Special Theme Issue of the World Health Organization Bulletin: 
*Establishing an Evidence Base for E-health*

Are you interested in contributing to one of several Review Papers that are being prepared for submission to this Special Theme Issue of the Bulletin?

If so, then please submit your Letter of Intent (LoI) for the appropriate theme by **15 July, 2011**. You may submit more than one LoI. All submissions should be sent to imia@imia-services.org as per the guidelines in the LoI.

There are six themes/topics:

- Capacity building
- National eHealth policy
- Sustainability and economic models
- Impacts of e-Health on health outcomes, services and systems
- Equity and e-Health
- Standards for Interoperability

This document has all six Lols, or individual ones can be accessed on the IMIA website at http://www.imia-medinfo.org/new2/node/320

The purpose of these thematic reviews is to generate peer-reviewed papers on critical issues in e-Health and its implications for health systems strengthening. The thematic review papers will provide an opportunity to convene a team of authors representing diverse disciplinary, geographic and experiential backgrounds with regards to e-Health and health systems strengthening research.

Further information on the Call for the Special Theme Issue is at http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/89/6/11-090274/en/index.html

The purpose of this publication is

- [a] to provide the evidence needed to promote equity of access to information and health services, and to strengthen activities and programmes that support local, regional, national and global health communities and strengthen health systems, and
- [b] to communicate evidence and to provide examples of effective principles and best practice in the development and implementation of appropriate e-health strategies and approaches to addressing major health challenges.

Contact: Dr Peter J. Murray, IMIA CEO – imia@imia-services.org
Call for Letters of Intent

Collaborating Authors for Review Paper on Capacity Building for e-Health

Expressions of interest are invited from suitably qualified authors interested in contributing to a Review Paper on Capacity Building for e-Health. Full details are provided below.

The deadline for submitting a Letter of Intent (LoI) is JULY 15, 2011.

General Information

Evidence is needed to demonstrate that e-Health applications promote equity of access to information and health services, and strengthen activities and programmes that support local, regional, national and global health communities. This Special Theme Issue of the Bulletin of the World Health Organization (WHO), co-ordinated jointly by the International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA) and WHO, is dedicated to establishing and strengthening the evidence base for e-Health. In addition to the open call for papers available at http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/89/6/11-090274/en/index.html, a series of thematic reviews in the field of e-Health is sought.

Purpose of the Thematic Review Papers

The purpose of these thematic reviews is to generate peer-reviewed papers on critical issues in e-Health and its implications for health systems strengthening. The authors selected through this Letter of Intent (LoI) process will collectively discuss, analyse and compose critical analysis of selected thematic issues. Although many of these topics will likely be addressed through the open call for papers, the thematic review papers will provide an opportunity to convene a team of authors representing diverse disciplinary, geographic and experiential backgrounds with regards to e-Health and health systems strengthening research.

What are the thematic papers about?

There are six (6) thematic review topics in total. These topics were selected due to their cross-cutting significance to e-Health research, policy and action. The six topics are:

- Capacity building
- National eHealth policy
- Sustainability and economic models
- Impacts of e-Health on health outcomes, services and systems
- Equity and e-Health
- Standards for Interoperability

This call relates to the thematic review paper on capacity building. The content of this paper will focus on the following issues:

What are the particular challenges for capacity building in e-Health in the context of the current human resources crisis? What is the role of e-Health and e-Learning for capacity building in health and healthcare?

Each thematic review paper will be a maximum of 3,000 words, with up to 50 supporting citations. Papers will need to conform to the Bulletin’s “Guidelines for Contributors” (http://www.who.int/bulletin/contributors/current_guidelines.pdf)

Letters of Intent for all thematic review papers are available on the IMIA website (www.imia.org – or directly at http://www.imia-medinfo.org/new2/node/320)
Call for Letters of Intent

Collaborating Authors for Review Paper on National e-Health Policy

Expressions of interest are invited from suitably qualified authors interested in contributing to a Review Paper on National e-Health Policy. Full details are provided below.

The deadline for submitting a Letter of Intent (LoI) is JULY 15, 2011.

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- Sustainability and economic models
- Impacts of e-Health on health outcomes, services and systems
- Equity and e-Health
- Standards for Interoperability

This call relates to the thematic review paper on national e-Health policy. The content of this paper will focus on the following issues:

What are the documented effects of national e-Health policy development processes?
What is the documented impact of national e-Health policy on development of e-Health plans and activities?

Each thematic review paper will be a maximum of 3,000 words, with up to 50 supporting citations. Papers will need to conform to the Bulletin’s “Guidelines for Contributors” (http://www.who.int/bulletin/contributors/current_guidelines.pdf)

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Expressions of interest are invited from suitably qualified authors interested in contributing to a Review Paper on Sustainability and Economic Models for e-Health. Full details are provided below.

The deadline for submitting a Letter of Intent (LoI) is JULY 15, 2011.

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This call relates to the thematic review paper on sustainability and economic models. The content of this paper will focus on the following issues:

- Are there successful and transferrable sustainability and economic models for e-Health?
- What are the key considerations for that success and sustainability (lessons learned)?

Each thematic review paper will be a maximum of 3,000 words, with up to 50 supporting citations. Papers will need to conform to the Bulletin's “Guidelines for Contributors” (http://www.who.int/bulletin/contributors/current_guidelines.pdf)

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Call for Letters of Intent

Collaborating Authors for Review Paper on Impacts of e-Health on health outcomes, services and systems

Expressions of interest are invited from suitably qualified authors interested in contributing to a Review Paper on Impacts of e-Health on health outcomes, services and systems. Full details are provided below.

The deadline for submitting a Letter of Intent (LoI) is JULY 15, 2011.

General Information

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- Standards for Interoperability

This call relates to the thematic review paper on Impacts of e-Health on health outcomes, services and systems. The content of this paper will focus on the following issues:

What are the documented impacts of eHealth on health, healthcare delivery systems, and health systems in general?

Each thematic review paper will be a maximum of 3,000 words, with up to 50 supporting citations. Papers will need to conform to the Bulletin’s “Guidelines for Contributors” (http://www.who.int/bulletin/contributors/current_guidelines.pdf)

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Call for Letters of Intent

Collaborating Authors for Review Paper on Equity and e-Health

Expressions of interest are invited from suitably qualified authors interested in contributing to a Review Paper on Equity and e-Health. Full details are provided below.

The deadline for submitting a Letter of Intent (LoI) is JULY 15, 2011.

General Information

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➢ Impacts of e-Health on health outcomes, services and systems
➢ Equity and e-Health
➢ Standards for Interoperability

This call relates to the thematic review paper on equity and e-Health. The content of this paper will focus on the following issues:

What are issues around equity and e-Health? Is there evidence that e-Health increases equitable access to health and healthcare information and services? Or that it can worsen the structural and other types of health inequities?

Each thematic review paper will be a maximum of 3,000 words, with up to 50 supporting citations. Papers will need to conform to the Bulletin's "Guidelines for Contributors" (http://www.who.int/bulletin/contributors/current_guidelines.pdf)

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Call for Letters of Intent

Collaborating Authors for Review Paper on Standards for Interoperability

Expressions of interest are invited from suitably qualified authors interested in contributing to a Review Paper on Standards for Interoperability. Full details are provided below.

The deadline for submitting a Letter of Intent (LoI) is JULY 15, 2011.

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- Standards for Interoperability

This call relates to the thematic review paper on standards for Interoperability. The content of this paper will focus on the following issues:

What are the standards for interoperability in healthcare information systems? What are the standards and interoperability solutions for sharing public health information?

Each thematic review paper will be a maximum of 3,000 words, with up to 50 supporting citations. Papers will need to conform to the Bulletin's “Guidelines for Contributors” (http://www.who.int/bulletin/contributors/current_guidelines.pdf)

Letters of Intent for all thematic review papers are available on the IMIA website (www.imia.org – or directly at http://www.imia-medinfo.org/new2/node/320)
Application details for all LoIs

Who should apply?

Each applicant to this LoI should be familiar with e-Health and its implications for health systems. S/he should be able to draw on theoretical and/or experiential knowledge about the particular thematic topic of capacity building.

Applications should be submitted by individuals and not groups. The individual selected authors will be convened as a group to write the thematic paper. Submission of an LoI is not a guarantee of being accepted as a contributing author. All review papers will undergo the normal peer review process of the Bulletin, and there is no guarantee of their being accepted for publication.

What types of support will be made available?

In order to facilitate a rich discussion and final product from the team of selected authors, contributions are being sought from diverse disciplines and geographies. Needs-based assistance will be provided to members of the selected team to facilitate the research process. The nature of support will range from assisting with literature reviews, gathering relevant resources, and supporting opportunities to network and dialogue, to providing coaching and mentoring in the writing process, as well as editorial support.

Required Information in the Letter of Intent (LoI)

Part 1: The LoI submission must include the following background information or formal biosketch (not to exceed TWO pages as per formatting instructions below):

- Name
- Institutional Affiliation and position
- Education: Institution(s), degree(s), discipline(s) and dates awarded
- Country of residence (and country of origin, if different from country of residence)
- List of up to 10 relevant publications, honours, awards and presentations

Part 2: The LoI submission must also include the following brief written statements (not to exceed THREE pages as per formatting discussed below; and must not exceed 10 citations for Part 2):

- Statement of specific interests related to research on e-Health and its implications for health systems strengthening (not to exceed 150 words)
- General statement about your experiences studying and/or working on the issue of capacity building in e-Health (not to exceed 150 words)
- How should individual capacities be strengthened to address e-Health considerations when strengthening health systems? (not to exceed 250 words)
- How should organizational capacities be strengthened to address e-Health considerations when strengthening health systems? (not to exceed 250 words)

Applicants may wish to use these statements as the basis for their contribution to the review paper, if selected.

The submission should be in Microsoft Word .doc (NOT .docx), RTF or ODF Text Document (ODT) format and should not exceed FIVE pages double spaced in Times New Roman size 11 font.
Criteria for Selection

Potential authors will be selected based on the following criteria:

➢ Clear and strong linkages with health systems strengthening
➢ Informed by existing literature
➢ Demonstrates critical thinking
➢ Explores innovative models and approaches
➢ Based on actual e-Health experience and can be applied to different geo-political contexts

Application Deadline

All applications must be submitted by 23:00hrs UTC on July 15, 2011. The applications (adhering to the format above) should be sent by email to imia@imia-services.org with the Subject: Letter of Intent, WHO Bulletin.

Contact

Please direct all questions in the first instance to:
Dr Peter J. Murray, IMIA CEO – imia@imia-services.org

About IMIA

IMIA is the world body for health and biomedical informatics. As an independent scientific ‘association of associations’, IMIA acts as a bridging organisation, bringing together its constituent Member Societies, Academic Institutions and other organisations, and their members. IMIA provides leadership and expertise to the multidisciplinary, health-focused community and to policy makers, to enable the transformation of healthcare in accord with the world-wide vision of improving the health of the world population. Inherent in IMIA’s role is to bring together, from a global perspective, scientists, researchers, users, vendors, developers, consultants and suppliers in an environment of cooperation and sharing. IMIA supports the exchange of information on best practice among its members and more widely, in particular, through its regional activities and support for developing health informatics in LMIC (low and middle income countries) (www.imia.org).

About WHO

WHO is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. It is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends.

International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA)

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Incorporated under the laws of Switzerland
A non-governmental organization (NGO) in official relations with the
World Health Organization (WHO)
An Affiliate Member of the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP)