REPORT OF IMIA Regional Vice President, EFMI to IMIA Board and GA at MedInfo2017

Prof. Anne Moen, RN, PhD, FACMI, IMIA Regional VP, Past President EFMI (2016 – 2018)

Overview

EFMI celebrated 40th anniversary during MIE2016/HEC2016 in Munich. The federation was founded September 1976 in a meeting on the Regional WHO premises in Copenhagen. MIE2018 (www.mie2018.org) in Gothenburg, Sweden 24 – 26 April 2018 will be the 40th anniversary since the first MIE conference was hosted in Cambridge, UK. EFMI continues as a champion and voice for health informatics in Europe through membership in the EU eHealth Stakeholder Group, and collaboration with other organizations with European presence, e.g. HL7 International and HIMSS Europe. The national societies are active and we are please to welcome Italy as national member society again, the EFMI WGs are active, and several new institutional members has joined EFMI. Funding for the project “CrowdHealth” (PI. John Mantas) marked a special milestone for EFMI as the first funded Horizon2020 project the federation is active partner in.

EFMI Conferences – areas for networking and sharing

In collaboration with Farr Institute at University of Manchester EFMI cohosted the conference Informatics for Health 2017 in Manchester in April 2017 (24–26). For EFMI this served as MIE2017. EFMI Board and EFMI Council held meetings, and several EFMI WGs did so too. Under the leadership of SPC co-chairs Dr. Ronald Cornet and Prof. Colin McCowan, LOC chair Prof. Niels Peek and Dr. Rebecca Randell, lead editor of proceedings, and their teams the over 800 participants were offered an exceptionally rich and forward looking program of keynotes, presentations, posters, workshops and panels based on submissions from the EFMI community, the Farr community and our international health informatics colleagues. EFMI’s task force on Accreditation and Certification (AC2) presented some of the analysis and suggested further work. I would also like to mention that “the Science Slam” (science in 8 minutes), started at MIE2016 /HEC 2016 in Munich, continues as a successful and fun activity. A panel on “Women in Health IT” organized as collaboration by OneHealth.org, HL7 and HIMSS UK and EFMI generated much discussion.

In October (23–24) STC2017 will take place in Tel Aviv, Israel. The theme is “The practice of patient centered care: Empowering and engaging patients in the digital era”. This Special Topic Conference will be in the memory of Assa Reichert, EFMI past president and honorary fellow. We look forward to lively exchanges and this opportunity to honor the memory of Assa Reichert and his many contributions to health informatics.
In addition, EFMI support several regional events, e.g., the ICIMTH2017 (15th International Conference on Informatics, Management and Technology in Health Care), that took place in Athens, July 2017, an pHealth that took place in Eindhoven, the Netherlands May 2017.

**Outreach in Europe**

EFMI is active at the European scene through membership in the EU eHealth Stakeholder Group and active participation in the EU eHealth week. The 2017 eHealth week was hosted by Malta in May, during the Maltese Presidency. Several EFMI colleagues were active in the official program as well as in a partner event EFMI continues to prepare in collaboration with HL7 International. This year’s event were titled: “Connected health data meet the people: diversity, standards, and trust” focusing specifically on the following sub topics; Human Capital, Digital health literacy, Health Professional Education, “Internet of People” and workforce preparation in the learning health system. Members of the EFMI Board explores opportunities for collaboration with professional societies to realign closer with the clinical specialties, and as an example co-organized a session on eHealth and opportunities for collaboration at the 27th European meeting on Hypertension and Cardiovascular Protection, European Society of Hypertension.

**Provide resources for the EFMI member societies**

The EFMI Board and EFMI Council actively seek to provide shared resources for the member societies, specifically to ease organizing and hosting EFMI events. In addition to the contract with IOS Press for open access, indexed conference proceedings (2015), we have updated, revised and renewed the contract with Weblet for use of the OCR system for handling submission and conference program (2016). There is a task force recently established to look into additional resources to further support organization of EFMI conferences across Europe. Furthermore, EFMI Social Media profile / digital presence is a priority, with Twitter: @EFMI, #EFMI, on Facebook as EFMI, an Instagram profile and LinkedIn group that also seek to connect WG groups LinkedIn groups.

The established AC² task force (Accreditation and Certification) reported work to the EFMI Board and Council in April 2017. Following the report and discussions during Informatics for Health 2017 (MIE2017) the suggestion to a) continue collaboration with IMIA (task force) and regional member societies on accreditation, and to b) set up a committee to ensure European relevance, and align with the Bologna process’ ongoing efforts to ensure comparability in standards and quality in Higher Education across Europe, will be the continuation of this initiative. Professional European / international recognition at individual and institutional level through certification and accreditation will be in focus, and the AC² will report progress to the EFMI member societies at STC2017 and MIE2018.

**Summary of projects suggested in this report, for IMIA Board 2017 approval**

This report serves for orientation to the IMIA Board and General Assembly during MedInfo2017. EFMI will continue to “function as the autonomous European Regional Association of the International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA) (cf. EFMI Statues)*, and look forward to much collaboration and sharing.

**APPENDICES**

None, however, material can of course be made available for sharing on request.