Deadline for MedInfo2010 Submissions Approaching

The deadline for all types of submission for MedInfo2010 – September 30, 2009 – is approaching fast. The MedInfo2010 website at http://www.medinfo2010.org/abstract gives information on the various types of submissions, i.e. papers, posters, panels, scientific demonstrations, tutorials and workshops, and on the themes of the event. The submission site is also now open at http://medinfo2010.online-registry.net/. Users need to create an account on this site before they will be able to make their submissions. MedInfo2010 will take place in Cape Town, South Africa on September 12–15, 2010.

IMIA Working Group on Human Factors Engineering in Health Informatics Symposium

The IMIA Working Group on Human Factors Engineering in Health Informatics will be holding a symposium at the Sonoma Mission Inn and Spa in the Sonoma Valley, California, USA on November 12–13, 2009, just prior to the Annual AMIA Symposium in San Francisco. Keynote speakers will include Vimla Patel and Dag Svanæs, and the symposium will also highlight academic papers and round table discussions.

EFMI STC 2009 in Antalya, Turkey

The 2009 Special Topic Conference (STC) of the European Federation for Medical Informatics (EFMI) will take place in Antalya, Turkey on November 12–15, 2009 at the Xanadu Resort Hotel (http://www.xanaduresort.com.tr/). The event is being held in conjunction with the TurkMIA MI ’09 event of the Turkish Medical Informatics Association (http://www.turkmia.org), and will also be co-organized by members of the EFMI Electronic Health Record (EHR), Disabled and Rehabilitation (IDR), and Personal Portable Devices (PPD) Working Groups. The conference theme will be “Travel Health Informatics and Telehealth”, and full information will be on the conference website at http://www.turkmia.org/stc2009/en/

European Commission Working Paper on Telemedicine

The European Commission’s Information Society and Media Directorate published a new staff working paper on telemedicine in June 2009. Titled "Telemedicine for the benefit of patients, healthcare systems and society", the 30-page document (available in PDF format at http://bit.ly/1mvMaq) provides examples how wider deployment of telemedicine can affect individual patients, healthcare systems and society. It is designed to provide additional information supporting the Commission communication on telemedicine adopted in November 2008 and which proposed a set of actions aimed at enabling wider deployment of telemedicine services in Europe, focusing on building confidence and acceptance of telemedicine services, bringing legal clarity, and facilitating market development.

HIMSSStv Launched

HIMSS, the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society, have launched a new multimedia channel, called HIMSSStv (http://www.himss.org/himssstv/). The new site aims to offer a range of educational videos on different aspects of the healthcare IT industry; they will be available not only to HIMSS members, but to any healthcare professional. Among the videos to be made available will be interviews with industry experts and leaders and conference highlights; it is intended that the site will be updated weekly. The first offerings already on the site include the HIMSS09 Year-in-Review interviews with HIMSS CEO Steve Lieber and other members of the HIMSS Board of Directors, the HIMSS09 Opening Video, and interviews with HIMSS members discussing the need for clinical information systems as part of an electronic medical record and the challenges of transitioning from patient care to full-time nursing informatics.
Second Medicine 2.0 Conference; Toronto, Canada

The second Medicine 2.0 conference, Medicine 2.0 2009, will take place at the MaRS centre, Toronto, Canada on September 17 and 18 2009. This international conference exploring the use of social networking and Web 2.0 applications in medicine, health, health care, and biomedical research will build on the highly successful inaugural event held in September 2008. It distinguishes itself from “Health 2.0” trade shows by its academic form and focus and its global perspective (in 2008, there were participants from 18 countries). The academic approach to the topic aims to provide critical examination to identify the evidence on what works and what doesn’t work in the applications of Web 2.0 technologies to health and medicine.

This year also sees the launch of two new awards, including one sponsored by IMIA. JMIR (Journal of Medical Internet Research – http://www.jmir.org) is sponsoring a best paper award designed to encourage and facilitate publication in JMIR. IMIA is sponsoring an “IMIA Medicine 2.0 Award” for the best paper in the research track of the conference; the award will recognize the best or most promising use or discussion of Web 2.0 for providing actual or potential benefit in medicine, healthcare, and/or health and biomedical informatics.

Full details of Medicine 2.0 2009 are on the conference website at http://www.medicine20congress.com

Oregon Health & Science University Receives Funds for Biomedical Informatics Training

As Bill Hersh has reported on his ‘Informatics Professor’ blog (http://informaticsprofessor.blogspot.com/), the Department of Medical Informatics and Clinical Epidemiology (DMICE) of Oregon Health & Science University’s (OHSU) School of Medicine has received US government funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to “hire trainees and summer interns for its biomedical informatics training program. The new hires include undergraduate and graduate students as well as community college faculty”.

A press release from the OHSU (http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/about/news_events/news/justwhatthepresidentordered.cfm) provides further details, and notes that summer interns are already working on a variety of projects under the mentorship of Oregon Health & Science University’s biomedical informatics faculty, while graduate students pursuing Ph.D. degrees and post-doctoral fellows are expected to begin their studies later in the year. The funding comes to the Oregon Health & Science University from the National Library of Medicine, part of the National Institutes of Health, and OHSU will receive over US$180,000 for the summer internship program and US$1.15 million for the fellowships.

IMIA News Website Launched

A new blog-based news website was launched at the beginning of June 2009. This is part of the longer-term development of services for IMIA, its members, and the global health and biomedical informatics community, as outlined in the IMIA Strategic Plan. The site is at http://imianews.wordpress.com and will continue to develop over the rest of the year in response to feedback, in particular suggestions for additional features, and modes of interaction. For all comments, and for submitting news items, please contact IMIA at: news@imia-services.org

Spain is 11th Country to Join SNOMED Body

Spain is the latest, and eleventh, country to join the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO – http://www.ihtsdo.org/), the international not-for-profit organization based in Denmark that acquires, owns and administers the rights to SNOMED CT and other health terminologies and related standards.

Spain’s membership, through the Ministry of Health and Social Policy, which works in coordination with regional authorities to develop the Electronic Health Record within the National Health System (EHRNHS), will support the vision of the Ministry’s ‘semantic interoperability map’ which identified the use of SNOMED CT as a key factor in enabling the exchange of information between different health record systems.
Two New Posts for Ted Shortliffe

After five years in the post, Don Detmer, American Medical Informatics Association’s first President and Chief Executive Officer, has handed over to Ted Shortliffe, who took office on July 1, 2009. Don remains involved with AMIA in a new ‘Senior Advisor’ role, working on global partnerships and other activities.

Ted and Vimla Patel are also taking up new posts at The University of Texas School of Health Information Sciences at Houston (SHIS).

IMIA Nursing Informatics Special Interest Group; a New Leadership and a Successful NI2009 Conference

The 10th International Congress in Nursing Informatics, NI2009 (http://www.ni2009.org), was held in Helsinki, Finland on June 28 to July 1. The conference was very successful, attracting over 540 participants from 40 different countries. Among the keynote speakers, David Bates talked about the use of IT for improving patient safety, Charles Friedman presented some thoughts on current and future directions for national eHealth initiatives in the USA, and Helena Leino-Kilpi discussed aspects of ethics and nursing informatics. The conference provided peer-reviewed papers, panels, workshops and posters on a number of themes, including eHealth initiatives, personal health records, decision support, patient empowerment, education, and evidence-based practice. The invitational post-conference workshop, on the theme “Personal Health Information Management: Tools and Strategies for Citizens’ Engagement” aims to produce a book or similar output by the end of the year.

At the close of NI2009, Heimar Marin (Brazil) took over as chair of IMIA-NI, the IMIA Special Interest Group in Nursing Informatics (www.imiani.org). New vice chairs were also elected: William Goossen (The Netherlands) becomes the vice chair for working groups, Patrick Weber (Switzerland) becomes the vice chair for communications, Hyeoun-Ae Park (Korea) becomes vice chair for membership and Lucy Westbrook (New Zealand) becomes vice chair for administration and finance. All posts are for the term 2009–2012.

The next triennial nursing informatics congress will be NI2012, due to take place in Montreal, Canada (http://www.ni2012.org) on June 23–27, 2012. The organization of the event will be led by the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA), but will also draw on the expertise of nurse informatics leaders from many countries in North America, Latin America and the Caribbean.

IMIA Board and General Assembly Meetings 2009; Hiroshima, Japan

The IMIA Board and General Assembly will meet at the International Conference Center, Peace Memorial Park, Hiroshima, Japan in November 2009 as part of the Collaborative Meetings on Health Informatics week, CoMHI in Hiroshima 2009 (http://home.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/~humind1/comhi2009/). The IMIA Board meeting will take place on November 24, 2009 and the IMIA General Assembly meeting on November 25, 2009. Both of these meetings are by invitation only, and first invitations and notifications will be sent out in early September.

A range of other events will also take place. The APAMI 2009 (Asia Pacific Association for Medical Informatics 2009) meeting, with the theme “What are medical records for?” is on November 22–24, 2009; the 29th JCMI (Joint Conference on Medical Informatics) occurs on November 22 – 25, 2009, with the theme “Trailblazer as the keystone of global health informatics with optimum contributions in security, quality and satisfaction to the World”; and the IMIA Working Group on Security in Health Information Systems (SiHIS) will meet on November 21 – 24, 2009 for a conference titled “Trustworthiness of health information ... Issues in security and system management for patient safety”. It promises to be a packed and exciting week, and an ideal opportunity to interact with health informatics colleagues from around the world.

New Post for Jack Li at Taipei Medical University

Yu-Chuan (Jack) Li, President of APAMI (Asia Pacific Association for Medical Informatics – http://www.apami.org) and their regional liaison officer to IMIA, has been appointed to be Professor and Vice President of Taipei Medical University, one of the top private universities in Taiwan. It runs three teaching hospitals with more than 3000 beds collectively. Jack will be in charge of health information technology integration of these hospitals, as well as having responsibility for international affairs and research in the university. Jack invites anyone with proposals for international collaborations to contact him.
CNIA Nurse 2.0 Conference

The Canadian Nursing Informatics Association (CNIA – http://www.cnia.ca) will be holding its Third National CNIA Nursing Informatics Conference at the Delta Meadowvale Resort and Conference Centre, Mississauga, Ontario (near Toronto Pearson Airport), Canada on November 22–24, 2009.

With the theme “Nurse 2.0”, the event will focus on how Web 2.0 and social media, as well as other technological means of collaboration, networking, innovation, and global awareness and initiatives impact on the practice of nursing in Canada. Full information is on the CNIA conference website at http://cnia.ca/2009/?page_id=54