



Bylaws of the International Academy of Health Sciences Informatics (IAHSI)

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Article 1 Preamble

International leadership in biomedical and health informatics has the opportunity to encourage best practices in biomedical sciences and in the practice of health care, as well as in education and research.

The forming of an Academy in 2017 of international leaders who focus on the sciences that involve informatics can stimulate and guide future directions for research, education and health care. The Academy through its members can advise governmental and non-governmental organizations about the contribution of informatics professionals and the importance of informatics-based knowledge and provide problem solving strategies.

The International Academy of Health Sciences Informatics, established in 2017 through the auspice of the International Medical Informatics Association, is similar to other national academies of sciences. It will seek to nominate and elect those whose contributions in informatics are recognized internationally. The goal is to promote the dissemination of knowledge and best practices, foster new ideas, and encourage worldwide collaboration and sharing of expertise and resources.

Article 2 Name

- 2.1 The name of the Academy shall be International Academy for Health Sciences Informatics (hereinafter “The Academy”).

Article 3 Objectives and organization

- 3.1 The Academy aims to contribute to the health and well-being of the people in our world through health sciences informatics.
- 3.2 As an international forum for peers in biomedical and health informatics the Academy shall play an important role in exchanging knowledge, providing education and training, and producing policy documents, e.g., recommendations, guidelines, position statements, and other publications.
- 3.3 The Academy will be organized as a scholarly society, similar to other academies of sciences. The Academy reserves the right that only Academy members can elect new members using a voting process based on a clear, detailed, and self-determined member selection process.
- 3.4 English shall be the Academy’s official language.
- 3.5 In order to achieve the Academy’s objectives, its members collaborate in a tolerant, collaborative, and peaceful manner, transcending nations, cultures, religions, gender, and political or social structures.

Article 4 Relationship to the International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA) and to other organizations

- 4.1 The Academy is an elected body of members from member societies or academic members, incorporated within IMIA, the International Medical Informatics Association.
- 4.2 The Academy seeks to collaborate and to offer expertise to governments, governmental organizations, and international organizations, in particular to the World Health Organization (WHO), where IMIA is a Non-Governmental Organisation in official relations to WHO.
- 4.3 The Academy also seeks to collaborate and exchange knowledge with other international and national academies of sciences.
- 4.4 The Academy's bylaws guide the organization, its activities, and its relationship with its parent organization IMIA.
- 4.5 If rules in the Academy's bylaws may appear to be ambiguous or incomplete, the Academy will follow the rules stated in the IMIA statutes and policies.

Article 5 Member description

- 5.1 Membership in the Academy is for lifetime.
- 5.2 By accepting Academy membership, the elected member confirms to act in compliance with the Academy's objectives.
- 5.3 Members of the Academy are called IAHSI Fellows. They have the right to add Fellow of the International Academy of Health Sciences Informatics, abbreviated as FIAHSI, to their name.

Article 6 Governance

- 6.1 The governing bodies of the Academy are, in descending order of authority,
 - (a) the Academy Plenary,
 - (b) the Academy Board, and
 - (c) the Academy President.
- 6.2 The Academy Plenary shall be composed of all active members of the Academy. At the discretion of the President, others may attend Academy Plenaries but have no voting rights. The Academy Plenary votes on all matters of the Academy, including new members and change of bylaws.
- 6.3 The IAHSI Board is composed of five Officers: President, President Elect / Past President, Secretary, Treasurer, and two Members at Large. President Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Election Officer are elected by the Academy Plenary. Regional and gender balance will be considered in the nomination process. At the discretion of the President others may attend Academy Board meetings, but without voting rights.
- 6.4 The terms of office for the President, Secretary, Treasurer, Members at Large and Past President are two years. One year before the end of term for the President, the new President can be elected and during this year

has the title President Elect. A President cannot be re-elected as President for four years after his/her Past President term. Secretary, Treasurer, and Members at Large can be reelected for a second term, but they cannot be re-elected for a third term, immediately following the previous two terms

- 6.5 The Academy President shall convene and conduct the Academy Board meetings and Plenaries. During the absence or incapacity of the Academy President her or his alternate, which must be an Officer of the current Board (in order of President Elect/Past President, Member at Large, Secretary, Treasurer) or a former Past President shall act in the President's stead.

Article 7 Meetings and activities of members

- 7.1 Meetings of the Academy's Plenary and Board take place either as face-to-face meetings or as virtual meetings. Face-to-face meetings may include additional virtual participation. Face-to-face meetings shall take place at those places and events, where the IMIA General Assembly and the IMIA Board meets and where the MedInfo Conferences take place.
- 7.2 The Academy President shall convene and conduct the Academy Plenaries and Board meetings.
- 7.3 The Academy Plenary shall meet once within a calendar year either in person, virtual or hybrid meeting. Only those Fellows, who have paid their Academy dues, are entitled to vote on business matters of the Academy. These Fellows are called Voting Academy Fellows. The Academy Plenary shall be able to conduct its business if more than one fifth of Voting Academy Fellows are in attendance (this also applies to voting online; more than one fifth must vote). Invitations to face-to-face meetings will be distributed at least 3 months in advance, invitations to virtual meetings at least 1 month in advance. In face-to-face meetings of the Plenary, Voting Academy Fellows, not being present, may delegate their voting rights to other Voting Academy Fellows, who will be present. No Voting Academy Fellow can hold more than 5 proxy votes for other Fellows.
- 7.4 The Academy Board shall be able to conduct its business if at least three Officers are present.
- 7.5 The scientific activities of the Academy will be completed by taskforces. The Academy Plenary or the Academy Board may appoint, and dissolve taskforces as required for specific purposes.
- 7.6 Fellows may propose the establishment of a taskforce.

Article 8 Election of members

- 8.1 Membership in the Academy is intended to be honorific, prestigious, and indicative of substantial achievements, generally with international impact, in the area of biomedical and health informatics.
- 8.2 To be eligible for election, a nominee should meet the following criteria:

- (a) *Accomplishment*: The candidate should generally have a high level of training and experience, recognized research, implementation or policy achievement and contribution, educational impact, and/or other significant leadership in biomedical and health informatics over a minimum of ten years, and often for much longer.
 - (b) *Recognition*: In those countries or regions where this is possible, it is pertinent if the candidate is an elected member of an academy of sciences or an equivalent organization.
 - (c) *Global Engagement*: The candidate should be engaged internationally. International involvement can be demonstrated through international activities, in particular in research, publication, education, and/or through international leadership roles in IMIA or in one of the regional international medical informatics organizations of IMIA.
- 8.3 In addition to these eligibility criteria, the Academy as an international academy also considers regional and gender balance.
- 8.4 Election of new Academy Fellows is done in three steps:
- (a) Two Academy Fellows propose a candidate. They carefully describe the nominee's eligibility by the eligibility criteria, mentioned in 8.2.
 - (b) The Academy Board reviews the proposal. If the eligibility criteria are met, the Board will select two other Fellows of the Academy to independently review the candidate and offer their opinion about a candidate's eligibility based on bylaw 8.2. The Fellows selected by the Board must each be from different regions and different regions from the nominee.
 - (c) If the two Academy Fellows second the nomination, all Academy members will be asked to vote. A new Fellows is elected, if she or he received more positive than negative votes and if the number of positive votes is larger than one fifth of the number of active Academy members.
 - (d) The names of newly elected Fellows will be published in the IMIA Yearbook.

Article 9 Dues and finances

- 9.1 The Academy is fiscally self-sufficient.
- 9.2 Upon proposal of the Board, the Plenary can decide on fees for the Fellows of the Academy.
- 9.3 The Academy's finances shall be managed in close cooperation with IMIA's Executive Committee, in particular with IMIA's Treasurer and CEO.

Article 10 Adopting and amending bylaws

- 10.1 All proposals for modification of these bylaws must be submitted to the Academy Board. Any such proposal shall be brought to the notice of all Members of the Academy at least three months in advance of the meeting of the Plenary at which it will be discussed.

- 10.2 Proposed changes to the Academy's bylaws, which have been accepted by the Academy Plenary with simple majority, must also be approved by IMIA's Board.

Article 11 Compliance, exclusion of members, and conflicts of interest

- 11.1 The Academy's activities are based on the rules for good scientific practice. They shall be organized in an unbiased fashion without undue influence from any outside sources.
- 11.2 Any conflicts of interest, which members of the Academy may have in their activities for the Academy, must be disclosed immediately by these members to the Academy Board.
- 11.3 Fellows of the Academy, who in their activities for the Academy do not act in conformance with the rules for good scientific practise, who clearly do not disclose existing conflicts of interest, who have been convicted of major crimes, or who clearly do not comply with the Academy's objectives, can be excluded from the Academy.
- 11.4 Proposals for excluding Academy members must be submitted to the Board. It shall be brought to the notice of all Fellows of the Academy at least three month in advance of the next meeting of the Plenary at which it will be discussed and which has to be a face-to-face meeting.
- 11.5 Approving a Fellow's exclusion shall require a vote of the Plenary, which is larger than two third of the active members, being present at the Plenary meeting.

Article 12 Dissolution

- 12.1 Proposals for dissolution of the Academy must be submitted to the Board. It shall be brought to the notice of all Fellows of the Academy as well as to the IMIA Board at least three months in advance of the next meeting of the Plenary at which it will be discussed and which has to be a face-to-face meeting.
- 12.2 Approving the Academy's dissolution shall require a vote of the Plenary, which is larger than two third of the active members, being present at the Plenary meeting.
- 12.3 In case of the dissolution of the Academy, its assets will be transferred to IMIA.