IFHIMA is committed to the advancement of health information management practices and the development of its members for the purpose of improving health data and health outcomes.

SEDOM celebrates its XV National Congress

SEDOM, the Spanish national HIM association member of IFHIMA, celebrated its XV National Congress (XV Congreso Nacional de Documentación Médica) in Valencia (Spain) during the past 8th to 10th of June gathering over 200 attendees.

Workshops were held prior to the official opening covering the following two topics: electronic aids for ICD-10-ES (adaptation to Spanish of ICD-10CM and PCS) coding of hospital emergency room discharges and experiences of Certification of the HIM departments with ISO 9001.

SEDOM has had the pleasure of hosting in Valencia during the Congress this year’s face to face meeting of the IFHIMA Executive Board.

The Congress approached four areas of interest. The first area approached results and process of the ICD-10-ES implementation in Spain in 2016. Case studies were previously distributed for a ICD-10-ES coding contest. Additionally, limitations regarding the use of the APR-DRG grouper were discussed, such as the limited knowledge that we have of its algorithms, the issue of excluding from grouping certain complications not present on admission and, finally, the need for an adaptation of the weights.
During the Big Data and Open Data sessions, the discussions uncovered the need of HIM department digital transformation improving daily operations and team management (Mini Data), empowering the HIM departments, new professional profiles, more and better information and processes to facilitate an excellent experience for the patients. The continuous education of the HIM professionals, our role in the shared use of data ecosystem and the implementation of FAIR principles of research data management (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Re-useable) mandated by the European Commission 2020 Horizon.

Citizens accessing and managing their own e-health data are progressively empowered and the HIM professional has, in this context, a role as guarantor of the information.

IFHIMA was presented at the Conference regarding Pay per Performance retribution systems for patient based activity in the Health Systems, with an international perspective (UK, Republic of Korea, Canada, Germany and USA). These systems try to increase healthcare quality and the efficiency of healthcare, however difficulties arise when trying to objectify health outcomes.

Finally, some initiatives concerning HIM training were discussed, such as those arisen from the University of Valencia, regional HIM associations like in Cataluña or the Healthcare administration in Madrid.

The Congress has been a satisfying encounter in which the attendees have been able to share knowledge, experiences and outlines of the present and future challenges for HIM professionals.
de ciertas complicaciones no presentes en el ingreso (POA=No).

Las mesas sobre Big Data y Open Data plantearon la necesidad de la transformación digital de los Servicios de Documentación y Admisión, mejorando las operaciones diarias y la gestión de equipos (MINI DATA), así como el empoderamiento de dichos Servicios, con la necesidad de nuevos perfiles profesionales, creando más y mejor información a partir de los datos y convirtiendo la experiencia del paciente en excelente. Asimismo se puso de manifiesto la necesidad de formación continuada de los profesionales, con el papel del médico documentalista en el ecosistema del uso compartido de datos, y la necesidad de establecimiento de los principios FAIR (Findable, Accesible, Interoperable and Re-usable) dentro del programa HORIZONTE 2020 de la Comisión Europea.

En el ámbito del acceso ciudadano mediante e-salud a la totalidad de sus datos, así como la posibilidad de aportar información desde diferentes ámbitos a su carpeta de Salud, se puso de manifiesto el progresivo empoderamiento de los ciudadanos, así como el papel fundamental como garante de la información de los profesionales de los Servicios de Documentación y Admisión.

Dentro del programa del Congreso se asistió a una conferencia IFHIMA, sobre la perspectiva internacional de cinco países (Reino Unido, Corea del Sur, Canadá, Alemania y EEUU) acerca de las retribuciones por el desempeño de las actividades médicas en los Sistemas de Salud, aportando una visión comparativa. Todos ellos pretenden el incremento en la calidad de la atención sanitaria, así como mejorar la eficiencia de la misma. Se observa la falta de datos objetivables en muchos casos para poder afirmar que el primer objetivo se cumple.

Por último se trataron las diferentes iniciativas que en este momento existen para la formación de los profesionales de la Documentación Médica y la Gestión de la Información Asistencial desde diferentes ámbitos tales como la Universidad de Valencia, las Sociedades Científicas de Documentación Médica y la Administración Sanitaria.

En conjunto, todos debemos estar satisfechos de un encuentro que ha permitido compartir conocimientos y experiencias así como poner de relieve los nuevos retos que tienen por delante los profesionales de la Documentación Médica Gestión de la Información Asistencial.

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President’s Message
Dear IFHIMA Colleagues and Friends.

It is a gorgeous day in the town of Oakville, in the province of Ontario, in the country of Canada. 26 degrees and blue skies!

I know our friends in other parts of the world are experiencing extreme heat waves, while others are coping with dropping temperatures and getting out their winter woolies!

I sincerely hope this finds each of you healthy, inspired and doing well in your personal and professional lives.

No matter where you are on earth, it seems we are all busy and active – each of us with our employment environments as diverse as the weather.

This issue of the Global News presents you with a diverse collection of articles from around the world! Of special note, we would like you all to join us in welcoming the Botswana Health Information Management Association (BoHIMA) to the family of IFHIMA national members. BoHIMA is the latest HIM association to join us, and we are absolutely thrilled with this dynamic organization that has been developed by dedicated and progressive individuals from the African continent.
Congratulations again! You will note a formal announcement within this publication.

We would also like to celebrate with our brothers and sisters of the Ghana Health Information Management Association (GHIMA) as they reach their 5th year anniversary, and the Canadian Health Information Management Association (CHIMA) as they celebrate 75 years! Both fantastic and wonderful milestones! Congratulations!!

IFHIMA will be celebrating 50 years in 2018, and we plan to celebrate this exciting anniversary with you all – with plans for special events at the 2019 IFHIMA Congress, when we all come together in Dubai! More details will be forthcoming in the future!

I would like to take this opportunity to give you a brief summary of the IFHIMA Board Meeting held in June 2017. I must say that our IFHIMA Board are an amazing group of individuals! You are all extremely fortunate to have such people willing to donate their time and talents to volunteer on the Board, and to ensure we are truly a global representation of our membership. It is hard to cover each and every topic discussed, but please permit me to share a few highlights with you.

- **Website Redesign** – we are currently working towards redesigning the IFHIMA website, to ensure it maintains a current design and provides a logical search process for our membership. We have engaged a team that is working on this now, and notifications will be issued in the future when the new website will be operational. We want to particularly focus on the member payment flow, which we appreciate (and thank you for your feedback) has caused some confusion in the past. Moving to a newer and improved system for maintaining membership and accepting on-line payments will be a benefit to all.

- **Outreach** – we continue to reach out to parts of the world with no established HIM association, and work in supporting and educating healthcare leaders on the benefits and value Health Information Management professionals bring to the health care industry.

- **Corporate and Educational Member Categories** – we have broadened our member categories to include one for Corporate and Educational organizations. Insofar as the educational category goes, in respect of the organizational structure within each nation, IFHIMA will only accept educational facilities that have passed accreditation by the educational HIM credentialing college (if one exists) within that country.

- **WHO Collaborations** – IFHIMA members continue to strengthen their relationship with WHO, supporting the WHO-FIC (Family of International Classifications) Education and Implementation Committee, as well as the Morbidity Reference Group. As you can imagine, the main focus is on ICD-11, with particular attention on the development of a Reference Guide and supporting Quick Reference Materials. Discussion is underway on field trials and transition planning from ICD-10 to ICD-11. Additionally, IFHIMA continues to promote the Morbidity Exam, created in support to nations wishing to test their workforce against the WHO standards in utilizing ICD-10. Coding is still a primary pillar of the HIM global community, and as you can imagine, a main focus of IFHIMA.

- **Updating of IFHIMA Procedural Polices** – the Board is reviewing and refreshing internal procedural policies, namely those concerning attending conferences/congresses, modes of teleconferencing, Board Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest policies.

- **Mission and Goals** – in alignment with our new website, we have a Task Team looking to refresh our Mission and Goals. This will be shared with all of you once the work is completed.

- **IFHIMA Congress 2019** – to be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates! Start saving now! We are working closely with the Congress planners, and this event will definitely be one to remember! Continue to follow along with the Global News and the website for regular updates. I know it seems far into the future now, but the years will fly by quickly!

So having exceeded my space limitation, I must sign off! It is an honor and privilege to work with all of you who have chosen this profession to showcase your intelligence, dedication and commitment!

Remember the words of the past WHO Director General, Dr. Margaret Chan – YOU are important, YOU matter, and the world needs YOU!

Warmest personal regards,

Marci MacDonald, CHIM
IFHIMA President, 2016 – 2019
The Nineteenth IFHIMA Congress—Preparations Begin

About Us

Saudi Arabian Health Information Management Associates (SHIMA) is a not for profit entity established in 2015 and has been proudly accepted as an IFHIMA National Member Association. The revolution of Health Information Management and Clinical Coding Standards in Saudi Arabia have been the main drivers for establishing SHIMA. With the rapidly growing technology and programs within healthcare, there is significant recognition for the HIM profession and support for our professional association SHIMA.

Saudi Arabia is witnessing a massive healthcare transformation program (2020), focusing on, healthcare finance reform, digitization, model of care and healthcare workforce development (100,000+ healthcare professionals).

Bidding Process! How did we start?

The efforts to develop the bid were initiated by the agreement between the Saudi Health Information Management Association (SHIMA) and the UAE Health Informatics Society (EHIS). SHIMA and EHIS shared mission is to operate on the principle of partnership with governmental and private health care institutions by promoting the professions of health information management, health informatics and health information technology.

“IFHIMA works closely with WHO on specific projects of particular concern or interest to WHO in the field of health records and information systems.” The Eastern Mediterranean Region (22 countries) will benefit from IFHIMA and WHO support with regards to Mortality and Morbidity coding, HIM, e-Health projects and professional consultations. (WHO 2017)

Why IFHIMA in the Eastern Mediterranean Region?

By 2019 Dubai will complete its preparations for hosting Expo 2020, thus it will be a unique opportunity for HIM professionals and the Congress participants to visit the shining city of Dubai when it hits its peak.

Dubai is currently undergoing several transformational projects associated with health and health information such as the Medical Tourism Program and the Regional Health Information Exchange Project (NABIDH)

Hosting the 2019 IFHIMA International Congress in Dubai will build upon the already successful engagement of EHIS with UAE eHealth Week which attracts over 600 delegates from across the UAE and overseas markets.

Ranked within top 20 safest cities ...

In Dubai safety comes as standard, where over 200 different nationalities who call Dubai home. Dubai is an advocate for peace and stability, ranked within top 20 safest cities by Aon Hewitt. With over 14.2 million international visitors in 2015,
Dubai Police has dedicated a department entirely to visitors. It is one of the world’s most cosmopolitan cities where English is widely spoken - especially in business, hospitality and retail.

Please visit the link below for more information about Dubai:


**IFHIMA 2019 Logo & Graphic Concept Valencia review:**

The IFHIMA 2019 logo and graphic concept is themed around the 50th Anniversary of IFHIMA. On June 8th President of The Saudi Health Information Management Associates (SHIMA) presented to the IFHIMA Board of Directors the logo and graphic concept options, which were highly appreciated and approved by the Board. The theme set around the anniversary and the Eastern Mediterranean region is a warm fusion and a welcoming concept for the HIM’s around the world not to miss. The final look will be published in the next edition of IFHIMA Global News. Stay Tuned…

**Author**

Mr Hussein AlBishi

SHIMA President
GHIMA @ 5

Celebrating the five year anniversary of the Ghana Health Information Management Association (GHIMA)

The Ghana Health Information Management Association (GHIMA) is celebrating its 5 years anniversary of founding the association and 3rd Annual General Meeting. The celebration is scheduled for a four day period. This festive programme starts from Wednesday, 11th October, 2017 and ends on Saturday, 14th October, 2017. The program shall be hosted in the Eastern Region of Ghana at the Oyinka Hotel, Koforidua.

Theme: Strengthening Health Information Management through Science and Technology.

The conference will bring together over 600 Health Information Practitioners from Universities, Colleges and Hospitals under the Ministry of Health. It shall also host dignitaries and stakeholders from various agencies in Ghana and abroad.

This conference is aimed at celebrating 5 years of the association’s existence and achievements. As part of the celebration, the occasion shall provide a platform for the professional development and networking. It shall also focus on Electronic Health Records (EHR) and clinical coding programs.

The celebration shall include number of social events during the conference including a dinner and awards night, sports festival, trips to historical tourist sites. It shall also be an international symposium for science and technology where invited organizations shall present on their products and services that shall support cum strengthen health information management and promote quality healthcare.

The conference shall have world-class speakers, renowned Health Information Management practitioners and multinational software development agencies in attendance.

We invite all IFHIMA Member Nations and individual HIM practitioners to join us in this great event to celebrate five (5) years of excellence in Health Information Management in Ghana.

Author
Tegbey Isaac Eyram
President, Ghana Health Information Management Association (GHIMA)
Celebrate our Journey through the HIM Profession – 75 Years Strong

The Canadian Health Information Management Association (CHIMA) is proud to announce their 75th anniversary!

CHIMA has been the Health Information Management professional’s national association for 75 years, and we continue to support the certified HIM professionals who play an essential role in the health care system today. HIM professionals are a key resource to the success of the health care system, and support high quality data and information for health care planning and delivery; decision making (clinical, administrative, and financial); and the privacy, confidentiality, and security of the health record in all media and formats.

CHIMA has two (2) distinct components:

- The Canadian College of Health Information Management (CCHIM), which set the curricular standards, administers the certification examination, maintains the registry for all certified candidates, and recognizes and accredits all academic centres that offer the HIM diploma and undergraduate programs; and
- CHIMA, the association, which represents the membership at pan-Canadian and international forums, and, together with its Chapters, provides HIM expertise for the health care industry.

Over the past 75 years (1942), the HIM profession has gone through many evolutionary changes.

Early in the 20th century there was no established method of collecting data and health information.

In 1928, the American College of Surgeons encouraged leaders from the United States and Canada who were working with patient records to collaborate, and in 1928 the Association of Record Librarians of North America (ARLNA) was formed. By the end of that year, 58 members were admitted from 25 states and Canada. In 1942, the Canadian association was chartered and became a formal, separate entity.

In 1949, the Canadian Association of Medical Record Librarians (CAMRL) received its letters patent as a federally chartered organization, with the mission and goals to provide membership services. In 1972 the College obtained Letters Patent as well.

In the 1970s, the Health Information Management (HIM) professional’s role expanded to include interpretation of the record and translation of clinical documentation into standardized codes for diseases and surgical procedures using the International Classification of Diseases (ICD).

With the arrival of computer technology to support electronic information capture, storage, and retrieval, coded data became easily searchable and accessible.

Today, CHIMA represents all certified HIM professionals across Canada. Through the years, the professional title has evolved from medical record librarian; to health record technician; health record administrator, and health record practitioner; to HIM professional. Many new roles have evolved due to changes in technology and health care reform; many of these new roles are outlined in two (2) Workforce Transformation Reports.
As we celebrate this significant milestone, our ‘diamond jubilee’, it is important to take time to reflect on the strength of the HIM profession and consider our bright future.

Stay tuned for more information regarding upcoming CHIMA 75th anniversary celebrations!

I joined this organization when I was a student at the School for Medical Record Librarians at St. Michael’s Hospital in Toronto. As a past president and former Executive Director I am most proud of the role our organization played in raising the awareness of health care providers and the public around the issues of privacy and confidentiality long before there was such a thing as privacy legislation.

Author
Gail Crook, CHE, CHIM
CEO and Registrar, CHIMA

The association was formed and established in July 2016 by a cohort of enthusiastic Health Information Management students as a non-profit organization. It was established with the aim of bridging the apparent gap in Health Information governance courses in Botswana and, ultimately, BoHIMA’s goal is to become an accrediting body and an internationally recognized association. It is mandated to promote better collection, recording, analysis, storage and dissemination of health information in Botswana. IFHIMA wishes BoHIMA’s President Mr. Oarabile Setime, Vice-President- Mr. Bokamoso Masikara and other officers and members of the association every success in the future.

For further information contact Mr. Star Chibemba, Director of External Affairs and International Relations at infobhima16@gmail.com

Welcome Botswana Health Information Management Association (BoHIMA)

IFHIMA President, Marci MacDonald and members of the IFHIMA Executive Board extend a very warm welcome to the Botswana Health Information Management Association (BoHIMA) as the newest national member of the Federation and the fifth member nation in IFHIMA’s Africa Region.

Rural and Remote Health Information Management Special Interest Group

A Health Information Management Association Australia (HIMAA) Special Interest Group

The Rural and Remote Health Information Management Special Interest Group commenced a number of years ago with the goal of providing support to rural and remote Health Information Managers. Recently a website for the group was developed and we have had regular meetings. HIMs from the Northern Territory to Tasmania and all other areas of rural...
the Northern Territory to Tasmania and all other areas of rural and remote Australia are members of this group and there is usually a good turnout at meetings.

The Rural and Remote HIM Special Interest Group provides the support that Health Information Manager’s may be lacking in their own organisations. There is a special pressure that comes with being the only qualified HIM on site. The same sort of challenges that apply to rural Clinicians and Nurses, such as minimal access to professional development, lack of exposure to specialist practice, and peer support (1) can also be related closely to the experiences of Health Information Managers and Clinical Coders in a rural or remote health service.

Some unique challenges that HIM’s in rural and remote regions of Australia face have been raised in our meetings. One of these challenges is the distance between hospitals in rural and remote health districts, as hospitals in the same region can be many miles apart. Changes in technology have assisted the distance divide enormously, however there are still times when you need to be on-site particularly when implementing a new system or training. Road safety is also a consideration for Health Information Managers who may need to travel between health services in a rural or remote setting, as the statistics point to much higher chances of death or injury for the rural and remote population through road accidents (2). The roads in rural or remote areas of Australia are usually fairly good but weather conditions and animals running loose on the road (kangaroos, foxes, cows, goats and camels for example) can make travel quite dangerous at times.

Another example of a ‘unique’ challenge, was the discovery of a venomous brown snake, located behind a filing cabinet, in a remote hospital in Western Australia by Dianne James (previously Regional HIM Kimberley, WA). Luckily she spotted the snake in time and was able to have it safely removed!

The Northern Territory is an example of an area in Australia that has many ‘Remote’ and ‘Very Remote’ locations throughout their region and is very geographically isolated compared to the populous areas of Australia (4). There are however a dedicated and diverse group of HIM’s in the Northern Territory. One HIM located in this amazing and beautiful region is Jill Burgoyne who is currently employed as the Manager of Coding Audits and Education across the Northern Territory and commenced her career 33 years ago in Darwin and Alice Springs as a Medical Record Manager, Clinical Coder and HIM and enjoyed it so much that she never left!

Western Brown Snake (3) The species is found over most of mainland Australia, but absent from the south western areas. It can be active by day but may be nocturnal in hot weather.
We encourage presentations from all members of the group that are related to health information management. Topics that we have covered to date, include, electronic health record management, scanning of health records, clinical documentation improvement, funding issues, clinical coding education and redevelopment/implementation concerns. The presenters of these topics are also HIM’s in regional or remote areas of Australia and are achieving remarkable results particularly given their location and isolation. An interesting presentation recently provided to members was in relation to the common problem of an ageing Clinical Coding workforce and difficulty in recruiting qualified staff in a rural area. This presentation was in relation to a solution based outcome that revolved around a successful ‘Home grown Clinical Coding Workforce’ (presented by Tony Kalathil-Jose, Orange NSW).

As a group we are also very interested in any improvements that allow easy access to ongoing education and professional development for rural or remote HIM’s. One of our members, Cassandra Rupnik, has been actively involved in trials of technology (i.e. Skype), for use in meetings and education with Health Information Managers in rural health districts around New South Wales. We look forward to supporting and helping Cassandra to further develop this area.

Health Information Management is poised to go through many changes and challenges in the near future, for example, increased reliance on technology, greater risks to data integrity and the need to promote good information governance (5) therefore it is imperative that we continue on as a strong, supportive group.

Author
Sharon Campbell (BSc HIM, M.HM) (Chair)
Lecturer/Course Coordinator, Health Information Management (Curtin University, Perth Western Australia)

References


July 2017

The ICD-11 Mortality and Morbidity Statistics (ICD-11 MMS) Joint Task Force (JTF) met at the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva for a four day working meeting between 11 – 14 July 2017. The objectives of this meeting were to:

- Review and make recommendations in relation to Member State Comments received after the ICD-11 MMS quality assurance release at the 2016 International Federation of Health Information Management Associations (IFHIMA) Conference in Tokyo.
Review and make recommendations in relation to output from the quality assurance field testing of the ICD-11 MMS to date

Discuss options and content requirements for the development of an ICD-11 MMS Implementation Package for countries

Plan the transition to routine maintenance of ICD-11 MMS

Progress on both mortality and morbidity rules testing

The ICD-11 MMS JTF meetings are always very challenging and productive. Breakout sessions with working groups do discuss and make recommendations for improvements to ICD-11 MMS chapters are always hard work but the outcomes of these breakout sessions allow the limited staff at WHO to continue to improve the content and structure of the classification as we move forward.

The ICD-11 MMS JTF are a dedicated group of classification experts from all around the world that are working and supporting the limited resources of the WHO team in creating an international classification that will take us into the future from both a clinical and technical perspective.

Authors:
Vera Dimitropoulos
Executive Manager, Classification Development, National Centre for Classification in Health, The University of Sydney
Member of the ICD-11 MMS Joint Task Force

Introducing IFHIMA Regional Director Hussein AlBishi, CHIM

Senior Consultant HIM, Clinical Coding Vision Realization Office (VRO)
Ministry of Health, Saudi Arabia
President, Saudi Arabia Health Information Management Association (SHIMA)

I am a certified Health Information Manager (CHIM) with 26 years of experience in health information management (HIM). I graduated from Curtin University of Technology, Perth, Australia with a Health Sciences degree majoring in HIM.

I am currently working at the Vision Realization Office (VRO) as a Senior HIM and Clinical Coding Consultant for the Healthcare Financing program and am President of the Saudi Health Information Management Associates (SHIMA). I also work as a HIM consultant at the Saudi Central Board for Accreditation of Healthcare Institutions (CBAHI). I’m heavily involved with healthcare leaders and other government stakeholders to achieve the Saudi 2020 National Transformation Program objectives and the Saudi 2030 Vision. I have also lead the ICD-10 implementation in all Ministry of Health hospitals and Primary Healthcare Centres. I served on the Global Health Workforce Council (GHWC) for the period 2014 - 2016.

In Tokyo I was elected as the Regional Director for International Federation for Health Information Management Associations (IFHIMA) for the Eastern Mediterranean Region. Prior to this election I was very active in coordinating activities unofficially for the region. My main aim is to establish a national HIM Strategy to support the Healthcare transformation initiatives in my country, as well as the region. Being the Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean Region I aim to bring the world of HIM to our region, to replenish and build on it. Hosting the 19th IFHIMA Congress in Dubai is one of the most honorable moments for SHIMA and we look forward to making this the largest IFHIMA Congress.

IFHIMA 18th Congress Proceedings

We are pleased to announce that the Proceedings of 18th IFHIMA Congress in Tokyo, Japan are now available.

You may find them here: http://www.jhim.jp/pdf/2017/IFHIMApro_2017-18th.pdf
Introducing IFHIMA Regional Director Vera Dimitropoulos

Executive Manager, Classification Development at the National Centre for Classification in Health, The University of Sydney

Vera commenced her career as a Health Information Manager (HIM) in 1986. Prior to her joining The University of Sydney in 1997, she had over ten years experience working as a HIM in both the public and private health sectors in Australia. In her lecturing capacity, within The University, she was involved in developing curriculum and teaching health information management and health informatics students in health classifications and health information systems. Vera has also educated Australian and International clinical coders as part of her role at the Health Information Management Association of Australia (HIMAA). During her time at HIMAA, Vera was responsible for developing the Advanced Coding Distance Education Course and the Australian National Clinical Coder Certification Process.

Joining the National Centre for Classification in Health (NCCH) at The University of Sydney in 2006, Vera continued her teaching role in classification and managed the update and development of two editions of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Australian Modification, the Australian Classification of Health Interventions and the Australian Coding Standards (ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS). She was also instrumental in re-engineering and automating the process for capturing and processing submissions and queries about ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS. During 2011-2012, Vera managed the implementation of ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS Sixth Edition and the Australian Refined Diagnosis Related Groups (AR-DRGs) Version 6.0 in Singapore.

Vera is currently the Executive Manager, Classification Development at the NCCH, leading the Australian Consortium for Classification Development in its work surrounding the refinement of the AR-DRG Classification System which incorporates both ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS and the AR-DRG classifications. In this role, Vera has led the development of ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS Ninth and Tenth Editions and AR-DRG Versions 8.0 and 9.0. Presently, she and her team at the ACCD have commenced work on the Eleventh Edition of ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS.

Vera is the Australian voting member on the World Health Organization Family of International Classifications (WHO-FIC) Education and Implementation Committee and the ICD-11 for Mortality and Morbidity Task Force. Vera is also a member of the WHO-FIC Asia Pacific Network. As the Education Officer on the NSW State Branch of HIMAA and an Adjunct Visiting Fellow at Western Sydney University, she has been working on the development and lectures in the Bachelor of Information and Communications Technology (Health Information Management) program.

Calendar of events

October 7-11, 2017
AHIMA, Los Angeles, USA

October 27-28, 2017
HIMA India Annual Convention
Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER)
Pondicherry, India

November 1-3, 2017
HIMA, Cairns, Australia

November 10-12, 2017
BAR BHIMA Annual Conference

November 6-8, 2017
CHIMA
Health Achieve – Toronto Ontario
English

December 4-5, 2017
CHIMA
Data analytics – Toronto, Ontario
English

November 2, 2017
IHRIM
Are You Ready to (safely) Share Clinical Information?
Bristol, United Kingdom
English

March 2, 2018
DVMD-Spring Symposium
Main topic: Classification and Health Statistics
Duisburg, Germany
German
In 2015, Vera was elected as a Director on the Board of HIMAA and in 2016 was elected as the Western Pacific Director on the Board of the International Federation of Health Information Management Associations and she is looking forward to assisting the Western Pacific Region in developing sound Health Information Management and Classification infrastructures.

IFHIMA Western Pacific Region News

The first teleconference of members of the International Federation of Health Information Management Associations (IFHIMA) Western Pacific Region was held on 8 May 2017. In summary the discussion focused around a plan to work more closely with our national Health Information Management professional associations, IFHIMA, the World Health Organization Family of International Classifications (WHO-FIC) and the WHO-FIC Asia Pacific Network (APN) to encourage participation, communication and the sharing of information between our countries to ensure we are making improvements in HIM education and workforce as well as advocating to ensure that HIMs and clinical coders become a vital and recognised profession in developing countries. With this in mind we need to use our positions to advocate and tap into funding to support our developing country neighbours in the Western Pacific.

The next WHO-FIC APN supported by the Japan Hospital Association is meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia between 28-29 August 2017. This meeting allows Asia Pacific country representatives to share initiatives and issues that they are having within their countries related to health information management and classifications. There are plans to have a joint National Health Information Management Association and National Centre for Classification in Health (HIMAA and NCCH) conference with the WHO-FIC APN meeting in 2018.

With the objective of meeting at least twice every year, it is hoped that the Western Pacific Region can have another teleconference before the end of 2017, perhaps in November.

Author
Vera Dimitropoulos, Executive Manager, Classification Development, National Centre for Classification in Health, The University of Sydney.
IFHIMA Regional Director, Western Pacific

IFHIMA congrratulates Divya Kanwar Bhati on the award of her Doctorate by the Institute of Health Management Research University (IIHMR UNIVERSITY) in Jaipur, India, which is a WHO Collaborating Centre for District Health Systems based in Primary Health Care. The title of her PhD thesis was “Child Health Rights- a case of Churu district, Rajasthan, India”. Her research activities were carried out in the district of Churu - an entry point of Thar Desert in Rajasthan, which she describes as a great learning experience in itself! The study collected evidence from 600 mothers on their child’s health situation using the ‘right-based’ approach for research activities as laid down in The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The research activities included; a systematic literature review, designing a conceptual framework, formulating research question and research objectives, carrying out primary data collection in the remote villages of the district, data analysis and writing the thesis. The study was fully funded under the title ‘Young Researcher Grant’ by the Future Health System (FHS) Research Program Consortium led by the Bloomberg School of Public Health at the Johns Hopkins University in the USA.

Divya offers her thanks to her family members for their strong support, her Ph.D. guide Dr. Barun Kanjilal and also IFHIMA for giving her opportunities to participate and publish in the field of public health in conjunction with health information...
management during her Ph.D. tenure. She was a recipient of a Developing Country Delegate sponsorship award to support her attendance at the IFHIMA congress in Montreal in 2013.

When asked about her future plans she said that she will be continuing the “path of hard work” to aid further growth in the field of public health and research. Although, joining a digital health perspective to public health is on her mind for future research work, this has remained her interest for many years.

Author
Lorraine Nicholson FHRIM (Hon)
IFHIMA Membership Chair 2016-2019
Past President of IFHIMA 2007-2010
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Kanyette, Stephen Mutisya, (Kenya)

Stephen Mutisya Kanyette, 63, of Kangundo (Machakos) living in Nairobi, Kenya died on April 20th 2017. “Kanyette” as he was popularly known passed away at Kenyatta National Hospital, Nairobi after a long battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife Magdalene, and one son, 3 daughters and 3 grandchildren.

Kanyette joined the civil service in 1975 as a Clerical Officer, in the Medical Records Department, Kenyatta National Hospital. In 1978, he enrolled into the certificate programme at Kenya Medical Training College KMTC, (formerly Medical Training Centre) as a pioneer class. After qualifying in 1980, he was posted to serve at the Health Information System in the Ministry of Health. After the retirement of the former Chief Health Records and Information Officer Mr John Heho Kiriga in 1987, Kanyette assumed the responsibility as the Ag. Chief. In 1990, he joined KMTC for a diploma programme and qualified in 1992. In 2010, he joined Kenyatta University for a Bachelor’s of Science Degree in Health Records and Information Management graduating in 2013. He retired in June 2014.

Kanyette rose through the ranks to substantially become the Chief Health Records and Information Officer in the Ministry of Health with the responsibilities of managing and coordinating the Health Records and Information profession in Kenya. He has moved the profession from a humble phase to a dynamic and stimulating stage where services are key in the management of health sector. Key among the milestones, a dynamic scheme of service, a legal framework to regulate the practice, initiation of the degree programme, in consultation with Professor George Odhiambo at Kenyatta University to mention but a few. He will be greatly missed by his family, friends and professional colleagues, locally and internationally.
Health Information Management in Ghana

Health Information Management (HIM) in Ghana has seen a tremendous improvement over the years considering the progressive inputs and outcomes and its positive effects on the health sector in Ghana. Health Information Management, formerly known as Medical Records Management (MRM), started as a profession where anybody who could read and write irrespective of their educational background was employed to work at the Medical Records Department. The majority of staff working as Medical Records Officers were non-tertiary certificate holders.

As the years went by, there was an increasing interest by Medical Records Officers to further their education. Unfortunately, HIM / MRM courses were not available in Ghana until 1997. Before then very few HIM Practitioners had HIM degrees. These officers were graduates from Cuba, United Kingdom, and Canada amongst others. About 70% of HIM practitioners were without tertiary certificates. The remaining 30% were graduates with degrees in Health Informatics / Statistics, Higher National Diploma in Statistics, Diploma in Community Health (IT). These were the available courses approved for career development and advancement for the HIM Profession.

In 1997, the College of Health, Kintampo (a training College under the Ministry of Health) introduced a Diploma programme in HIM. Some years later, a certificate course in Health Records Management was also introduced by the same College. The College remained the only educational institution teaching HIM in Ghana for over 10 years. The enrollment capacity was very small which made the graduating size small as against the required number of professionals needed.

In 2012, The Ghana Health Information Management Association (GHIMA) was founded. As part of GHIMA’s mandate to boost career development in HIM, GHIMA worked tirelessly presenting proposals to various universities and regulatory authorities across the country. Fortunately, the Ghana Health Service and College of Health, Kintampo collaborated and introduced a tailor-made modular programme for HIM practitioners without HIM certificates to be enrolled in a Health Records Management sandwich course. This was also to help secure the jobs of our colleagues already employed following the passage of the Health Institutions Regulatory Bodies Act, 2013 (ACT 857). This Act requires all HIM practitioners to acquire a profession PIN / license from the Allied Health Professions Council, Ghana which authorizes them to practice legally.

After the modular programme the GHIMA decided to introduce a peer benchmarking learning scheme as a continuous professional development programme while awaiting the finalization of processes to commence the diploma and degree programmes in HIM. This programme was designed as a study visit that exposed HIM practitioners in Ghana to other innovative and advanced methods applied in Health Information Management.

GHIMA sought collaboration from other national HIM associations via IFHIMA to support the initiative. The first two study visits were successfully conducted in 2015 and took place in Nigeria and Kenya.
GHIMA also partnered with the African Regional Directorate of IFHIMA and organized the maiden E-HIM Summit for Africa which was hosted in Accra, Ghana from the 22nd – 23rd June 2016. The theme for the summit was “Experience IT” and 51 delegates attended the event including representatives from Ghana, Nigeria, the USA and Russia.

The Summit was very educational and it provided a platform for much-needed professional development and networking for HIM practitioners in the region.

As part of the resolutions at the E-HIM Summit, countries were encouraged to push harder for the introduction of local HIM courses. Today in Ghana, HIM courses have been introduced in two state owned universities in addition to the already existing College of Health, Kintampo.

The first applicants for the bachelor’s degree in HIM have been offered admission and commenced studies in June, 2017. In addition, plans are underway to introduce the Master’s degree in HIM.

There are also plans to set up learning centers in selected countries in the North, East, West and Southern zones in Africa to help support colleagues who do not have such courses in their countries.

The GHIMA is entering a new phase of exposing practitioners to diverse fields of knowledge acquisition and experience. This idea is being introduce through the Global Health Workforce Council (GHWC). The President of the GHIMA (Tegbey Isaac Eyram), a member of the Technical Working Group of the GHWC, attended the January, 2016 GHWC meeting in Dubai as an invited guest. HIM practitioners are being encouraged to enroll in Health Informatics and Health Information Technology courses to help equip the health information community with practitioners knowledgeable in science and technology skills.

It is our strong hope that this initiative shall massively boost HIM in Ghana for the good of the health service and the nation as a whole.

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**International Standards Organization (ISO)/TC 215**

**April 17-21, 2017**

**Hangzhou, China**

I participated at ISO Technical Committee (TC) 215 meeting held in Hangzhou, China from April 17 to 21, 2017. The meeting was attended by more than 210 members from 19 countries around the world.

WorkGroup 3 (WG3) participants, including myself, discussed several documents e.g. Vocabulary for Compositional Terminological Systems, Terminological resources - Characteristics (TermChar), Metadata Registry/Repository Requirements), and ‘Workforce Roles and Capabilities for Terminology and Terminology Services’ as a new work item.

I am pleased to write this article, sharing current and future discussions, as I believe HIMs practitioners should pay attention to research and development of standard health terminology and should actively participate in meetings and discussions related to International Standard Terminology and Semantic contents. Understanding the concept of standards and international standards developing organizations is important to appreciating the role health information management can play in health informatics and activities.

The following is a brief introduction of International Organization for Standardization (ISO) focused on WG3 whose structures and activities that HIM should be aware of basically.

**1. Introduction of ISO (International Organization for Standardization)**

ISO was established in 1946, and is an independent, non-governmental organization made up of members from the national standards bodies of 163 countries. Through its members, it brings together experts to share knowledge and develop voluntary, consensus-based, market relevant International Standards that support innovation and provide solutions to global challenges.

Members play a vital role in how ISO operates, meeting once a year for a General Assembly that decides strategic objectives.
ISO has published 21639 International Standards and related documents, covering almost every industry, from technology, to food safety, to agriculture and healthcare. ISO International Standards impact everyone, everywhere.

2. What are standards?
International Standards make things work. They give world-class specifications for products, services and systems, to ensure quality, safety and efficiency. They are instrumental in facilitating international trade.

3. What are the benefits of ISO International Standards?
ISO International Standards ensure that products and services are safe, reliable and of good quality. For business, they are strategic tools that reduce costs by minimizing waste and errors and increasing productivity. They help companies to access new markets, level the playing field for developing countries and facilitate free and fair global trade.

4. ISO/ TC 215 is ISO Technical Committee (TC) for Health Informatics.
Its’ scope is standardization in the field of health informatics to facilitate the coherent and consistent interchange and use of health-related data, information, and knowledge to support and enable all aspects of the health system. Standards help improve health, including:
- Promoting global harmonization of medical practices – your medical care will be the same in anytime, anywhere.
- Protecting the health and safety of patients and healthcare providers,
- Supporting efficient exchange of information and protection of data
- Improving the quality of care

ISO/ TC 215’s structure is as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Type</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ISO/TC 215/CAG 1</td>
<td>Executive council, harmonization and operations</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISO/TC 215/CAG 02</td>
<td>Advisory group</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISO/TC 215/WG 1</td>
<td>Architecture, Frameworks and Models</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Security, Safety and Privacy</td>
<td>Working group *</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISO/TC 215/WG 6</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/TC 215/JWG 7</td>
<td>Joint ISO/TC 215 - IEC/SC 62A WG: Safe, effective and secure health software and health IT systems, including those incorporating medical devices</td>
<td>Working group *</td>
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Secretariat of ISO/TC 215 is ANSI United States, and American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) is the supporting organization.

5. ISO/TC 215 WG3 Semantic Content Standards Development Framework
Challenges in electronic sharing and use of data collected/ supplied by health information and communication technology (HICT) products, call for an organized approach for developing content standards. This includes coordination and harmonization of standards development within ISO/TC215 and other standards development organizations (SDOs).
The WG3 mission is to develop standards for representation of content in HICT products thus supporting semantic interoperability across these products.

The WG3 scope is defined as standardization of methods for the representation and use of concepts, data and knowledge in support of health and healthcare as depicted on the WG3 Framework. This includes standardization of:

- Formal models for the representation and description of concepts
- Principles for the representation of concepts within terminology resources
- Principles for the governance and maintenance of terminology resources
- Methods for the representation and management of knowledge
- Methods for using terminological resources and knowledge in HICT products
- Role of metadata concept as a link between Data, Information, Knowledge and Meaning semantic content areas, but excluding the development and maintenance of actual content of standardized terminological resources developed by other SDOs.

The WG3 Framework objectives are to:

1. Support the needs of WG3 members in developing and maintaining standards at WG3
2. Coordinate WG3 efforts with the other WGs at ISO/TC215 and liaison organizations and
3. Demonstrate value of the WG3 work in order to
   a. Recruit new subject matter experts (SMEs) in WG3 to develop new standards and
   b. Assess the adoption and use of the WG3 standards in HICT products.

The WG3 Target Audience

1. Primary audience (Standard developers)
   a. Member of ISO/TC215 WG3
   b. Member of ISO/TC215 involved in the development of semantic content standards

2. Secondary audience (Standard users)
   a. Developers of HICT products
   b. Implementers of HICT products
   c. End users of standards-based HICT products
   d. Decision makers for purchasing HICT products
   e. Educators and certification bodies in the areas of HICT, health informatics and health information management (HIM)

WG3 Standards Development Approach

The WG3 Standards Development Approach includes:

1. Establish framework: Confirm sub-field scope, Develop dimensions, Confirm current state
2. Perform gap analysis: Perform environmental scan, Consider stakeholder needs, Identify gaps, Outline potential work items
3. Draft work program: Prioritize potential work items, Document staged work program
4. Staged draft work program
5. Maintain the inventory of WG3 standards
6. Identify gaps for developing new standards
7. Develop new standards and
8. Provide support for semantic content standards needed for a specific ISO/TC215 project.

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Danish Science Festival, Where Innovation Begins

In Denmark, The Danish Science Festival takes place every year in week 17. The festival programme has about 600 different events in more than 100 cities all over the country and every year more than 75,000 guests visit the festival.

Who is behind it?
The Ministry of Higher Education and Science is principal organizer behind the Festival. The Secretariat of the Danish Science Festival is located in the Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation. The secretariat has the main responsibility for the organization, coordination and marketing of the festival.

What is the purpose of the festival?
The purpose of the Danish Science Festival is to:

- Celebrate the fundamental element of research – curiosity
- Establishing a meeting place between researchers and the general public
- Showcase how research and innovation helps solve social grand challenges
- Support public engagement in research and enhance the relationship between researchers and the general public.

Who are the local organizers?
Every year the Danish Science Festival has about 100 local organizers that organize the approximately 600 different events all over the country. The local organizers are primarily universities, education and cultural institutions, companies, public institutions and organization, research institutions. But every one that has a great idea and a suitable location can become an organizer.

Who is the target group?
Everyone with an interest in science and innovation. But the target group is primarily the part of the general public that normally isn’t in contact with research and innovation. Normally the local organizers define their own specific target group such as families, students or children.

What happens?
During the Danish Science Festival you can experience all kinds of event with the same goal – communicating research and innovation in an interesting, understandable and fascinating way. The most popular types of events are open houses, scientific market places, hands-on experiments, lectures, guided tours, shows and debates.

Taking part
The health science part of the festival includes many HIMs involved in the detail planning to focus on health science research.

In cooperation between The University of Southern Denmark, Odense University Hospital and the regional TV station, a new feature was launched. 5 scientific projects were selected by the region’s research council to compete for one Million Danish Crowns to complete the project. The procedure as a Citizens Science Project should be followed.

The scientific projects were presented to the public on TV, Face Book, Website, interviews, and as part of the Research Festival.

The possibility of voting was given over a period of several weeks through website and the number of votes cast showed the public interest in influencing how research funds are used. At a gala evening, the number of votes was announced and the winning project was then awarded the donation.

As a result of the great interest of citizens, it is hoped that this selection procedure could be used at next year’s Research Festival.

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IFHIMA Past Membership Chair (2004–2013)
2017 Membership Dues

Thank you to all associate members who are recipients of Global News for their membership and their support for IFHIMA’s global mission. I hope that your membership has provided you with a greater insight into HIM globally. Member dues for all categories of membership fall due for on January 1st, 2017 - reminders will be sent to all members in due course and it would be very much appreciated if dues payments are made promptly. I hope that more readers of Global News will choose to join IFHIMA in 2017 and I look forward to welcoming you! You can apply and pay dues on-line via the IFHIMA website at http://ifhima.org/apply/

Enquiries about membership are welcome at any time

Lorraine Nicholson, Membership Chair, l.nicholson@zen.co.uk

Editorial Guidelines for IFHIMA Global News

IFHIMA publishes Global News three times per year with the intent to highlight national association news, share Board activities in support of the IFHIMA mission and strategic plan, and keep members abreast of other IFHIMA activities. IFHIMA recently released Editorial Guidelines to assist authors in developing content for Global News.

Our intent is to encourage contributions by making the guidelines readily available, thus saving time and providing clarity to authors, while encouraging content from all our member nations. We anticipate this will also ease the editing process for both the authors and the editorial staff.

Please feel free to contact Lorraine Fernandes the current Editor for Global News at the address below, if you have questions or ideas. We welcome feedback and look forward to even more articles sharing health information successes and activities!!

A copy of the guidelines can be found at:
https://ifhima.org/editorial-guidelines/

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Disclaimer:

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