

EFMI

The European Federation for Medical Informatics (EFMI) is the leading organisation in medical informatics in Europe and represents 31 countries. 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

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 Healthcare Informatics and all disciplines concerned with Healthcare and Informatics. The organisation operates with a minimum of bureaucratic overhead and each national society supports the Federation by sending and paying for a representative to participate in the decisions of the Federation's Council. Also, and again to reduce overhead, English has been adopted as the official language, although simultaneous translation is often provided for congresses in non-English speaking countries. Information about EFMI and EFMI related activities can be obtained via the website: <http://www.efmi.org>

Countries

Currently, 31 countries have joined the Federation, and are named as Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ire-

land, Israel, Italy, Moldova, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and United Kingdom. Applications are open to representative societies in countries within the European Region of WHO.

EFMI is open for institutional membership starting 2006. Typical institutions are universities, research organisations, federations, industries (large medium and small), and organisations which will support the goals of EFMI.

Congresses and Publications

So far 20 MIE congresses (Medical Informatics Europe) have been organised by EFMI with up to more than 1000 participants. The concept includes reviewed presentations according to the type of paper as oral or poster presentation. Workshops and tutorials prepared or supported by the EFMI working groups are an essential part of EFMI MIE conferences. These have taken place in Cambridge (1978), Berlin (1979), Toulouse (1981), Dublin (1982), Brussels (1984), Helsinki (1985), Rome (1987), Oslo (1988), Glasgow (1990), Vienna (1991), Jerusalem (1993), Lisbon (1994), Copenhagen (1996), Thessaloniki (1997), Ljubljana (1999), Hannover (2000), Budapest (2002) and St. Malo (2003), Geneva (2005), and Maastricht (2006). EFMI has started a new series of meetings: the Special Topic Conferences. Its concept has 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 engaged for the content
- Contributions mostly on invitation
- Small 2-day conference with 100+ participants

STCs have taken part in Bucharest (2001), Nikosia (2002), Rome (2003), Munich (2004), Timisoara (2006) Brijuni island, Croatia (2007). The publications in the last years were done in close co-operation with IOS Press for the conference proceedings in the Medline indexed series "Health Technology and Informatics" and the International Journal for Medical Informatics for selected papers from the MIE conferences. For the STC conferences the proceedings are published with AKA Verlag and Methods of Information in Medicine for selected papers. As complement for the conference proceedings a new series has been established as CD-ROM publication. The ENMI (European Notes in Medical Informatics), Rolf Engelbrecht, Arie Hasman (Eds.), continues the tradition of the Lecture Notes in Medical Informatics and follows the demands of different ways of publication.

Communication

EFMI is running the website www.EFMI.org for external and internal communication for years with some efforts and success. A monthly newsletter for the EFMI council was established in 2005. It can be used by council and board members so far for the distribution of EFMI internal news. This is a basic function which should be used. The newsletters are stored also on the web site and can be read from there every time. As technologies have changed also for the EFMI portal a new approach was taken on the basis of the open source content management system Joomla. It is flexible and portable. Traditional functions are extended for internal and external news such as council members list, member countries (with additional information), working groups, downloads (council meetings material, reports, presentations, etc.), links, events, and news. There is an

extended news management, RSS news feeder (e.g. from IST programme and Journal for Medical Internet Research into EFMI pages, from EFMI news to WG CARDS and the Norwegian society for medical informatics) available. Council members are able to submit news, submit events, to submit files and documents and to do contributions to an internal forum with relevant topics. Information exchange was also dis-

cussed and agreed with AMIA and IMIA. With Elsevier publisher it was agreed to make available EFMI publications on the EFMI portal. The EFMI portal is well recognised in the medical informatics community. The number of visitors is still increasing. It is a good basis for the promotion of medical informatics and is prepared to take information from EFMI members as well. EFMI working groups are the most

active part in the life of the federation. The spectrum of activities is as broad as the variety of themes. The reports in this yearbook contain only objectives and the most actual information. For a complete list of past activities please visit the working group descriptions on the EFMI portal (<http://www.EFMI.org>) or on the homepage of the working groups if available.

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