



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:

1. Paulette Lacroix, Eike-Henner Kluge, Pekka Ruotsalainen, Najeeb Al-Shorbaji, WG Workshop, “IMIA Certification in Ethics: Regional Relevance in a Global Program”, accepted by MIE2020 in Geneva but not presented due to conference cancellation.
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-

- 19" (<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/contact-tracing-in-the-context-of-covid-19>).
- b. Participation in the WHO Expert Group on Ethics/Governance of AI in Health.
 - c. Participation in the WHO Working Group on Regulatory Considerations on Artificial Intelligence for Health Preparation, and contributed to the paper "Ethics in Telehealth: Comparison Between Guidelines and Practice-based Experience: The Case for Learning Health Systems". Yearbook of Medical Informatics 2020.
4. Pekka Ruotsalainen and Bernd Blobel, "Privacy is Dead – Solutions for Privacy-Enabled Collections and Use of Personal Health Information in Digital Era. Presented at pHHealth 2020 conference and published in the Proceedings of the 17th International Conference of Wearable Micro and Nano Technologies for Personalized Health, B. Blobel et al. (Eds.) IOS Press Studies in Health Technology and Informatics 273, pp.63-74, doi:10.3233/SHTI200616.
 5. Pekka Ruotsalainen and Bernd Blobel, Health Information Systems in the Digital Health Ecosystem—Problems and Solutions for Ethics, Trust and Privacy. Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health 2020, 17(9), 3006; doi:10.3390/ijerph17093006.
 6. Bernd Blobel, Pekka Ruotsalainen, Mathias Brcohausen Frank Oemig, Gustavo Uribe, Autonomous Systems and Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare Transformation to 5P Medicine – Ethical Challenges. European Federation for Medical Informatics (EFMI) 2020, Digital Personalized Health and Medicine, L.B. Pape-Haugaard et al. (Eds.). EFMI and IOS Press, doi:10.3233/SHTI200330, pp. 1089-1093.
 7. Eike-Henner W. Kluge authored, "The Electronic Health Record: Ethical Considerations", published by Elsevier in 2020.
 8. Eike-Henner W. Kluge, presentation Feb 2020 Privacy and Security Conference, Victoria, BC
 9. Eike-Henner W. Kluge, "Big Data, Information Technology and Information Professionals: Some Considerations for Digital Ethics", paper submitted to MIE2020 but not presented due to conference cancellation. Published in conference proceedings.

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.

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