IMIA General Assembly Meeting  
Munich, Germany  
Room: A214; Ludwig-Maximilians-University Saturday, August 28, 2016  
Time: 09:00 – 15:30 hrs.

Draft History:
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>2016-08-28</td>
<td>First draft to Executive Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016-09-06</td>
<td>Second draft to Board members attending meeting</td>
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Present:
Participant list in Annex 1 <to be added>

1 President’s Introduction & Welcome - Hyeoun-Ae Park
President Hyeoun-Ae Park (HAP) welcomed the General Assembly (GA) members and in particular new national representatives and WG chairs.

In addition, new Board members since last meeting, to take office after the GA, were introduced:
- Helen Wu – VP WG’s & SIGS -elect
- Elizabeth Borycki, VP Special Affairs - elect
- Jeremy Theal, VP North American Region

HAP also thanked Outgoing VPs: Tze Yun Leong (VP WG’s & SIGS), Monique Jaspers (VP Special Affairs), Patrick Weber (EFMI) and Shashi B Gogia (APAMI)

To facilitate networking during the meeting, all participants introduced themselves.

1.1 Approval of Agenda
The agenda had been made available prior to the meeting.

Material related to the agenda had been made available prior to the meeting from the new web site. For technical reasons, some of the material was uploaded only immediately preceding the meeting.

The president suggested that the new web site would improve report distribution and that there would be an on-line Board meeting one month before the next GA to ensure report completion and availability, including information about Board decisions and proposals.

Additional items and amendments: The voting of Agenda Item 2 was postponed until after lunch

That the Agenda be approved, as amended.

Moved: Casimir Kulikowski
2 Approval of Minutes and Action Items

The Minutes of the last GA, (August 20, 2015, Sao Paulo, Brazil) by former Secretary Lyn Hanmer (LH) had been made available prior to the meeting. For technical reasons, the minutes had not been uploaded on the web. The president referred the main points in the minutes. The item was postponed until after lunch for voting.

There were no additional comments.

That Minutes be approved.

Moved: Amado Espinosa
Seconded: Reinhold Haux

Approved with two abstentions

3 President´s Report - Hyeoun-Ae Park

The report had been made available prior to the meeting.

IMIA has become a global organisation, and needs to adapt to new requirements. HAP to focus presidency on internal affairs, including review and possible revisions of policies, SOP, strategic plan, and code of ethics etc. She introduced the idea of an International Academy of Health Sciences and Informatics (IAHSI).

The president focused on MEDINFO 2017, wishing it to be a success. She has signed two Medinfo contracts – for Xiamen for 2017 and Lyon for 2019. Delay of 2017 contract because of venue change agreed during last IMIA GA.

Other activities include: Collaboration between IFIP and IMIA was discussed and strengthened in the last year. The History project is an important issue that was addressed. HAP supported WITFOR in San Jose and represented IMIA in several international conference, promoting our work and networking with significant organisations, etc.

HAP thanked the IMIA yearbook team current and past editors. All previous yearbooks now available online. A celebration will be held after the GA meeting.

IMIA will celebrate its 50h anniversary next year. Proposal for celebration includes
- IMIA history book
- Possible keynote at MEDINFO
- Celebration at opening ceremony with all past presidents.

Other suggestions are welcome.
HAP congratulated Dr. Pattie Brennan, a leading figure in the health informatics community, for her appointment as the new director of the NLM.

HAP finally thanked the executive team for their effort.

**That the President’s Report be approved.**

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Approved with one abstention

4  **CEO’s Report – Elaine Huesing**

The report had been made available prior to the meeting.

Regarding financial matters, it is most likely not possible to receive any money from the MEDINFO 2013 bankruptcy. IMIA lost an expected income of $50,000 on that event.

The CEO had assisted in the Swiss tax exemption audited – IMIA is an international organisation registered under Swiss law. The tax exemption is maintained.

IMIA yearbook: Martina Hutter is now leaving the support team. She has been a major asset to the work – but now decided to move on for personal reasons. A replacement is to be found.

The new website is live. [www.imia-medinfo.org](http://www.imia-medinfo.org). All documents as well as modern networking possibilities available. It will support easier report submission and distribution, so that documents will be available in ample time.

**That the report of the CEO be approved.**

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Approved

5  **Reports of the Regional Vice Presidents to IMIA**

The reports had been made available prior to the meeting.

5.1  **APAMI - Shashi Gogia**

Report available on web.

APAMI consists of 12 member countries and several corresponding countries. New secretary and web site facilitate work. Organisation is growing. EPR meeting, connectaton etc. held – an indication of the increased activity.

APIMA conference in Seoul in November.
5.2 EFMI - Patrick Weber
Written report on the web.
EFMI and IMIA WGs work together. MIE 40th anniversary celebrated this year. Focus on history project.

5.3 HELINA - Ghislain Kouematchoua
Written report on the web.
Two major activities: Working groups on education and data mining.
New health informatics journal. New nursing informatics special group.
Next Helina conference in Burundi. NI 2018 will be held in South Africa. It will be the place for the next IMIA GA.

5.4 IMIA-LAC - Amado Espinosa
Written report on the web.
Close collaboration between member societies.
Some of the associations are very active, e.g. Argentina and Mexico.
Next main regional event in Cuba in November 2017.

5.5 North America – Jeremy Theal
Report available on web.
COACH highlights: Growth in membership, now more than 2.000 members. 110 members in executive’s forum (CHIEF). 1.500 delegates in last conferences in June in Vancouver. Leadership survey preformed – to be reported. Smaller events now organised as webinars.

Clinical Informatics now recognised as medical sub-speciality in US. AMIA working for recognition for non-medical staff. Master programmes to be accredited. Involved in certification programme, AHIMA also moved into this arena. Matter to be settled.

5.6 MEAH - Ramin Moghaddam
RM sent his regrets as he was not able to attend the meeting. Report available on the net.

That the tabled reports of the regional VPs to be approved.

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Approved

6 Secretary’s Report – Petter Hurlen
The report had been made available prior to the meeting.
The intent is to have the un-approved draft minutes available within 1 week. Minutes are formally approved at the next GA meeting. To reach this goal, the minutes will focus on decisions and action points. IMIA documents available on-line. The new Web will facilitate document handling.

Existing SOPs will be distributed to VPs for consideration and possible amendments. SOPs to be approved by Board, in accordance with proposed Board Policy.

**That the secretary’s report be approved.**

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*Approved with two abstentions*

**6.1 Revised Board Policy**

An amended draft Board policy had been circulated. It had been modified according to previous decisions by the board regarding terms and functions of officers, and to give a mandate for SOPs.

Two minor amendments were proposed by the GA and was accepted and incorporated in the final version.

**That the policy be presented to the GA, with amendments, be approved**

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*Approved with 26 votes from member societies, none against and no abstentions*

**7 Treasurer’s Report – Sabine Koch**

The report had been made available prior to the meeting.

The budget has been reduced each year – new methods to increase the revenue needed. To be addressed and discussed in next board meeting. Suggestions from member societies and others very welcome.

Small increase in membership fee income thanks to CEO. However, 2015 budget not met due to Medinfo 2013 Copenhagen bankruptcy, money export tax from Sao Paolo, audit from Swiss Tax Authorities, and open access of previous MEDINFO proceedings. In future Medinfo contracts, local committee will cover tax before IMIA fee is transferred.

CEO transfer and new web cost according to budget. Money exchange cost only for accounting purposes.

No new investments in last year.

**That the report of the Treasurer be approved.**
Approved with 20 votes from member societies, one abstention, none against

8 VP Membership - Michio Kimura
The report had been made available prior to the meeting.

No new membership societies, no outgoing members. New applications for academic and government membership, not yet complete. Corresponding members being considered.

SWOT analyses for new members – reason why they should be members – available on the web. Many good reasons – should be an inspiration for recruitment. Will be sent to WGs, member societies and academic members for comments and parts will be uploaded on the web for inspiration.

The ongoing policies related to data management / analysis are developing in some areas outside of medical informatics and may be a threat.

A typing error was identified; it should be bioinformatics – not biomedical informatics – in the list of topics not covered.

A survey may be a useful tool to get input from member societies.

A workshop during MEDINFO proposed to address the topics.

That the report of the VP Membership be approved.

Moved: Patrick Weber  
Seconded: Amado Espinosa

Approved

9 Report of the VP Working Groups & SIGs - Tze Yun Leong
The report had been made available prior to the meeting.

Many WGs have been active, and also started collaboration.

WG information to be updated on the web.

That the report of the VP Working Groups & SIGs be approved.

Moved: George Michalas  
Seconded: Casimir Kulikowski

Approved with three abstentions
9.1 Chairs and vice chairs
New chairs and vice chairs proposed in the report and presented during the meeting.

That the new chairs and co-chairs be approved.

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Approved

9.2 Termination of two WGs
The Critical Care Informatics WG and Health Geographical Information Systems WG have not been active for several years, and have proposed that they should be terminated, a proposal that was supported by the Board.

That The Critical Care Informatics WG and Health Geographical Information Systems WG be terminated

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Approved, with two abstentions

9.3 The WG of the year award
The VP and the Board recommended that the WG History in Biomedical and Health Informatics and the WG Technology assessment and quality development be awarded the WG of the year award.

That The WG History in Biomedical and Health Informatics and the WG Technology assessment and quality development be awarded the WG of the year award

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Approved

The president and VP for WG/SIGs presented the awards to the WG chairs.

10 Report of the VP Special Affairs - Monique Jaspers
The report had been made available prior to the meeting.

10.1 Accreditation Program update
Seven programs world-wide has been accredited – two in progress.
The programme should be more visible at the IMIA web site.
Experts are active and hardworking, but we need more experts, in particular from Asia, Africa South and Latin America. Criteria for experts documented and presented to the GA. Expenses for expert is paid by the applicant.
Accreditation fee will generate some revenue to IMIA.
A more flexible fee structure will be discussed during next board meeting, accommodating countries that cannot pay the European level fees.

**That the report of the VP Special Affairs be approved.**

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Approved with one abstention

**11 Report of the Liaison Officer to IFIP - Hiroshi Takeda**
The report had been made available prior to the meeting.
Collaboration tightened through an invitation from IFIP to the IMIA president, and an invitation from IMIA to the IFIP to address the Medical informatics community.
IMIA officers invited to central positions in IFIP. Opportunities for collaboration to be discussed in future meeting.

**That the report of the Liaison Officer to IFIP be approved.**

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Approved with one abstention

**12 Report of the Liaison Officer to ISO - Michio Kimura**
The report had been made available prior to the meeting.
A list of new standards and work items annexed to the report, available on the web.
Experts welcomed to support the work. Comments to drafts could be submitted through national ISO member bodies, but also through IMIA as IMIA is ISO liaison category D.

**That the report of the be approved.**

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Approved with one abstention

**13 Report of the Liaison Officer to WHO**
The report had been made available prior to the meeting. Antoine Geissbuhler, liaison to WHO, sent his regrets as he was unable to attend the meeting.

**14 Report of the VP Services - Christoph Lehmann**
The report had been made available prior to the meeting.

**14.1 IMIA Yearbook of Medical Informatics 2016 Update**
This is the IMIA Yearbook’s 25-year anniversary. Two editions this year – the first ‘Special 25th Anniversary Edition’ already published, the regular 2016 edition to focus on novel unintended consequences.
All previous yearbooks have been scanned and made available or referred online, personal copies of previous yearbooks can be donated to local libraries.
14.2 Approval of New Editors of Yearbook
New editors for Yearbook will be Birgitte Seroussi, VP Services and representing continuity, in addition to John Holmes and Lina Soulamia.

14.3 IAHSI Update
International Academy of Health Sciences and Informatics is progressing, in accordance with report and previous GA and board decisions. Partrice Degoulet and Ted Shortliffe to lead the nomination process. Initially, a core of 100 individual members is attempted. Will generate revenue for IMIA. The Academy to draft their own rules, but to be approved by the GA.

14.4 IMIA new official Journal - Informatics for Health and Social Care
One application received – processed in accordance with SOP for official journals. After the review, the VP recommended endorsement. There are no financial obligations for IMIA in approving an official journal.

That the report of the VP Services be approved.

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Approved with one abstention

14.5 The Trans-O-MIM Project – Transforming Methods into Open
Professor Reinhold Haux introduced the project transforming the IMIA endorsed journal “Methods” into an Open Access journal. There is funding for studying the transformation, funded by the German society, and the mechanisms will be addressed in workshop during MIE2016. A questionnaire has been made and was distributed to the GA members during the meeting.

15 Report of the VP Medinfo
The report had been made available prior to the meeting.

15.1 Medinfo2015 update
1.007 persons attended the Sao Paolo MIE2017 conference. 56 countries were represented. 792 submissions – 550 accepted. Admission system to be revised for next MEDINFO conference. Financial issues referred in treasurer’s report.

15.2 Medinfo2017 update
Medinfo 2017 in Xiamen prepared in accordance with the SOPs. The event was presented by representative of the host organisation, Mrs. Husang. Information available at www.medinfo2017.org. Call for papers is open, closes December 1st 2016. Registration will open September 1st.
It is important to apply for visa in time for those participants that are required to obtain one. It may be up to 6 months in some countries, a few days in others. The event should be marketed in member societies.

15.3 Medinfo2019 update
To be held in Lyon, exact dates to be decided. Agreement signed, local activities initiated. Web site www.medinfo-lyon.org opened.

15.4 MedInfo2021 Bid update
Call to be launched in September 2016, member societies are encouraged to submit their applications. Site to be decided by IMIA GA 2017.

That the Report of the VP Medinfo be approved.
Moved: Patrick W
Seconded: Tze Yun Leong
Approved with one abstention

16 Business arising & other business

16.1 Nominating Committee report
Brigitte Seroussi is nominated for the position of VP Services.

The position as VP Medinfo is vacant. The VP is elected for two years, as the position requires so much work that no VP is expected to hold the position for more than one term. As there are no nominations from the Nominating Committee for a new VP, there will be a call to all member societies to put candidates forward – in accordance with criteria defined in SOP for VP Medinfo, for the nomination committee. There will be an electronic vote among member societies on the candidate nominated.

Secretary and CEO to launch call.

That Brigitte Seroussi be elected VP Services
Moved: George Mihalas
Seconded: Patrick Weber
Approved with 24 votes from member societies

16.2 IMIA Strategic Plan Update
The strategic vision draft document of August 8th by the SP task force headed by John Holmes was presented. It contains an executive summary. It is a high-level document and framework.

Academic and professional excellence is to be added as pillars. Financial sustainability must also be added as a goal.
It was agreed that the document should be approved with the proposed amendments, to allow for progress on the tactical work that depends on this strategic plan.

That **the document be approved with the agreed amendments**, moved by Cristoph Lehmann, seconded by Amado Espinosa.

Approved with one objection and one abstention.

16.3 Code of Ethics Revision - Eike–Henner W. Kluge
Prof. Eike–Henner W. Kluge introduced the extensive work he has been leading on this topic. Documents available on the IMIA web site. The text is marked as to what is new, what is re-wording and what is the original text. The original has been well accepted and translated to 9 languages.

That **the revised code of ethics be approved**.

Moved: George Michalas
Seconded: Paul Woolman

Approved

16.4 Other business
President or CEO expressed regret that colleagues in Turkey were not in a position to attend the meeting.

17 IFIP, INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR INFORMATION PROCESSING
PRESIDENT LEON STROUS
The president presented its activities, history, on-going liaison activities with IMIA and possibility for future collaboration.

18 Forthcoming General Assembly Meetings
GA 2017 - Medinfo 2017 Xiamen, China on the conference opening day
GA 2018 – NI2018/HELINA2018 in September in Cape Town, South Africa
GA 2019 – MedInfo2019 in Lyon, France

19 Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 15:25. The president thanked the participants for their hard work and engagement during the meeting. There would be a Yearbook celebration from 15:30