REPORT OF THE Vice President – Special Affairs

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Overview

1. High Level Report Content
The report covers a number of areas: the communication strategy for IMIA Accreditation, plans for updating health and biomedical informatics competencies, accreditation fees and administrative issues.

2. Communication Strategy for the IMIA Accreditation in Health and Biomedical Informatics

IMIA Website
The IMIA website now has information posted about the IMIA Accreditation in Health and Biomedical Informatics. The information on the website provides information about the accreditation and the processes associated with obtaining accreditation (see http://imia-medinfo.org/wp/imia-accreditation-pilot/). The website provides information about how to apply for accreditation, information about the IMIA accreditation committee and the accreditation procedure (including information about the assessment report, site visit). Academics are encouraged to contact VP – Special Affairs about initiating the process.

2017 IMIA Yearbook of Medical Informatics
A detailed paper outlining the processes was published in the 2017 Yearbook of Medical Informatics by the Monique Jaspers, John Mantas, Elizabeth Borycki and Arie Hasman. The paper is entitled "IMIA Accreditation of Biomedical and Health Informatics Education: Current State and Future Directions" and can be viewed at: https://imia.schattauer.de/en/contents/archive/issue/special/manuscript/27505.html
The document is open access and available to all those who have internet access so that it is available to read for those educational institutions that are considering accreditation.

Document Repository on Accreditation and Health Informatics Competencies
Plans are to create an accessible repository of links to published papers past and present on the IMIA Website regarding the history and current accreditation processes as well as information about IMIA health and biomedical informatics competencies. Prior academic publications were open access – thank-you to Arie Hasman, John Mantas and Monique Jaspers for ensuring the long-term availability of these documents.

IMIA Booth at MedInfo2017
Information will be provided at the IMIA MedInfo2017 Booth regarding the IMIA Accreditation process and fees to academic organizations who are interested in obtaining the IMIA Accreditation. Academics who are interested in initiating the process at their local institution are encouraged to come by the IMIA MedInfo2017 booth to obtain additional information.
Panels and Training Workshops at Future MedInfo's
Plans are underway to develop standardized panels and workshops related to accreditation for future MedInfo's. The panels will focus on the experiences of health and biomedical informatics programs that have gone through the accreditation process and are already accredited. The purpose of these panels is for academics whose programs are considering accreditation to learn from these programs about the process and the benefits. The purpose of the workshops will be to provide a detailed introduction to the accreditation process for IMIA health and biomedical informatics programs to support completion of documents and self-assessments for the purpose of planning with one’s organization to initiate the accreditation process and for the purpose of planning for an accreditation visit. Case studies will be presented involving accredited institutions.

2. Health and Biomedical Informatics Competencies
Dr. Chris Lehmann is leading an international initiative to update the IMIA Health and Biomedical Informatics Competencies and has brought together a substantive, international group of academics from across differing IMIA regions to update the health and biomedical informatics competencies. As the IMIA Health and Biomedical Informatics Competencies are foundational to IMIA accreditation processes the VP Special Affairs is involved in this committee.

3. Accreditation Fees
The fees have been reviewed. The accreditation fee is $4000 for member and $4,500 for non-members who wish to be accredited. The $500 additional fee for non-members is to provide these institutions with an IMIA membership as part of accreditation. The candidate organization covers the costs for the accreditation. We are reviewing the fees and will provide a breakdown that will look at the accreditation fee, focusing on revenue, investment and marketing. A committee will be undertaking this process.

4. Administrative
Documents are being collected and centralized and there are plans to create a database of accredited programs and experts who can participate in accreditation.