in the European Region
- The communication of up to date experiences and/or references between members, including national data sets, terminology, coding system and patient classification methods for resource management and quality of care
- The dissemination of results about informatics tools and telematics systems in this specific area among EFMI and IMIA affiliated members and participants to their meetings.

Recent and Future Activities:

- Conference in collaboration with PCS-E (Patient Classification Systems Europe). "Case Mix: Global Views, Local Actions", 2001, Bruges, Belgium
- Workshop on Case Mix and Nursing. MIE2005 Geneva, Switzerland
- Workshop on "Patient Summaries and Case Mix Funding", MIE2006 Maastricht (the Netherlands).

Objectives:

- To promote exchange of information and experiences between actors in Europe, especially in developing regions
- To investigate the needs, opportunities and obstacles for e-health and to review and select from different education options for developing regions.
- To facilitate access to European groups and their facilities and outcomes by students and health professionals from developing regions

Recent and Future Activities:

- Satellite workshop at eHealth week Berlin 2007 – From Strategies to Applications: "eHealth: the way of transition to a Europe of tomorrow".
- Co-editing with IMIA WG HID a book regarding "The comparative situation of developed and transition countries all over the world -common and different experiences".
- Investigating the success of master degree in Medical Informatics in countries with different levels of economical development.

EFMI WG MIP

Medical Image Processing

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EFMI WG NLU

Natural Language Understanding

Chairs:

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<http://www.EFMI.org>

Objectives:

- A reference image database for medical image processing R&D groups (RID-MIP) and a web-based Information System (IS) about European Image Processing including Groups and their current activities.
- The Working Group Website providing public information and WG-internal documents and work plans.
- To organize workshops dedicated at EFMI conferences and other events.
- Cooperation and maintain close relationship with persons, groups, organisations and standardisation bodies

Recent and Future Activities:

A WG Wiki has been set up by Sarah Barman, UK

At Medinfo 2007 we will have a joint workshop together with IMIA WG Pattern Recognition. Main goal of this workshop is the mutual presentation of the EFMI and IMIA working groups and the discussion of more close co-operation.

Objectives:

- To organize workshops and special topic conferences dedicated to NLP
- To have personal connections with people involved in NLP in the medical domain, especially in Europe, and to learn about their current developments and activities. To develop connections with experts in the general NLP domain and to participate to related events (ACL, COLING...).
- To represent EFMI at IMIA WG6; at AMIA new SIG on NLP and at AIME and to participate to events of those societies.

Recent and Future Activities:

- The NoE SemanticMining by its WG20 has setup an interchange format for multilingual medical lexicon. The WG NLU is actively represented in this initiative. The prospective of participation to the EU FP7 call for projects is now open.
- A workshop about ontology representation has taken place during the STC conference in April 2006 in Timisoara, Romania.
- The WG is actively looking for organizing a track in an EFMI STC conference

EFMI WG NURSIE

Nursing Informatics in Europe

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EFMI WG PCI

Primary Care Informatics

Chair:

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<http://www.EFMI.org>

Objectives:

- To support nurses and nursing organizations in the European countries with information and contacts and the field of medical informatics
- To offer nurses opportunities to build contact networks within the informatics field.
- To support the education of nurses with respect to informatics and computing.
- To support research and developmental work in the field and promote publishing of achieved results.

Recent Activities:

April 6-7 2006 STC in Timisoara we had a paper about the European participation on the Nursing and Informatics book.

June 11 to 14 2006 NI2006 was held in Seoul Korea. This conference was a real success. Our working group launched our new book "Nursing and Informatics for the 21st Century: an international look at practice, trends and the future".

August 27 to 30 2006 we actively participate at the MIE conference in Maastricht

Objectives:

This Working Group aims to further develop the theoretical basis for best practice, which should underpin the use of Informatics in Primary Care.

- To advance pan-European cooperation and the dissemination of information in the domain of primary care informatics.
- To promote high and common standards of applications used in primary care.
- To promote research and development aimed at developing a core generalisable theoretical basis for primary care informatics.
- To encourage high standards in education

Recent and Future Activities:

MEDINFO2007 – Primary care study day prior to the conference on 19th August organised jointly with IMIA and AMIA primary care informatics working groups. EFMI STC2007 – Brijuni, Croatia, May 2007. A primary care half-day formed a key component of this conference.

International patient safety congress – Antalya, Turkey (28-31st March 2007), members were invited and talked about the role of the primary care computer system in general and in making prescribing safer.

MIE2006 – Workshop + practice visits. This was organised with primary care colleagues in Maastricht and explored how routinely collected primary care computer data are "Goldmines for Research." Results have been published in Informatics in Primary Care, 2006;14(3):203-9.

EFMI WG SSE

Security, Safety and Ethics

Chair:

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<http://www.EFMI.org>

Objectives:

Speeding up the use of ICT for health care increases the challenge for trustworthiness, security and safety of solutions and infrastructure deployed. The WG aims to promote development, education and training on the field of security and privacy in health care. It establishes close collaboration with other WGs within EFMI and beyond for securing their ICT solutions for health care.

Recent and Future Activities:

Tutorial "Distributed Health Information Systems and Health Networks: Architecture, Policies, Models, Security and Privacy Requirements and Solutions" at MIE 2006 in Maastricht, The Netherlands, in co-operation with the IMIA WG4 "Security".

Workshop at EFMI Special Topic Conference 2007, Brijuni, Croatia. The results have been published in J.S. Bryden, S. de Lusignan, B. Blobel, M. Petrovecki (Eds.): Medical Informatics in Enlarged Europe. IOS Press and Akademische Verlagsgesellschaft Aka GmbH, Berlin 2007.

Joint workshop with EFMI Working Group „Electronic Health Records" entitled „The Paradigm Change Challenge towards Personal Health", at the ICMCC 2007, 8-10 June 2007 in Amsterdam. Results have been published in L. Bos and B. Blobel (Eds.): Medical and Care Compunetics 4. Series Studies in Health Technology and Informatics, Vol. 127. IOS Press, Amsterdam 2007.

In cooperation with the IMIA WG 4 "Security" the tutorial „Modelling and Implementing Embedded Security and Privacy Services for Sustainable Health Information Systems" at MEDINFO 2007 in Brisbane.

The Chair of the WG has been invited to the Global Security Panel at MEDINFO 2007. Contribution to the International Conference „eHealth: Combining Health Telematics, Telemedicine, Biomedical Engineering and Bioinformatics to the Edge", 2-5 December 2007 in Regensburg

EFMI WG TRACE

Trace ability of supply chains

Chair:

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<http://www.EFMI.org>

Objectives:

Trace ability in healthcare is a complex problem. It involves many aspects specific of medical informatics, such as identifying all actors, objects, actions within time and locations, but also the supply chain, including industries, large consumer's products suppliers. It has some very specific problem to solve, at many levels, such as tagging surgical instruments, or identifying actors. Building the dense net of trace ability from suppliers to patient raise many concerns, around liability and privacy. These concerns must be taken in account in solutions, as the future is at stakes. Trace ability must continue up to the patient, eventually at bedside, and as also to include the decision chain in addition to the supply chain. Improving efficiency and safety of the complete process up to patient care needs integrity and improved transparency of both chains, supply and decision chain.

Recent and Future Activities:

The WG is at its very beginning.

Keynote at the GS1 2007 global forum in Brussels Feb 12-16 2007

- Organisation of a Workshop at Medinfo 2007 in Brisbane
- A special conference and trace ability end of 2007 / beginning of 2008.