



**IFHIMA**  
International Federation of  
Health Information Management Associations

A Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) affiliated and in official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO)

[www.ifhima.org](http://www.ifhima.org)

August 10, 2021

Dear National and Deputy Directors,

IFHIMA and HIMAA recently announced that the 20<sup>th</sup> Congress would be delayed until October 2023. It was with regret that this decision had to be made, but the reality is the COVID-19 pandemic is still gripping the world. As you know from past Congresses, planning should start at least 18 months in advance. This timeline allows membership involvement, resource and financial planning for executing the event, and ensures we have a robust program that represents the host nation and IFHIMA.

This delay means IFHIMA will for the first time conduct a virtual General Assembly (GA) at the conclusion of the 2019-2022 term. The Board has not defined how we will conduct a virtual GA, nor the proposed date(s), but we anticipate releasing details before the end of 2021. At this very preliminary juncture, I anticipate that we will hold one or two two-hour sessions to conduct the required business of the GA.

You may recall that in the 19<sup>th</sup> Congress in Dubai we passed an amendment allowing electronic voting. We will be conducting voting electronically and are investigating when and how that will be done. We are thankful for all the technology and applications available today to meet our needs and used by many of the IFHIMA members. We will seek input and lessons learned from those members as we design and plan for our virtual GA.

Defining a GA date requires consideration of national association meetings and other major conferences. **Please notify Marci MacDonald, Membership Chair, no later than November 30, 2021 of the date for your 2022 national conference.**

I thank the HIMAA leadership for their initial and ongoing collaboration. I know we are all sad that our Brisbane event will be delayed a year. Nevertheless, let's take advantage of this delay and save a few more dollars so we can have a fabulous holiday after the 20<sup>th</sup> IFHIMA Congress in 2023.

Look for further GA planning details before the end of 2021. If you have immediate questions, don't hesitate to contact me, Marci, or Vicki.

In the meantime, please be safe and best wishes for you, your family, and your colleagues.

Lorraine Fernandes, RHIA  
IFHIMA President 2019 – 2022

**President**

Lorraine Fernandes  
United States of America  
[lfernandes54@gmail.com](mailto:lfernandes54@gmail.com)

**President Elect**

Vicki Bennett  
Australia  
[vicki.bennett@aihw.gov.au](mailto:vicki.bennett@aihw.gov.au)

**Immediate Past President**

Marci MacDonald  
Canada  
[marci.macdonald@cogeco.ca](mailto:marci.macdonald@cogeco.ca)

**Director Africa**

Babale Garba Nafada  
Nigeria  
[garbanafada@gmail.com](mailto:garbanafada@gmail.com)

**Director The Americas**

Deneice Marshall  
Barbados  
[deneice.marshall@gmail.com](mailto:deneice.marshall@gmail.com)

**Director Eastern  
Mediterranean**

Hussein Albishi  
Saudi Arabia  
[bishi1970@gmail.com](mailto:bishi1970@gmail.com)

**Director Europe**

Guillermo Paluzie  
Spain  
[opaluzie@salutms.cat](mailto:opaluzie@salutms.cat)

**Director South East Asia**

Gemala Hatta  
Indonesia  
[gemalahatta03@gmail.com](mailto:gemalahatta03@gmail.com)

**Director Western Pacific**

Oknam Kim  
South Korea  
[onkimamc@naver.com](mailto:onkimamc@naver.com)

**Membership Chair**

Marci MacDonald  
Canada  
[marci.macdonald@cogeco.ca](mailto:marci.macdonald@cogeco.ca)