IMIA Ethics, Privacy and Security in Health Informatics – EPSHI WG 2020 Report

presented as part of the VP WG & SIG Annual Report for:

- IMIA Board Meeting, November 22, 2020,
- IMIA General Assembly Meeting, December 6, 2020

Paulette Lacroix, Chair (2019 - 2023)
Najeeb Al-Shorbaji, Vice Chair (2019-2023)

Website: https://imia-medinfo.org/wp/security-in-health-information-systems/

For the 2020 report please provide details on the following:
(Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, IMIA acknowledges that many functions were cancelled, delayed and disrupted from January 2020 to the end of June 2020)

Background

The IMIA Ethics, Privacy and Security in Health Informatics (EPSHI) Working Group is continuing past efforts of the IMIA Security in Health Information Systems (SIHIS) Working Group in advancing the protection, security and privacy of electronic health information. Previous work has focused on technical modeling to heighten information privacy and security within systems, and the development of a concept of public trust as a computational model.

Recognizing that privacy legislation and security standards do not fully protect the privacy rights of individuals, a truth reported by regulators investigating unethical data processing practices by Cambridge Analytica in 2018, there has been a growing call for digital ethics. Over the past few years EPSHI has been developing an international ethics certification program that would be administered by IMIA. A presentation to the World Health Organization (WHO) for their endorsement of the certification program was to take place in Geneva in April 2020, but unfortunately this presentation has been delayed due to the pandemic. The WG anticipates a meeting with the WHO will take place in the Spring of 2021.

Achievements in 2020:

2. Paulette Lacroix and Najeeb Al-Shorbaji contributed to a Viewpoint Article by IMIA WG/SIGs, “Evidence-based Health Informatics as the Foundation for the COVID-19 Response: A Joint Call for Action to Transform Hopes and Hypes into Realities”. Publication in progress.
3. Najeeb Al-Shorbaji on behalf of the WG has contributed to:
   a. The development of the WHO guidance paper “Contact tracing in the context of COVID-


Describe WG/SIG Participation - Engagement and participation in IMIA and health informatics events and activities in the past year.

No engagement with new members at this time due to the pandemic. There are plans for participatory workshops and other activities in 2021.

- **Current number of members:** approximately 50
- **List of WG/SIG members:** List provided to IMIA