INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL INFORMATICS ASSOCIATION (IMIA)

1) Stated purpose of organization,

IMIA's goals and objectives include

- the promotion of informatics in health care and biomedical research
- the advancement of international cooperation
- the stimulation of research, development and education
- the dissemination and exchange of information

Inherent in this mission is to bring together, from a global perspective, scientists, researchers, vendors, consultants and suppliers in an environment of cooperation and sharing.

In its function as a bridge organization, IMIA's goals are:

- moving theory into practice by linking academic and research informaticians with care givers, consultants, vendors, and vendor-based researchers.
- leading the international medical and health informatics communities throughout the 21st century.
- promoting the cross-fertilization of health informatics information and knowledge across professional and geographical boundaries.
- serving as the catalyst for ubiquitous worldwide health information infrastructures for patient care and health research.

The officers of the Board and IMIA's vice presidents vigorously pursue IMIA's mission to:

- Monitor the range of special interest areas and focus support on new developments.
- Capitalize on the synergies and collective resources of IMIA's constituents.
- Minimize fragmentation between scientific and professional medical informaticians.
- Ensure successful adaptation to changes in the medical informatics marketplace and discipline.
- Raise the profile and awareness of IMIA within and outside of the IMIA organization.
- Encourage cooperation between the scientific and commercial health informatics communities.
- Equitably balance support to emerging and existing IMIA members.
- Establish and maintain cooperation and harmony with organizations that emerge to address medical informatics issues.
- Continue to position IMIA as the gatekeeper for medical informatics issues in the international community

2) **Collaborative efforts,**

IMIA strives to work in harmony with international organizations and agencies who share and complement professional and philosophical goals and objectives.
We are honored to be formally affiliated with the following organizations:

International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP)

International Federation of Health Records Organizations

World Health Organization

3) **Membership**

Generally, membership to IMIA is limited to organizations, societies, and corporations.
   a. Academic Institutional Membership
      Academic members enjoy the opportunity to particpate in IMIA's unique forum for collaboration with colleagues at other medical informatics academic centres for the exchange of ideas, and research collaboration. Universities, colleges, research foundations and other institutions that have academic or research programs in health and/or medical informatics are eligible for membership.
   b. Corporate Institutional Membership
      The evolution of technology and the internet is removing geographical boundaries, the health and medical informatics field is transforming into a global resource – and marketplace. IMIA provides a unique environment to nurture networking opportunities - at an international level - for health information technology providers, consultants and publishers.
   c. National Societies or Associations
      One society or group of societies or other body, which is representative of activities in the field of medical or health informatics in their country may apply to become a National Member of IMIA. Only one member is permitted to represent a country.
   d. Correspondents
      Correspondent membership is available to individuals who reside in countries that do not have an appropriate organization eligible for National Membership in IMIA. Membership is subject to approval by the Board of IMIA and subsequent confirmation by IMIA's General Assembly.
      Correspondents will be invited to attend meetings of the General Assembly of IMIA, but have no voting rights.

4) **Publications**

The IMIA General Assembly has approved the following endorsed documents.

Recommendations of the International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA) on Education in Health and Medical Informatics (1999)

2002 Scientific Content Map Scientific Content Map

The Scientific Content map was developed by IMIA's Vice President for Working & Special Interest Groups, Dr. Nancy Lorenzi.

Video Disks: Security of the Distributed Patient Record   IMIA Working Group 4

Books: Global Health Informatics Education   2004 E.J.S. Hovenga; J. Mantas IMIA

5) **Accomplishments**

A. Working Groups Establishment

Biomedical Pattern Recognition (WG 07)
Biomedical Statistics and Information Processing (WG 12)
Consumer Health Informatics (WG2)
Data Protection in Health Information Systems (WG 04)
Dental Informatics (WG 11)
Health and Medical Informatics Education (WG1)
Health Informatics for Development (WG 09)
Health Information Systems (WG 10)
Informatics in Genomic Medicine (IGM)
Intelligent Data Analysis and Data Mining (WG 03)
Medical Concept Representation (WG 06)
Mental Health Informatics (WG 08)
Open Source Health Informatics
Organizational and Social Issues (WG 13)
Primary Health Care Informatics (WG 05)
SIG NI Nursing Informatics
Standards in Health Care Informatics (WG 16)
Technology Assessment & Quality Development in Health Informatics (WG 15)
Telematics in Health Care (WG 18)

B. **Medinfo**

IMIA organizes the internationally acclaimed tri-annual "W*orld Congress on Medical and Health Informatics @,* MEDInfo. The young scientist award granted at MEDINFO will, the IMIA Board hopes, bring the next generation of professionals to join its numbers.

The meeting offers:

- A full program of scientific papers, providing information on cutting edge research topics as well as implemented systems and the state of the art
- Tutorials, workshops, and poster sessions designed to heighten personal interaction and scientific exchange
- A rich social program that enhances the scholarly content of the meeting with opportunities for informal interactions and relaxed fun in a beautiful and exciting city
- A selection of optional pre-meeting and post-meeting tours and events
- Medinfo has been a tradition in medical informatics for over thirty years

C. In the next few years IMIA will focus on "bridging the knowledge gap" by facilitating and providing support to developing nations. Specific goals include supporting the ongoing development of the African Region, and, on a broader basis, the development of the "Virtual University", an ongoing initiative of IMIA's working Group 1, Health and Medical Informatics Education.

As a volunteer organization, IMIA has been shaped by its presidents in their leadership roles. All have left their mark on the organization. Through the years, IMIA has grown and changed. Today the Board and the membership are taking new measures to ensure that IMIA continues to be a vital organization representing health informatics world wide.

http://www.imia.org/