Oslo IMIA Board and General Assembly Meetings
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GA Agenda Item: 5.4
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REGIONAL REPORTS
IMIA-LAC: FEDERATION OF HEALTH INFORMATICS SOCIETIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
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IMIA LAC is actively working with several countries to formally engage with the medical informatics field. Last year, new approaches have been approved by its members, including: Members' societies such as:

1. Asociación Argentina de Informática Médica (AAIM),
2. Sociedade Brasileira de Informática em Saúde (SBIS),
3. Asociación Chilena de Informática en Salud (ACHISA),
4. Sociedad Cubana de Informática Medica (SOCIM),
5. Sociedad Uruguaya de Informática en la Salud (SUIS),
6. Asociación Venezolana de Informática en Salud (AVIS)
7. Peruvian Association of Biomedical Informatics (APIB) (TBC)
8. Mexican Association of Medical Informatics (AMIM)

Our region celebrated in Mexico INFOLAC2011, our colleagues from this beautiful country helped us to welcome IMIA board members for their annual working meeting and several INFOLAC participants enjoy the event that our and friend from our neighbours, even our Cuban friend were able to participated. This event showed the Latinoamerican way of doing things: *enjoy life in a friendly manner*. Members and friend of the field of medical informatics enjoyed tequilas and a showcase of regional developments including:

1. Strong engagement with private and public partnership
2. Strong medical software development with engagement from all stakeholder of the new industry of eHealth and mHealth. Mexico has been one of the regional leader in exporting software to within their country and overseas.
3. Strong vision to get connected their schools and healthcare facilities.

Also, IMIA-LAC is working hard to provide some real evidence of the eHealth projects in the region and agreed to participate in the global initiative by IMIA/WHO to survey all interested countries. This has not been an easy task since they are several initiatives lacking of a systematic approach, plus some policies are not well developed to encourage further development of this innovative industry.
Progress on IMIA-LAC

Health informatics as a discipline is new for the majority of countries in the region, except Cuba, Brazil and Argentina that have been leading the commitment to this sector. The current challenges in the region are some of the unpredictable climate conditions as happened to Chile and Haiti, contrasting with the rich diversity of socio political environment including Cuba and Venezuela. Cuba is working extensively in Medical Informatics for several decades, having a master program in this area. Our Cuban colleagues are sharing lots of their centralised approaches to use Technologies of Information and Communication for their most vulnerable sectors with the health system. Furthermore, several countries are introducing some type of strategies for Technologies of Information and Communication for their health system, such as Chile and Peru, Colombia, Costa Rica. It is exciting time for our discipline over this region, despite being difficult to have a systematic approach to engage with countries in the Caribbean.