Introducing the 2012 Yearbook and its Theme on Personal Health Informatics

The Yearbook includes a number of articles focusing on the theme of Personal Health Informatics. It covers recent developments in this field, highlighting important advancements in personal health informatics, impacting the activities in research, education and practice in this interdisciplinary field. There has been steady progress towards introducing individualization or personalization into informatics systems by taking advantage of the increasing amounts of personal information that is relevant to individual patients as well as to the general public. At the same time, there are serious issues about the limits of existing systems being able to effectively personalize information within both practical and ethical constraints so critical to the practice of medicine. Recent literature bearing on these questions includes the selected papers published during the past 12 months, and articles reported by IMIA Working Groups on these topics.

Conclusion: Surveys of the main research sub-fields in biomedical informatics in the Yearbook provide an overview of progress and current challenges across the spectrum of the discipline, focusing on the challenges and opportunities involved in personal health informatics.

Keywords
- Personal Health Informatics
- Editorial, 2012 IMIA Yearbook of Medical Informatics
- Surveys authored in selected sub-fields of biomedical informatics
- Selections in each of the subfields of biomedical informatics
- IMIA Working Group Papers:
- IMIA Yearbook of Medical Informatics 2012
About the Yearbook of Medical Informatics

The Yearbook of Medical Informatics of the International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA) is distributed through IMIA's Member and Corresponding Member Societies worldwide. Since its inception in 1992 it has been the single most important publication summarizing the activities of IMIA, and showcasing the best of medical informatics research for the previous year. Its original survey articles give overviews of recent developments. The Yearbook remains a non-profit publication of IMIA, jointly published with Schattauer Verlag. It is currently subscribed to by 23 of IMIA’s member societies, providing access for about 25,000 individual members.

We are very pleased to announce that a number of very experienced and committed colleagues have accepted the responsibilities of leading the editorial team of the IMIA Yearbook for 2013. They are Marie-Christine Jaulent (CRC – Centre de Recherche de Cordeliers) and Brigitte Seroussi (Assistance Publique-Hopitaux de Paris), France, and Christoph Lehman (Johns Hopkins), USA. We look forward to their bringing new and exciting ideas for the ongoing development of the IMIA Yearbook, while maintaining its tradition of balanced scientific and practical assessment of the research progress in our field as it evolves in future years.

Information on IMIA and on its Regional Groups

The Yearbook contains detailed information about IMIA, its Member Societies, Regional Groups, Working Groups, and Special Interest Groups. A detailed report on the activities of IMIA regions is included with the help of Regional Editors. We would like to thank Rolf Engelbrecht (for EFMI), Michio Kimura (for APAMI), Ghislain Kouematchou (for HELINA), Carol Hullin (for IMIA LAC), Ramin Moghaddam (for MEAHI) and Karen Greenwood and RoseMary MacVicar-Elliot (for the North American IMIA Member Societies) for their valuable contributions.

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The referees who contributed to the selection of articles in the 2012 Yearbook of Medical Informatics were:

- Samantha A. Adams, The Netherlands
- Kouhei Akazawa, Japan
- Elise Ammenwerth, Austria
- Menfredo Atzori, Switzerland
- Samy A. Azer, Saudi Arabia
- Fernan Gonzalez Bernaldo de Quiros, Argentina
- Olivier Bodenreider, USA
- Alex A. T. Bui, USA
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