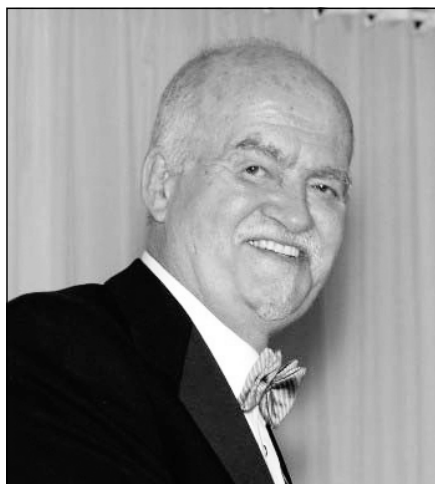




Health Informatics Industry Pays Tribute to IMIA's Executive Director Steven Huesing



Steven Huesing, who has worked tirelessly as a leader, a pioneer and an ambassador to advance the use of computers and information technology in healthcare for more than 40 years, has been recognized with a special **Canadian Health Informatics Award (CHIA) for Lifetime Achievement**.

Steven Huesing is Executive Director of IMIA, the International Medical Informatics Association. He is also President of

the Canadian Healthcare Information Technology Trade Association (CHITTA), Editor/Publisher of *Healthcare Information Management & Communications Canada (HIMCC)*, the official journal of CHITTA and COACH, Canada's Health Informatics Association.

At the beginning of Steven Huesing's career in the 1960s, computers were still considered avant-garde and risky, even in mainstream industry. A Registered Industrial & Cost Accountant, Steven Huesing's interest in health informatics flourished while he filled senior administrative CFO and CIO roles with hospitals and government.

His many accomplishments include:

- serving COACH in many capacities, including as Founding President, 1975-78; Executive Director, 1980-99, and Editor of the COACH history book, covering 1975-2005;
- being the only Canadian to serve as President of IBM's user group, Electronic Computing Health Oriented (ECHO), 1983-87;

- starting *HIMCC*, the only health informatics magazine in Canada for many years, in 1987;
- together with David Wattling, founding CHITTA, now the healthcare division of the Information Technology Association of Canada (ITAC), in 2002;
- establishing the COACH Founding President's Award in 1983 to recognize and motivate outstanding health information science students at the University of Victoria. In 1999, COACH established the Steven Huesing Scholarship for students in health informatics or related programs at Canadian post-secondary institutions. The scholarship reflects his spirit, dedication and innovation in the field;
- active involvement in developing health informatics curricula with several universities, colleges and associations; currently a University of Waterloo Curriculum Advisory Board member.

On behalf of the International Medical Informatics Association, I cordially want to congratulate Steven Huesing for having received this outstanding award.

Reinhold Haux
President of IMIA

Farewell to Dr. Nora Oliveri

Dr. Nora Oliveri, an IMIA icon in the Latin American Medical Informatics community, has recently resigned as the Secretary of IMIA LAC, as she is taking permanent residence in the United States.

Prof. Dr. Reinhold Haux, IMIA president, noted that for the past decade she has been both an ambassador and advocate on

behalf of Argentina and the other Latin American Spanish nations, striving to facilitate their full participation in mainstream biomedical informatics education, research and implementation.

"Personally and on behalf of IMIA I thank her for her outstanding contributions and look forward to her coming back to the

IMIA family when her transition to the United States has been completed", he said.

Dr. Oliveri served as Argentina's IMIA representative for many years, and was a key figure in the creation and growth of IMI LAC. She translated the IMIA code of Ethics for the Spanish speakers. She also has served as Chair of IMIA's "Health Informatics for Development" working group.



Call for Project Proposals to Support the IMIA Strategic Plan, towards IMIA 2015

The IMIA Strategic Plan, *Towards IMIA 2015*, was unanimously adopted by the IMIA General Assembly when it met in Brisbane, Australia in August 2007. The Strategic Plan is available on the IMIA website at www.imia.org and is described in a recent article in *Methods of Information in Medicine* [Methods Inf Med 2007; 46: 503-505], which has further information and references.

The IMIA General Assembly authorized that a limited amount of IMIA funds be used to contribute to projects that nurture and encourage strategic efforts as outlined in the plan and that will enhance informatics around the world. These funds are intended

to serve as seed money for projects, a contribution to the costs of projects, and are not expected to cover the full costs.

The IMIA Board has invited colleagues to submit project proposals to address one or more of the Strategic Goals listed in the plan (pages 10-13). Proposals should describe the proposed project, and provide a detailed task/project plan, with expected results, delivery dates and requested funding. They should also describe the group or consortium, its expertise, and their capabilities to complete the project. Proposals should be submitted in accordance with a prescribed template and instructions available on the IMIA website.

The closing date for the first submissions was March 3, 2008. Dr. Peter Murray, IMIA Interim Vice President for Strategic Planning Implementation, has been tasked to ensure that proposals are reviewed by a group of at least three IMIA members with relevant expertise; their reports will be used to formulate the recommendations of the IMIA Board. It is anticipated that the recommendations will be finalized by the IMIA Board and General Assembly meetings at MIE2008 in Goteborg, Sweden, in late May 2008.

The motto of the Strategic Plan, coined by Past President Nancy Lorenzi, is "let a thousand flowers bloom". IMIA looks forward to receiving a wide range of proposals to implement the vision of the IMIA Strategic Plan.

InfoLAC 2008

IMIA is pleased to announce its official sponsorship of "InfoLAC 2008 – Advances in medical informatics and their impact on healthcare systems" (www.infolac2008.com.ar). The congress, to be held October 28-31, 2008, is collaboration on the part of groups from all over Latin America – Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Brazil, Mexico, and others.

Led by Argentina's Medical Informatics Association (AAIM) and the society's President, Juan Carlos Di Lucca, it also serves as the 1st Argentinean Medical Informatics Congress. The goals of the congress are to:

- improve the knowledge and skills of participants on using and managing information technologies and their relationship with the healthcare domain;

- promote the exchange of information between the participants emphasizing the integration of regional contact networks;
- demonstrate and discuss topics related to the development, application and evaluation of IT in healthcare;
- provide an ample portfolio of presentations detailing the work, progress, and challenges in the development of healthcare information systems, both in theoretical and applied fields;
- present the methodologies of application, investigation and outcomes of informatics in the healthcare domain.

One of IMIA's key tactical objectives is to facilitate, foster and nurture the development of sustainable regional organizations to realize the Vision articulated in the Strategic Plan, viz:

"(IMIA) being the scientific informatics association through which the world's

knowledge leaders come together to effectively and efficiently create, assemble, integrate, synthesize or assimilate intellectual knowledge that is required worldwide to advance biomedical informatics in its role of improving health and healthcare. (And) Being the informatics association that effectively and efficiently connects people and the nations of the world to be able to accomplish the above purpose."

IMIA has provided financial support to this congress to ensure that leaders from representative countries will have the opportunity to participate in the evolution of a viable and sustainable IMIA region in Latin America. As well, the IMIA Board will hold its fall meeting at the congress and some of its members will participate in the program of the congress.

Some 400 participants from Argentina, Spain and Latin America are expected to attend.



Journal of Health Informatics in Developing Countries Launched

The *Journal of Health Informatics in Developing Countries* (*JHIDC*) (<http://www.jhdc.org/>) is a newly-launched, international peer-reviewed journal. Its editorial base is at the University of Otago in New Zealand; the editorial board currently is composed of members from New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa and Tanzania. The primary focus of the journal relates to health informatics in developing countries, with articles undergoing quick turn-around peer review.

It not only addresses a set of issues that have been poorly addressed by much

of the international health and medical informatics community, but it is an open access journal, with a policy of “immediate open access to its content based on the principle that making research freely available to the public supports a greater global exchange of knowledge”. *JHIDC* is not the first open access health informatics journal, however, by using this approach, it may aid the international health informatics community in fulfilling some of its long-promised goals of developing health informatics globally.

JHIDC uses Open Journal Systems (OJS), a journal management and publishing system that has been developed by the Public Knowledge Project.

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