

IMIA's Working Groups and Special Interest Groups

Access to Health Information – Sifting the Wheat from the Chaff

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The simple phrase ‘access to health information’ may mean one of two different, but linked, concepts. It can refer to the access that an individual or a health professional may, or may not, have to information held about that individual in health records. Such records are currently still, despite moves towards patient-held, or patient-controlled records, primarily controlled by health service providers and/or health professionals. Alternatively, it can refer to people accessing information about health, disease and lifestyle in order to help them make choices about how they deal with health issues. The latter is often termed ‘consumer health informatics’.

Several of IMIA's Working Groups (WGs) and Special Interest Groups (SIGs) deal directly or indirectly with both of these concepts. Our Consumer Health Informatics WG, and its counterpart in the Nursing Informatics SIG (IMIA-NI), have both been actively concerned with the evaluation of electronic information available to the public related to health and care, the quality of information, education of the public, ethical issues, and the effect on a person's relationship with health care providers. The leaders and members of the WG have contributed to conferences, and to high quality scientific publications in the field, notably through the online, open access journal JMIR, Journal of Medical Internet Research (<http://www.jmir.org>). Similar activities, designed to develop and enhance the knowledge, science and application within their own particular

domains, have also been undertaken by many other IMIA WGs and IMIA-NI. However, the amount of information available to health professionals, the public and patients continues to grow rapidly. As ever more information, e.g. genomic information about an individual, that may personalise the treatment options, becomes available, and as new technologies allow us to monitor citizens' and patients' vital signs continuously, often remotely, for long periods of time, issues of how this information is used, and forms part of the lifelong health record, will become increasingly important. IMIA has a WG on ‘Informatics in Genomic Medicine’, which brings together leading and influential thinkers and practitioners from around the world, while the ‘Telematics in Health Care’ and the ‘Smart Homes and Ambient Assisted Living’ WGs, among others, address aspects of new, pervasive technologies and their use in all kinds of environments. In addition, the IMIA Strategic Plan, *Towards IMIA2015* [1] identifies that this increasing knowledge, and the impact on individuals and populations, is a key area that IMIA must address over the next 5 -10 years.

As the amount of information grows, we will need to explore several inter-related questions, including:

- which is the greater problem - the amount of data or information we have, or how we access it?
- how do we, at any point in time, determine and extract the most impor-

tant and relevant information from the vast amount of data available?

- who should have the ultimate control on information related to a particular individual, be they citizen who is seeking information in order to maximise a healthy life, or patient seeking the most up-to-date information concerning the nature of their disease and the care and treatment possibilities?

The IMIA Strategic Plan identifies knowledge as the central core from which all IMIA's strategies, interactions and efforts emanate; and IMIA'S WG/SIGs centrally interact with that knowledge core. For IMIA to contribute to the development of the knowledge in its legitimate areas of interest, and to apply that knowledge to best use in the maintenance and promotion of health globally, it will need to consider the best ways for its WG/SIGs to take leading roles in addressing these important issues. IMIA has started, through a gap analysis, to explore the current domain coverage of its WG/SIGs. It may be that new, or different, groups are needed, or IMIA may need to explore how it collaborates with other organisations who have expertise in these fields, so as to achieve the vision of the Strategic Plan. Its WG/SIGs are vital parts of IMIA, and their contribution to determining IMIA's future, and the ways in which individuals access health information, are crucial.

Reference

1. The IMIA Strategic Plan: Towards IMIA2015. Available online at http://www.imia.org/images/IMIA_Strategic_Plan.pdf accessed 17 January, 2008

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A Draft Strategic Plan – Towards 2015 - was adopted at the IMIA-NI General Assembly on 19th August 2007. The focus of IMIA-NI is to foster collaboration among nurses and others who are interested in Nursing Informatics to facilitate development in the field. We aim to share knowledge, experience and ideas with nurses and healthcare providers worldwide about the practice of Nursing Informatics and the benefits of enhanced information management. The Plan includes specific objectives:

- Explore the scope of Nursing Informatics and its implication for health policy and information handling activities associated with evidence based nursing practice, nursing management, nursing research, nursing education, standards and patient (or client) decision making and the various relationships with other health care informatics entities.
- Identify priorities or gaps and make recommendations for future developments in Nursing Informatics.
- Support the development of Nursing Informatics in member countries and promote Nursing Informatics worldwide.
- Promote linkages and collaborative activities with national and international nursing and healthcare informatics groups and nursing and health care organisations globally.
- Provide, promote and support informatics meetings, conferences, electronic communication forums to enable opportunities for the sharing of ideas, developments and knowledge.
- To participate in IMIA working group and special interest groups to present a nursing perspective.
- Develop recommendations, guidelines, tools and courses related to Nursing Informatics.
- Encourage the publication and dissemination of research and development materials in the field of Nursing Informatics.
- To support and work with patients, families, communities and societies to adopt and manage informatics approaches to healthcare.
- Ensure the group is more visible by providing up to date information on the web site enabling external groups e.g. WHO, ICN to access as required.

Recent and Future Activities:

The NI2006 Congress, held in Seoul, Korea in June 2006 was very successful. The NI2006 Congress Post Conference Proceedings, titled “Nursing Informatics 2020: towards defining our own future” have been published and were available at Medinfo 2007.

Membership continues to grow; five new countries are joining our group enabling a wider international span, specifically Chile, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, and Taiwan.

Three current members will be installed as IMIA-NI Honorary Members at the 2007 General Assembly – Heather Strachan, Diane Skiba and Roy Simpson.

The IMIA-NI website is being migrated to a new site at <http://www.imiani.org> NI2009, the 10th Nursing Informatics Congress, will be held in Helsinki, Finland on 28 June – 1 July 2009. The website is at <http://www.ni2009.org>

Objectives:

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

Recent Activities:

The 2007 Special Issue of *Methods in Medicine* (Vol.46 No2) contains selected papers from the Joint Workshop of Biosignal Interpretation (BSI) in Tokyo in 2005. This workshop was a joint activity of the WG together with IEEE EMBS and other societies in the field. This volume can be regarded as a kind of position paper, as it represents the current state of the art in this field. The next planned BSI workshop in 2008 will take place in the US, probably in New York.

Together with the EFMI WG Medical Image Processing we planned a joint meeting at Medinfo 2007, on the topic "Computer assisted Interpretation of Biosignals and Medical Images for Diagnostic Purposes". This workshop provided an ideal opportunity for colleagues working on signal or image processing in hospital, university, or industry, with participants discussing recent advances in this exciting field with respect to diagnostic applications. The meeting aimed to highlight the benefit for clinicians, health providers and patients by applying new computer supported tools and methods for diagnostic interpretation.

Scope:

The CHIWG is concerned with the evaluation of electronic information related to health care available to the public (e.g. Internet, wireless, standalone electronic media), the quality of information, education of the public, ethical issues related to the electronic information, and the effect on a person's health care and relationship with health care providers.

Group Activities:

The main recent activity of the WG was to organize the highly successful **MEDNET eHealth conference** (www.ehealthcongress.org) in Toronto in 2006, which, for the first time, was positioned and branded as an IMIA WG CHI event. The conference theme was "Improving Public Health through the Internet", and it was co-sponsored by agencies including the National Cancer Institute (US and Canadian) and the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR). The complete final **abstract book** can be downloaded at <http://yi.com/mednet06/draft-mednet2006book.pdf>.

The WG also delivered a tutorial at the 9th International Congress in Nursing Informatics in Seoul, Korea, in June 2006, which was taught by Gunther Eysenbach. A business meeting was held at Medinfo 2007.

Objectives for the next 3 years:

The WG looks forward to greater participation in key IMIA activities, increasing the visibility and impact of CHI WGs in the world by:

- providing greater opportunities to share CHI related information from sources such as the *International Journal of Medical Informatics* (IJMI), and the *Journal of Medical Internet Research* (JMIR);
- continuing to liaise with counterparts in other countries;
- expanding our contacts with CHI interest groups in Asia and Africa.

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Objectives:

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

Recent Activities:

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

Future Activities:

- We aim to focus on improving access to information of dental informatics through the WG website.

Objectives:

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

Current and Future Activities:

- WG members are integral to a new taskforce, chaired by John Mantas, that is working to update the IMIA Recommendations on Health and Medical Informatics Education;
- Bill Hersh is leading work to inventory, and look towards harmonising various efforts around the world on the development of competencies and curricula for health and biomedical informatics education. Workshops on this were held at Medinfo2007 and the AMIA 2007 Fall Symposium.;
- A new wiki-based website has been established (<http://imiawged.pbwiki.com/>), and the email discussion list has moved to imiawged@ohsu.edu
- The next WG conference will take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina on October 27-28, 2008. The preliminary call for papers is available at: <http://www.hospitalitaliano.org.ar/imiawged/>

Objectives:

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

Recent and Future Activities:

The WG has not been collectively very active despite significant activity in some individual countries. However, it is intended to explore ways to rectify this. The production of a book on 'Informatics Perspectives – Issues and Similarities for Developing and Developed Countries' in conjunction with the EFMI region is still planned.

A business meeting was at Medinfo 2007, aiming to review the WG and how it may best meet the needs of its participants and friends, identify current priorities for countries in transition, discuss progress with the planned publication which aims to take key issues of current interest, produce a discussion paper on each of them and publish with reflections from both a developed and developing perspective, and refocus activity on the needs of countries in transition.

Objectives:

- Promote systematic development and research in the field of health information systems;
- Promote research and efforts on efficiency and cost-effectiveness of health information systems for the healthcare, health delivery and access to health;
- Promote research and development in the domain of sustainability in health information systems;
- Promote evaluation, identify and assess problems and success factors of health information systems.

Recent and Future Activities:

The WG, under the leadership of the previous WG chairs, Prof. Klaus Kuhn and Dario Giuse, held a successful conference from July 2006, in Oeiras, near Lisbon, Portugal in cooperation with the IMIA WG Telematics in Healthcare. It was hosted by INA, the Portuguese Instituto Nacional de Administração, an institutional member of IMIA, with the theme of "Expanding the Scope of Health Information Systems from Hospitals to Regional Networks, to National Infrastructures, and Beyond". The conference focussed on concepts to improve health care by exchanging, sharing, and reusing data between health care institutions on all levels of care. Central challenges addressed were interoperability, ubiquitous access, common data models and terminologies, political mandates and lack of continuity, as well as related socio-technical aspects. International speakers presented experiences and concepts, which were further discussed in working groups. A special issue of *Methods of Information in Medicine* will appear to distribute the results of the presentations and of the discussion groups.

The WG held a meeting at Medinfo 2007 to discuss major objectives to develop activities over the next few years. Plans include holding a WG conference, developing a website, and online discussion facilities.

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Objectives:

- To promote methods and techniques devoted to the study of human factors in the field of Biomedical Informatics.
- To coordinate studies and actions in this domain and to develop standardization initiatives for usability studies and user-centered design in the healthcare domain, confronting state of the art methods, models, innovations and results.
- To disseminate rigorous scientific principles for performing formal usability evaluations to improve their degree of efficiency, acceptability and safety of health informatics applications.

Recent and Future Activities:

A workshop took place in May 2006 in Lille (France), to start the international network in this HF engineering domain. A second symposium with 60 participants was held in Rochester, MN, USA on August 2006. We held a meeting with 109 participants in Aarhus, Denmark in June, 2007, from which papers are being submitted as a special focus issue in JAMIA.

The WG's next tasks will focus on:

- Creating a standard for how HFE, and in particular Usability Testing, should be employed in the process for certification of electronic health records. We believe this can and will insure more usable and safer EHR systems.
- Creating an international registry of usability studies, to enable meta-analyses and minimize the need for repetition of studies to prove the same point.

The working group will develop a research agenda for human factors in health informatics, which will lead to a white paper. We will develop a web site with a semantic wiki for furthering discussions; liaise with other IMIA, EFMI and AMIA WGs in the area of human factors and evaluation.

Objectives:

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

These interests include, but are not limited to:

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

The IGM WG aims to:

- Provide a forum to enhance collaboration, share experiences, and promote research in this field
- Increase communication with other working groups at IMIA, AMIA and other organizations relevant to IGM including groups with an emphasis on genomic medicine and informatics from the biomedical community, computing research and bioinformatics as relevant.
- Establish itself as a scientific reference on issues related to information technology projects in genomic medicine.

Objectives:

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

Recent and Future Activities:

- The WG organized the 12th workshop on Intelligent Data Analysis in Medicine and Pharmacology, held in Amsterdam, the largest in the IDAMAP history. We had more than 50 participants, from Europe, Canada and United States.
- A Special Issue of the Journal of Biomedical Informatics on IDA in Medicine has been published, edited by workshop chairs Niels Peek and John Holmes. It contains contributions that deal with methods for gathering new knowledge using a selected data analysis approach, including a review by R. Bellazzi and B. Zupan on "Towards knowledge-based gene expression data mining".
- The working group will focus on specific topics of interest for the scientific community. In particular, the exploitation of predictive data mining in clinical medicine, knowledge-based functional genomics, IDA of molecular phenotypes, data mining models for the assessment of clinical risk, and temporal data mining in medicine and bioinformatics.
- The WG web site will be further enriched, to offer a list of relevant publications, technical notes and recent results.

Intelligent Data Analysis and Data Mining

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Objectives:

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

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

Recent and Future Activities:

- Joint panels on Terminology and Natural Language Processing were conducted at Medinfo 2004 with MIE and AMIA working groups.
- A resumption of the triennial meeting series took place in Rome, Italy from April 29-May 2, 2005. Dr. Barry Smith of the University of Buffalo and The Institute for Formal Ontology and Medical Information Science, part of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Leipzig, was Program Chair. Proceedings appeared in the Journal of Biomedical Informatics as a special issue of the Journal of Biomedical computing in June, 2006.
- The WG1 convened at MedInfo 2007 in Brisbane to plan a WG symposium in 2008.

Background:

The world of informatics in mental health is exponentially changing; consumers can now use the web for actual therapy, clinicians can peek into functioning of the brain during cognitive tasks, and patients can be seen by their clinicians via tele-psychiatry. Yet, we have not developed ways that informatics can reduce the disease burden of psychiatric disorders, increase collaboration between medical and mental health clinicians, or shared best practices in research, practice, or policy. There exists today a critical mass of informatics innovators who function as researchers, developers, and policy leaders who have no forum to share perspectives and shape the future of mental health informatics.

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

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

Objectives:

The focus of the WG remains on educational, promotional and 'evangelistic' activities to raise awareness of free/libre software and open source software, including GNU/Linux:

- to provide a forum for discussion and for a collaborative, non-judgemental work environment to explore, and where appropriate promote and facilitate, the application of free/libre and open source solutions within health, healthcare and health informatics.
- to bring together experts and interested individuals from a wide range of health professions and with a range of interests in the potential application of free/libre and open source solutions within their domains of expertise.
- to explore the implications of the free/libre and open source approaches for all aspects of IMIA's areas of interest.
- to work with other IMIA Working and Special Interest Groups to explore the appropriate use of free/libre and open source solutions and applications.
- to facilitate both the use of other groups' expertise in the areas under consideration, and the input of IMIA views to those other groups' work and discussions.

Recent and Future Activities:

- The Chair presented at the EMFI Special Topic Conference in Croatia.
- The WG is collaborating with the EFMI WG and CHIRAD to co-ordinate the EFMI special topic conference on open source in London in 2008.

Objectives:

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

Recent Activities:

- Organized a panel on ubiquitous computing in health care for the IFIP WG 8.2 conference on „Designing Ubiquitous Information Environments: Socio-technical Issues and Challenges,“ Cleveland, OH 2005
- Organized a workshop on “Avoiding The F-Word: IT Project Morbidity, Mortality, and Immortality,” co-sponsored by nine AMIA WGs, for AMIA 2006 Symposium
- Participated in keynote panel on “evaluation” at AMIA Spring 2006 Congress
- Co-sponsored two panels for Medinfo 2007 and one for the AMIA 2007 Symposium

Future and Ongoing Activities:

- To raise awareness of organizational and social issues in health care,
- Nominate papers for the Diana Forsythe Award of the AMIA People and Organizational Issues WG, and serve on the Awards Committee.
- Organize panels and tutorials at AMIA Symposia and Medinfo.
- Develop curricula recommendations
- Co-sponsor Information Technology in Health Care tri-ennial conferences
- Co-sponsor AMIA People & Organizational Issues WG Doctoral Symposium

Open Source Health Informatics

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Objectives:

To promote primary care informatics by:

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

Recent and Future Activities:

- WG members are involved on the Editorial Board of *Informatics in Primary Care* Full text is available to personal and library subscribers at: www.radcliffe-oxford.com/ipc, with free full-text for papers over a year old.
- WG members liaise at an international level on local and regional initiatives in primary care informatics. Our key partners include the EFMI Primary Care Working Group, Informatics Working Party of WONCA (The World Organization of Family Doctors), and the AMIA Primary Care Informatics Working Group.
- The WONCA Informatics Working Party held a 2-day workshop in Prato, Italy, in August 2006; 6 position papers were prepared for publication in a special issue of *Informatics in Primary Care*, on Security, Clinical Decision Support, Information Sharing, Meeting Patient Needs, Education and Support for Family Doctors and Staff, and Quality and Secondary Uses of Data.
- A Primary Care Informatics Day was organized at Medinfo 2007.
- We will continue development of a recruitment plan for the WG.
- Continued collaboration with *Informatics in Primary Care* journal.
- Developing an enhanced website presence through the IMIA web site.

Objectives:

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

Recent Activities:

The working group conducted a working conference in Dijon France, April 2006. The main theme of the conference was "Secure eHealth: managing risk of patients data", with four sub-themes, ie Telecommunication and Wireless Technologies; Ethics and Laws for eHealth in Telemedicine; Long Term Data Preservation and Intelligibility; and Security of Community Wide Health Care Records. The event had 43 participants from 14 countries, including representatives of private industry, governmental organizations and academia. Sixteen of the presented papers were selected for publication in a Special Issue of the International Journal of Medical Informatics. The conference coincided with the 30th anniversary of the working group. The Gerd Griesser Award for the best paper contributed by a student or young investigator (and which carries a value of 1,000 Euro) was awarded to Dr. Moritz Y. Becker (member of the Security Group at Microsoft Research in Cambridge, UK), for the paper "Information Governance in NHS's NPFIT: A Case for Policy Specification".

The Working Group adopted a regular mode of leadership transition with the election of a Vice-Chair every three years, who is to succeed the current Chair. Francois Allaert, France, and Kiyomu Ishikawa, Japan, were elected as Chair and Vice- chair respectively to succeed Jochen Moehr, Canada.

Goals and Objectives:

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

The Working Group provides a forum for ongoing discussion and a collaborative platform for research and development combining expertise in engineering, sensor technologies, ubiquitous computing, health systems, gerontology and human computer interaction. We will address not only technical challenges but also the end users' needs, ethical, clinical and policy issues and the design of sustainable and non-obtrusive interventions, providing a holistic examination of the current status and future trends in smart homes and ambient assisted living.

Security in Health Information Systems

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Smart Homes and Ambient Assisted Living

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Standards in Health Care Informatics

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Objectives:

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

The WG itself does not create new standards, rather, it works in an advisory role to the promotion of identification and coordination, by maintaining an inventory of health informatics standards activities. Usually, standard development activities are by volunteers, vendors, and immediate users. IMIA, as an academically oriented, world-wide organization, has connections to bring together countries which may currently participate less in existing standard development activities.

Recent and Future Activities:

The WG has focused on maintaining an inventory of health informatics standards activities, for the purpose of promoting mutual identification between activities, and proliferation to users. A web site (<http://www.mi.hama-med.ac.jp/standardization.html>) links to reports on activities of ISO and CEN (<http://www.med.kyushu-u.ac.jp/info/std/>) and also to slides and handouts of the WG activities.

Workshops were held at APAMI 2006 at Taipei, which focused on Global Vocabulary vs. Local Healthcare Cultures and at MEDINFO 2007 Brisbane. Topic: Standards enable and empower interoperable EHR.

The WG will continue to provide advice from academic perspective to activities and ISO/TC215 and CEN TC 251. (IMIA is a liaison of ISO/TC 215.)

Another workshop is planned at HIMSS AsiaPAC 07, at Singapore on "Interoperability".

Recent Activities:

Members of the working group have been participating in various conferences, the most important being the Human Factors Engineering working conference in Aarhus. Significant progress has been made with respect to two outstanding issues, undertaken largely in collaboration with the EFMI working group on Evaluation, lead by E. Ammenwerth: The development of the statement on reporting of evaluation studies in health informatics (STARE-HI) and the development of guidelines for good evaluation practice in health informatics (GEP-HI). A draft version of STARE-HI has been sent to editors of several Medical Informatics journals. EFMI has recently decided to endorse STARE-HI.

Future Activities:

- Further development of STARE-HI and GEP-HI; multi-journal publication of STARE-HI.
- Development of accompanying papers with supportive evidence for STARE-HI. Two initiatives have already been decided on: one paper providing background material and motivations for the various aspects of STARE-HI and secondly a paper analysing the current state of reporting of evaluation studies in Health Informatics as a baseline for later assessing the impact of STARE-HI.
- There will be a gradual transition of leadership of this WG over the next two years; the new co-chair will take over the leadership in 2008, and a new co-chair for the period 2008-2010 will be sought.

Objectives:

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

Activities:

Telematics is now a natural and important part of Medical Information Systems, particularly in Regional Information Systems. The development of large national projects concerning Patient Shared Records demonstrates also that Telematics is now embedded in most Medical Information applications. Since 2006, activities have been devoted to contact with other fields of the Medical Information domain. These have included active participation in the organisation of the workshop in Lille, France (May 2006) on "Human Factors Engineering in Medical Informatics", where we shared examples of usability studies for Hospital Information Systems, Telemedicine, Distant Training, and e-Health. We also participated in the workshop of the IMIA HIS Working group: "Expanding the Scope of Health Information Systems from Hospitals to Regional Networks, National Infrastructures, and Beyond", hosted by INA, Instituto Nacional de Administração in Oeiras, Portugal in July 2006.

We have produced a report on Tele-radiology, and the current developments in different parts of the world, particularly the potential impact of commercial Tele-Radiology on the organisation of healthcare. Telematics is a way to improve Healthcare in developing countries, and we are establishing relations with healthcare networks in developing countries, particularly Africa.

Telematics in Health Care

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