REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT FOR SERVICES

Brigitte Séroussi, Pierre and Marie Curie University, LIMICS UMR_S 1142, Paris, France

1. Re-organizing the Yearbook Editorial Team

The IMIA Yearbook of Medical Informatics is one of the most visible and valuable products that the International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA) provides to the International health and biomedical informatics community.

In 2017, the editorial team of the Yearbook changed significantly, with:
- Two new editors, Lina Soualmia (Rouen University, France) and John H. Holmes (University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, USA) replacing Marie-Christine Jaulent (LIMICS, INSERM UMR_S 1142, France) and Christoph U. Lehmann (Vanderbilt University, USA),
- Nine new section editors:
  - Rodolph Thiebaut and Frantz Thiessard for the Public Health and Epidemiology Informatics section (both from Bordeaux University, France),
  - Eta Berner (University of Alabama at Birmingham, USA) and Meryl Bloomrosen (Washington, DC, USA) for the Health Information Management section,
  - William Hsu (UCLA, USA), Charles Kahn (University of Pennsylvania, USA), and Soojin Park (Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons, USA) for the Sensors, Signals, and Imaging Informatics section,
  - Grégoire Ficheur (Lille University, France) and Daniel R. Schlegel (Sunny Oswego, USA) for the Special section (Learning from Experience: Secondary Use of Patient Data).

In addition, Martina Hutter, who was our editorial assistant for more than 15 years decided to step down. However, she agreed to continue some work with the editorial team, specifically remaining in charge of the typesetting of all the articles of the Yearbook. We were happy that Adrien Ugon (UPMC University, France) agreed to be in charge of the selection of best papers.

A great part of the first six-month period of my work as the new VP-services has been spent to manage these changes, especially to find a solution in how to replace the part of the editorial work that Martina wanted to give up. A great part of the second six-month period was dedicated to the management of working group contributions, the organization of the first track of Yearbook publications (http://imia.schattauer.de/contents/imia-yearbook-first.html), the organization of the selection meeting in Paris, and the organization of the second track of Yearbook publications (before Medinfo 2017 in Hangzhou, China).

The plenary meeting to select the best papers was organized in Paris, France, on April 21st, 2017. At least one editor per section was attending either physically or by tele/video conference. As in previous years, the
selection meeting was graciously hosted by the Laboratory of Medical Informatics and Knowledge Engineering for e-Health (LIMICS, UMR_S 1142).

Editors and section editors worked essentially on the basis of emails exchanges. However, a teleconference to gather editorial board members was organized every month. This was the occasion to discuss some specific issues and check together that we were progressing at the right pace. We thank Christoph U. Lehmann that helped us for the technical organization of the call.

2. 2017 Yearbook Content

**Special Topic in 2017:** The special topic for the 2017 Yearbook was "Learning from experience: secondary use of patient data". We are very pleased that Charles P. Friedman, PhD – a renowned expert in Learning Health Systems - has authored the keynote. The cover has been designed by Anne-Laure Tedesco in a collaborative process during which editors have expressed their vision of the messages that should be displayed. The final choice of the cover was collectively made by the editorial team during the selection meeting in Paris, France.

**National contributions:** In 2017, we offered the possibility for member countries to submit a short paper (less than four pages) to the IMIA Yearbook to describe the work done by their National Association beyond the regional summary that is usually published. National contributions are reviewed by editors and are not Medline-indexed. The 2017 Yearbook is including a national contribution from Spain.

**Table of Contents:** The following papers will be featured in the 2017 Yearbook:

a. President’s Statement – Hyeoun-Ae Park
b. Special Dieter Bergemann’s Birthday – R. Haux et al.
c. Remembering Jana Zvarova – Jan H. van Bemmel et al.
d. The International Academy of Health Sciences Informatics: An Academy of Excellence Hyeoun-Ae Park et al.
e. Keynote – Friedman et al.
f. Surveys:
   - C. Safran (Special Section)
   - J. Vamathevan and E. Birney (BTI)
   - A. M. Lai (CHI)
   - S. Murphy et al. (CIS)
   - S. B. Johnson (CRI)
   - R. A. Jenders (DS)
   - P. Turner et al. (HF)
   - S. H. Fenton et al. (HIM)
   - S. T. Rosenbloom et al. (KRM)
   - G. Gonzalez-Hernandez et al. (NLP)
   - Two contributions in the PHEI section, one US-centric from B. L. Massoudi and K. G. Chester, and one Europe-centric from A. Burgun et al.
   - C. Chennubhotla et al. (SSII)
g. Synopses:
   - Schlegel / Ficheur (Special Section)
   - Dauchel / Lecroq (BTI)
   - Staccini / Luque (CHI)
   - Hackl / Ganslandt (CIS)
   - Daniel / Choquet (CRI)
   - Koutkias / Bouaud (DS)
   - Pelayo / Santos (HF)
   - Bloomrosen / Berner (HIM)
   - Dhombres / Charlet (KRM)
   - Neveol / Zweigenbaum (NLP)
   - Thébaut / Thiessard (PHEI)
   - Hsu / Park / Kahn (SSII)
3. New in 2018

Until now, the selection of best papers has been carried out “manually” which was labor intensive and required a lot of time. Since, there are about 180 papers to review (the external review of candidate best papers), and because each paper has to be reviewed by at least two external reviewers, it is critical to remain on schedule during the reviewing process, and remind in an appropriate way all the reviewers of the deadlines they have to respect. This year, we tried to use EasyChair on one section (Natural Language Processing) to assess the value-added of the tool to help managing the reviews and reviewers of this section. The evaluation was positive and it has been decided to use EasyChair for all the sections starting in 2018.

In May 2017, IMIA has been contacted by the non-profit American Society of Clinical Oncology. They have created a scientific journal, called the JCO CCI – Journal of Clinical Oncology Clinical Cancer Informatics to expand their offerings to oncologists in the informatics field. This journal will include original research, reviews, editorials, commentaries, and other relevant information. They expressed an interest in partnering with IMIA to promote each other’s informatics offerings. After a few teleconferences and email exchanges we agreed to include the introduction of a new Yearbook section entitled “Cancer Informatics” starting with the 2018 edition of the Yearbook. The section editors of this new section will be:

– Dr. Debra Patt (Founding Editor-in-Chief of ASCO’s New JCO Clinical Cancer Informatics)
– Dr. Jeremy Warner, Vanderbilt University

4. Relation with the new Publisher of the IMIA Yearbook

The VP for Services had a meeting with Daniel Schiff, Senior Vice President of Thieme Medical Publishers. The discussion was about exploring the options allowing the Yearbook to evolve towards profitability, independently of the solidity of Thieme commitment to support it. A few ideas were explored even if Daniel Schiff confirmed that there was no problem with Thieme supporting the publication of the Yearbook.

A first option could be to have the Yearbook become a subscription publication, with free access to members. A second option would be to have all authors paying APC (article processing charges) as it is standard in most Open Access publications. A third idea would be to do a sampling of the Yearbook and print it in time for MEDINFO, together with some advertisement covering the cost. This would greatly increase the visibility of the Yearbook.

This issue as well as the options proposed should be discussed by the IMIA Board.

5. Acknowledgements
The VP for Services is greatly indebted and would like to express her gratitude to the Editorial Board members:

- Lina Soualmia and John H. Holmes, editors
- Adrien Ugon, responsible of the selection of best papers
- Martina Hutter, the Editorial Assistant

All of them have engaged whole-heartedly without counting their time and have equally contributed to the creation of the 2017 edition of the Yearbook.