President’s Address

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to our first edition of Global News for 2023. I certainly hope that 2023 brings less impacts of the global pandemic and sees us be able to meet more freely than in the previous 3 years.

On that note, I strongly encourage as many of you as possible to start planning for your attendance at the IFHIMA Congress, in Brisbane, Australia, this October. The program is shaping up and will include a list of high-quality global presenters and provide a wonderful opportunity for professional development and networking. Registration for this event is now open, so check out the information later in this issue.

As I outlined in my incoming President’s address in the last issue of Global News, I am keen to find ways for our members to obtain more value for their membership and to provide more opportunities for global engagement. To assist with this, we are launching two new communities of practice (CoPs). The first of these CoPs will be on ICD-11 implementation and the second will be for HIM educators from around the globe. A call for nominees to participate in, and lead these CoPs is in this issue also. I encourage you to consider participating in these new ways.

As I write this, Australia is struggling through a heat wave with much of the country experiencing temperatures over 40 degrees Celsius. However, I can assure you that this is not the usual temperature in October in Brisbane so plan for a warm, engaging opportunity to spend time with colleagues and friends at the 20th IFHIMA Congress.

Heatmap of Australia during the heat wave.

Author:
Vicki Bennett, CHIM, FAIDH, CHIA
Unit Head at AIHW
IFHIMA President

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IFHIMA GLOBAL NEWS
International Federation of Health Information Management Associations

New President-Elect: Deneice Marshall

I am truly honored to hold the position of President-Elect for the next three years. This honor is even more meaningful as I am the first person to be elected from the Caribbean and Latin America Region.

In 2013, Ms. Carol Lewis from the United States of America, who is one of my mentors and a stalwart in the HIM profession, introduced me to the wonderful work of IFHIMA when she attended the first Barbados Health Information Management Association (BHIMA) conference. At that time, I was the President of BHIMA, having co-founded this organization in 2013.

With over a decade of experience working with my colleagues and friends at IFHIMA, I gained many areas of special interests including but not limited to strengthening Developing Nations HIM awareness and capacity building initiatives along with Education, Training and Research.

I had the opportunity to participate in many conferences and congresses and also collaborated on numerous special projects.

During this term as President-Elect, I am looking forward to working with the new President, Board members and stakeholders as we continue to advocate and strengthen the health information management profession globally.

Author:
IFHIMA President-Elect

Joint 20th IFHIMA Congress and 40th HIMAA National Conference in Brisbane 2023

The International Federation of Health Information Management Associations (IFHIMA) and the Health Information Management Association of Australia (HIMAA) are pleased to welcome health information professionals from around the world to Brisbane, Queensland, Australia for the Joint 20th IFHIMA Congress and 40th HIMAA National Conference in 2023. The theme for this year’s Joint IFHIMA & HIMAA Congress is ‘Advancing global health: in pursuit of high quality digital information’ and will feature international and Australian speakers, vendors, and workshops. This year’s Congress will be held from 29 October to 1 November at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre (BCEC), which is ranked among the top three convention centres world-wide by the International Association of Conference Centres. Brisbane boasts a vibrant bar and dining scene perfect for networking opportunities, make sure to visit the sites Visit Brisbane or Concrete Playground for great tips.

Registration details for the Congress can be found here or via the IFHIMA website.

Looking forward to seeing you in Brisbane!

Authors:
Georgia Savvopoulos BICT (HIM)
IFHIMA Editorial Team
Breanna Harnetty BHlthSc (MedClass), BHlthInfoMgt
IFHIMA Editorial Team
Join 100+ speakers, 10+ keynote and plenary sessions, 12 workshops and 7 concurrent sessions with topics in:

- Accreditation/Certification
- Artificial Intelligence
- Clinical Documentation Improvement & Data Integrity
- Digital Health/Digital Transformation
- Global Workforce Development
- Health Data Quality & Analytics
- ICD-11, Coding & Classification
- Information Governance, Privacy & Security
- Leadership
- Research, Education & Training

Join health information management professionals from around the world with speakers from Australia, India, Kuwait, Nigeria, Spain, United Kingdom and United States.

To view details and register, go to ifhimacongress2023.com.au

Full registration fee includes morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea, Welcome Reception and the Gala Dinner.

Key speakers and presenters include:

**DR. STEPHEN DUCKETT**
Health Economist & Proponent of Activity Based Funding in Australia

**MARY STANFILL**
Member of Education & Implementation (EIC) and Morbidity Reference Group (MbRG) at WHO FIC

**ROB HEFEREN**
CEO, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

**PROF MICHAEL KIDD**
Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Australian Government Department of Health

**JASON TRETOWAN**
CEO, Headspace

**ASSOC. PROFESSOR SUSAN FENTON**
Assoc. Dean for Academic & Curricular Affairs, UT Health - Houston
In the run up to the IFHIMA Congress, Lorraine Fernandes, as the IFHIMA Immediate Past President and Communication Chair, has conducted a series of interviews with a few of the IFHIMA champions set to attend the congress.

**Tribute to Excellence awardee - Margaret Skurka**

IFHIMA’s inaugural awardee for the Tribute to Excellence, Margaret Skurka, will receive her award at the 20th IFHIMA Congress in Brisbane. Margaret is excited to make the journey and see her international friends and colleagues. I recently spoke with Margaret, and she shared why she enjoys the IFHIMA Congresses.

“My program lead when I was in undergraduate school, Rita Finnegan, instilled in me the value of lifelong volunteerism. Hence, I’ve volunteered at all levels of AHIMA, the American Association, and at IFHIMA on an international playing field. Rita was certainly ‘spot on’ in sharing this career and personal advice that is as relevant today as it was in the 80’s!

Attending Congresses provides a first-hand opportunity to hear the worldwide struggles with high quality documentation while also hearing the latest advances. The new colleagues I’ve met over the decades have provided lifelong friendships and access to global happenings and lessons learned.

The highlight of my many Congresses was enjoying a fabulous dinner and entertainment at the 18th Congress in Tokyo with Dr Margaret Chan, WHO Director General. Wow, what a smart, delightful lady with great insight and appreciation for our profession.”

Margaret is already making her preliminary travel plans and we’ve discussed which flight we will be on from San Francisco to Brisbane. Join us in Brisbane on 29 October for an educationally stimulating program, fun, and networking. Registration details can be found here. Don’t forget if you an IFHIMA member you can receive the membership registration discount.

**Past President and Honorary Member – Professor Phyllis Watson**

This is the second in our series of conversations with IFHIMA members sharing their perspectives about Congress attendance. I’m particularly delighted that Phyllis Watson, AM agreed to share her experiences. I met Professor Phyllis Watson, during my first trip to Australia in 2006. We had a delightful long lunch that’s still memorable 17 years later.

“Three years after I graduated as an MRA/HIM, I was encouraged by Betty James to submit a paper, and attend the 1968 6th International Medical Records Congress in Stockholm, Sweden. It was at this Congress that IFHIMA (previously IFMRO, IFHRO) was formed and Betty James was elected President.

Attending this Congress was one of the most memorable experiences of my life. There have been many highlights at other congresses over the years, but the atmosphere at my first international congress was electric and remains my favourite experience. One, which I have cherished for the past 60 years. I realised that there were people and organisations world-wide, with similar interests, who believed in the need for an accurate, complete, and timely medical/health record for all patients, in any country, regardless of size or economic status. What I have learnt over the past years is that attending an international congress is a two-way street.”
You may be there to share your knowledge about health records in your country, but you will also learn so much about systems in other countries. I believe all students and educators should attend, as we all have so much to learn, so much to give, and so many life-long friendships to make.

The year 1968 was the beginning of my passion for our international movement. I have been able to attend every Congress since 1968 and am looking forward to Brisbane in October 2023, hopefully it will not be my last.”

I’ll be saving time on my Brisbane agenda to have a few chats with Phyllis and others, as these long-standing members have so much insight to share and are owed a great debt of gratitude from all IFHIMA members. See you soon... in Brisbane!

IFHIMA Regional Director for Africa

It’s always a pleasure as a fellow Board member to talk with Babale Garba Nafada from Nigeria. His enthusiasm is infectious and attitude always positive. Here are Babale’s thoughts on attending IFHIMA Congresses.

“As a National Member of Health Information Management of Nigeria (HIMAN), I registered to attend IFHIMA Congress thrice but only succeeded to attend the 2019 Dubai Congress. As luck would have it, I was nominated and became the IFHIMA Regional Director for Africa. At the Congress, we concurrently attended paper presentations and I moderated a paper on Electronic Medical Records.

Throughout the period of the Congress, on a daily basis I learnt different things ranging from scientific to social interaction with colleagues. We had a series of Board meetings and reviewed global priorities and happenings.

We witnessed the memorable transition of Leadership from the indefatigable Marci MacDonald to Lorraine Fernandes for the upcoming three year term. The Congress was so engaging and made me wish it would continue for many more days.

The value a member receives for their investment of time and travel expenses by far outweighs non-attendance owing to the fact that they will have global exposure to see and interact with their professional colleagues like students and educators.

For those who are yet to attend, you should endeavor to do so because the Brisbane Congress shall be unique in many ways. We are told that Australia is a land with unique features and I’m looking forward to experiencing them firsthand.”

I’m looking forward to seeing Babale and hopefully some of his African colleagues in Brisbane.
Manipal Academy of Higher Education, India

I recently had a conversation with Professor Sabu Karakka Mandapam, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, India and gathered his thoughts about the importance of IFHIMA Congresses.

“It is important for any professional to be updated with advances in their professional domain. In my experience, the IFHIMA Congress is such a wonderful event as attendees can gain enormous knowledge by listening to experts in the field of Health Information Management.

My first participation in the IFHIMA Congress was in Montreal, Canada in the year 2013 and since then I have never missed an IFHIMA Congress. It was a turning point in my professional career as I could establish many professional connections that lead to several opportunities for me to associate with meaningful IFHIMA professional activities. Every IFHIMA Congress was a unique experience for me; the memories of the social events of the Tokyo Congress in 2016 were something I will always cherish.

The Congress is a platform for knowledge sharing and acquisition, an opportunity to network with professionals from different countries, and the valuable scientific sessions are worth the money and time we invest. My participation as a panel member on the “Healthcare data privacy” panel at the Dubai IFHIMA Congress in 2019 was an amazing experience.

The IFHIMA Congress is always an energy-packed, global event with the largest gathering of HIM professionals. It is an occasion for academicians, students, and professionals to learn from real experiences and to gain knowledge on the recent advances in the HIM domain. I am eagerly looking forward to witnessing yet another fabulous IFHIMA Congress in Brisbane, Australia.”

I look forward to seeing Dr Sabu in Brisbane and hearing firsthand the accomplishments of his students at Manipal Academy and how healthcare privacy has evolved in India.
A Historical Perspective on Congresses

IFHIMA has a great history of successes due to strong leadership over our 50+ years we’ve advanced our mission, vision, and values. A key contributor to this success is Carol Lewis, IFHIMA President 1984-1988. Carol and I recently connected and she shared these perspectives.

“International Congresses offer the opportunity to learn new trends and practices not only through the formal presentations but also through personal contact with new friends and colleagues and, often, visit new cities and countries. But, I have found that each Congress offers additional reasons for attending.

The Second International Congress on Medical Records held in Washington, DC, was the first one that I attended. Loyola Voelker, a firm believer in the importance of volunteering, had me volunteer to serve on the committee that would prepare the Congress proceedings.

At another Congress, I spoke on the development of medical records in the Americas. As an officer of the International Federation, I was involved in the organization of the Congress and in reporting on the projects the Federation had undertaken. As a retiree, I looked forward to hearing the reports of progress and on having the opportunity to see colleagues who have become close friends over the years.

The benefits of learning new facts and practices and in making new friends, are priceless. Students can benefit from not only what they learned during the Congress but also in observing a structure for future self-improvement. Educators will find much information to incorporate into their programs. Congresses should offer opportunities for students and educators to meet as groups to exchange experiences.”

I’m looking forward to seeing Carol, and Phyllis Watson, two illustrious IFHIMA leaders, as we renew friendships in Brisbane.

Compilation of Interviews by:
Lorraine Fernandes RHIA
IFHIMA Immediate Past President
IFHIMA Communication Chair

Brisbane, Queensland, Australia
All dates per Brisbane, Australia time (UTC +10, AEST)

Registration Opens Wednesday, February 23
Early Bird registration rate available now to July 29
Standard registration rate available from July 30 to September 25
Onsite registration rate from September 26

IFHIMA Congress Highlights

The time is here to celebrate our profession and the world is open again for us to get together!

COVID has impacted our lives in a way we could never have foreseen. We have missed traveling and meeting with like minded professionals, missed times to confer and network but we are going to change this and meet in Brisbane Australia in October 2023.

This will be my 3rd IFHIMA Congress.

2016 was my first time attending a Congress in Tokyo. As I had never been to Tokyo before I took the opportunity to have a look around and enjoy the Japanese culture, sights, and sounds. What an amazing city. And you think “How can this get any better?” Well, the Congress exceeded all expectations! The opportunities and experience to listen and learn from the presenters, the chance to network with colleagues from around the world and make new friends was exceptional.

The knowledge that I gained while attending the Congress has been beneficial to my career and further learning.

2019 the next IFHIMA Congress was held in Dubai. Wow! Another amazing city of people, culture, sights and sand! The desert experience was amazing. The social occasions were a chance for us to network and catch up with people I had met in Tokyo. Again, the presenters were undeniably excellent and the learnings the participants took away was invaluable. Some of the topics covered were workforce issues and solutions, ICD-11, research, education and educating students and staff, and data quality to name a few.

Now in 2023 it is Brisbane, Australia’s turn! And do we have a Congress for you. We have sun, beaches, koalas, kangaroos and if you get the chance there is a large reef off the coast for you to dive, snorkel and swim in – the Great Barrier Reef. If you’re into fishing come and see me – I can point you in the right direction of some top spots to get those fish.

In words similar to the IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch in 2000 about the Sydney Olympics – I believe our IFHIMA President Vicki Bennett and our Immediate Past President Lorraine Fernandes will say “This is going to be the best Congress ever!”

We have over 10 keynote and plenary sessions, 12 workshops, a number of streams so you can find your interests and learn from those that share the passion, and over 100 speakers.
Calender of events

**APR 21 - 22 2023**
Education for ICD-11
Implementation & Korean Translation
Health Big data management and Pandemic Diseases Classification
At Seoul, Republic of Korea
Language: Korean
KHIMA

**OCT 08 - 11 2023**
AHIMA
At Baltimore Convention Center
Baltimore, Maryland, USA
AHIMA

**OCT 16 - 20 2023**
Theme for Annual Meeting/ Conference – HIP Week 2023
Virtual
Language: English
Canadian Health Information Management Association (CHIMA)

**OCT 29 2023 - NOV 01 2023**
20th IFHIMA Congress and 40th HIMAA Conference
Advancing Global Health: in pursuit of high-quality digital information
At Brisbane Convention Center
Brisbane, Queensland, Australia
IFHIMA

We will be covering familiar topics from past Congresses on the Global Workforce, Research, Education and Training, Digital Health, AI, Clinical Documentation Improvement, Privacy, and ICD-11. This is only small sample of what we will be discussing. Of course, there are the hospital tours so you can see Queensland and Australian Health at its best.

Australians’ have a reputation of working hard and enjoying ourselves when we relax. Your social diary will be full, and we will show you how to enjoy yourself the Australian way.

We welcome you to our shores with open arms. We want to learn from the rest of the world, and we want to share our knowledge with you. Register to attend here.

Come join us! Let us show you our part of the HIM world!

Author:
Cassandra Rupnik FHIMAA, CHIA,
Deputy Director HIMAA for IFHIMA, Consultant at CMR Consulting

Establishment of Communities of Practice

At the Virtual General Assembly (VGA) held last November, the incoming President, Vicki Bennett, noted her intention to establish a number of communities of practice (CoPs) to provide more opportunities for members to engage on a regular basis, and to provide more benefits for IFHIMA membership.
At the VGA, a virtual poll was presented, asking what participants felt were the two highest areas of priority for these CoPs.

The options presented were:

- HIM Educators
- NextGen (targeting students or newly graduated HIMs)
- Clinical Coding
- Clinical Documentation Improvement
- Information Governance
- ICD-11 Planning
- Privacy and Security
- Workforce Development
- Data Analytics
- Research

Of these options, HIM Educators and ICD-11 Planning appeared at the top of the poll so these will be the first two to be established.

We are now seeking nominations of interest to participate in these two new CoPs for both general members and those to lead and provide secretariat support.

If you are interested in participating in, leading or being the secretariat of a COP please email contact@ifhima.org by the end of April. A draft set of terms of reference will be forwarded to those who express interest and will be confirmed at the first meeting of these CoPs which will hopefully be held in May.

Further CoPs will be established in the future once these two are up and running and we can reflect on the pros and cons of their operation.

Author:
Vicki Bennett, CHIM, FAIDH, CHIA
Unit Head at AIHW
IFHIMA President

IFHIMA Australian and Western Pacific Region Members

If you are an IFHIMA member from Australia or the Western Pacific Region, then we would be interested in sending you an invitation to join our community.

The Director and Deputy Director for Australia, Sharon Campbell and Cassandra Rupnik, will be hosting a series of zoom meetings to discuss a variety of topics, including:

- 20th IFHIMA/40th HIMAA Congress-Brisbane
- Face to Face Meeting at the IFHIMA Congress
- Background of IFHIMA and where we stand in the world
- Topics that the group would like explored further
- Mentorship/links with other members in the Western Pacific Region
- Current Events impacting on Health Information Management
- Guest Speakers
- New Business

It will be great to get to know you and better understand what you need from a HIM and Clinical Coder perspective. This will also provide the opportunity to build on your knowledge and make connections from around the world.
The first meeting is planned for March 2023, further details will be available soon. We look forward to meeting with you!

Please contact Sharon at Scampbell@bethesda.org.au if you are interested in attending.

Author:
Sharon Campbell
IFHIMA Regional Director, Australia & Western Pacific

Advancing health data recommendations, literacy, and management opportunities across Canada

In 2020, the Canadian College of Health Information Management and CHIMA, Canada’s health information management association, joined other thought leaders in an expert advisory group for the Public Health Agency of Canada’s pan-Canadian Health Data Strategy.

The Strategy focused on “establishing a common foundation”:
- Usage, sharing, and management of health data,
- Enable better care delivery, and,
- Support data-driven systems.

The group has released three reports; the last report builds on prior recommendations and provides advice on creating a world-class health data system.

One of these recommendations includes health data literacy. In support of this, a strategic partnership between the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI), the College, and CHIMA has led to the endorsement of the College’s certification standards by CIHI. CEO and Registrar of CHIMA and the College, Jeff Nesbitt says this endorsement “appreciates the critical role of data and information in informing policy and enabling the care people receive across the country.” The endorsement also further legitimizes the profession in Canada and widens cross-sectoral career pathways for its professionals.

Find out more about advancements in Canadian standards, the College’s new strategic plan, and how certified health information management professionals are being sought after in Canada’s justice system.

Current Member Nations

- Americas
  - Barbados
  - USA
  - Canada
  - Jamaica
  - St. Lucia

- Africa
  - Ghana
  - Kenya
  - Nigeria
  - Tanzania
  - Uganda

- South East Asia
  - Indonesia

- Europe
  - Germany
  - Spain
  - United Kingdom

- Eastern Mediterranean
  - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

- Western Pacific
  - Australia
  - China
  - Japan
  - Philippines
  - Republic of Korea

* Denotes IFHIMA Board of Directors
The College and CHIMA continue to be motivated by a clear vision of the future, envisioning an equitable country (where quality health information empowers people to make better decisions) and elevating health information professionals to be more recognized and impactful.

Author:
Lola Opatayo, BA, MA
Canadian College of Health Information Management
Canadian Health Information Management Association

Additionally, Eunice Omidoyin, a Researcher and retired Professor from Nigeria, shared an extensive report on the situation of HIM in Africa and its relation to the future ICD-11 implementation. Megan Cumerlato, a Consultant from Australia, commented on the development of the International Classification of Health Interventions (ICHI) which complements the ICD-11 vision. Finally, Akeela Jamal, CEO of 3Terra from Canada, highlighted the main steps necessary for the implementation of ICD-11 and closed the international speakers’ event.

Select presentations from this event are available on the IFHIMA website.

Author:
Guillermo Paluzie, MD, PhD
SEDOM National Director
IFHIMA Regional Director, Europe

ICD-11 Webcasts

29 September 2022 Conference and Podcasts

More than 125 participants from 25 countries joined the three-hour virtual conference “ICD-11: Improving Global Health Information through Better Data” on September 29th, 2022. The conference was promoted by IFHIMA with the collaboration of HIM associations IHRIM (United Kingdom) and SEDOM (Spain) and was facilitated by the Virtual Medical Academy platform. IFHIMA thanked 3M as the corporate sponsor for the event.

After a welcome by past president Lorraine Fernandes, Nenad Kostanjsek, the technical officer of WHO Classifications, Terminologies and Standards, introduced the attendees to the future of ICD-11 in 2023. The European perspectives of ICD-11 in terms of translation, timelines, clinical modifications, and data use were discussed by two speakers, Miroslav Zvolsky from the Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the Czech Republic (IHIS) and Ulrich Vogel from the Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices (BfArM) in Germany, who provided a European perspective of the migration to ICD-11.

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Author:
Guillermo Paluzie, MD, PhD
SEDOM National Director
IFHIMA Regional Director, Europe
The future of medicine: How Artificial Intelligence is transforming healthcare coding

The progress of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its application in the field of healthcare coding is one of the most positive notes that the sector has been able to receive in recent years. This technology, which is constantly being developed on a daily basis, promises to revolutionise the way diseases are diagnosed, treatments are applied and healthcare resources are managed. In other words, it is a crucial breakthrough whose benefits are both numerous and exciting.

Firstly, AI facilitates the automation of processes that were previously carried out manually, thus increasing not only the accuracy of coding - reducing human error - but also freeing up professionals in the sector to invest time in those areas where they can make a difference. Similarly, the use of advanced algorithms allows for a more precise identification of the elements of a disease, or the procedures associated with its detection and treatment.

Secondly, we should mention the ability of this technology to analyse large amounts of data in a short time. This means that as more information accumulates, the accuracy of coding will increase, making it easier to identify patterns and correlations that might otherwise go unnoticed.

Along the same lines, thanks to all this work of collecting and filtering information about patients, AI will allow us to create predictive models that help to anticipate the onset of diseases and prevent their development. For example, such a model could analyse a person’s medical records to identify risk factors and recommend lifestyle changes to reduce the likelihood of disease.
Together, this will lead to more efficient management of healthcare resources: with more accurate and detailed information about diseases and treatments, it will be possible to identify areas where greater investment is needed to optimise available resources.

Ultimately, as mentioned above, the most important aspect of this new and disruptive technology is that it is constantly evolving, so as algorithms are developed and improved, the efficiency of coding will increase.

In short, the application of AI in healthcare coding is a tool that promises to significantly improve the way diseases are diagnosed and treated. Its ability to automate processes, analyse large amounts of data, create predictive models and optimise the management of healthcare resources make it a key technology not only for the future, but also for the present of medicine.

Author:
Ruth Cuscó, Managing Director of ASHO
ASHO, a leading company in healthcare coding and creator of coding support software: ASHOONE, ASHOCOODE and ASHOINDEX.

2023 WHO-FIC mid-year meetings

The World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for the Family of International Classifications (FIC) in Australia is pleased to be hosting the 2023 mid-year meetings of the WHO-FIC Network Committees and Reference Groups.

The meetings will be held from 8-11 May at The Grace Hotel, a heritage listed building in the heart of Sydney. More than 90 delegates will be attending sessions for the Mortality Reference Group, Morbidity Reference Group, Functioning and Disability Reference Group, Education and Implementation Committee, Family Development Committee and Informatics and Terminology Committee. A special ICF Symposium will also be held for the ACC during the week, showcasing current work and achievements in this classification, with a specific focus on Australia. For those who cannot make the journey to Australia, an online attendance option is being offered. The WHO-FIC CRGs meetings are by invitation only.

Information Governance (IG) Assessment & Consulting Services

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- Increase trust in the integrity of data
- Improve data availability, privacy, and security

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Primeau Consulting Group
424-203-3203
www.primeauconsultinggroup.com
Having several of the committees and reference groups meeting in the one place at the same time is providing an excellent opportunity for collaboration between the groups. Many have overlapping tasks and will be able to use this time to work with the other groups present to undertake some of these tasks. With several joint sessions already arranged, the week is anticipated to be very productive!

Discussions during the week will centre around the WHO reference classifications, being the ICD, ICF and ICHI. Development, refinement, implementation and use of these classifications are expected to be hot topics, including how they can be used together across a range of contexts.

Of course, Sydney has a wealth of tourist attractions and time has been allotted for attendees to enjoy some of these. A WHO-FIC network dinner has been planned, and information provided on activities such as the Sydney Harbour Bridge climb, or how to see some of our native Australian animals up close and personal.

Authors:
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IFHIMA Editorial Team
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IFHIMA Editorial Team

In 1968, along with Elsie Royale Mansell from the UK, Dr Skrinjar urged members to form an international organization. This was the beginning of a strong liaison between WHO and IFHIMA, which is still with us today. Dr Skrinjar encouraged medical record professionals to work towards improving medical record services, particularly clinical coding and healthcare statistics, and using the medical record to its full capacity. She also asked that we give particular attention to health records outside hospital use, and stressed the importance of education for medical record personnel.

She strongly supported IFHIMA and particularly encouraged the Executive Board to work towards assisting members and non-members in developing countries. In 1984 she was the second person to be awarded Honorary Membership of IFHIMA, which she was pleased to accept. She continued to work with the Federation during our early development, and continued this support over many years. We last met when she was a special guest at the 1996 International Congress in Munich, Germany. Many of us were privileged to know her and work with her. I am particularly grateful for the knowledge I gained from her, and the help she gave me over so many years.

In memorium Dr Boga Skirinjar Nerima.

Author:
Professor Phyllis J Watson, AM
IFHIMA Past President, IFHIMA Honourary Member
IFHIMA Corporate Membership Benefits

We are reaching out to IFHIMA members, to ask you to please inform your network as to the benefits of sponsorship with IFHIMA. Specifically, we are highlighting the opportunities available for sponsors at the upcoming IFHIMA Congress. Corporate membership benefits are detailed below:

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- Preferred vendor rate for the IFHIMA Congress held within the membership term.
- Special recognition at the triennial Congress.
- Speaking slot at the triennial Congress.

For further details please review the IFHIMA website or contact Marci MacDonald at contact@ifhima.org.

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Letter from the Editorial Team

Welcome to the first issue of Global News for 2023!

In our first official issue of 2023 we have sought out some particularly excellent pieces that we hope readers will enjoy as much as we have. This issue highlights a variety important association news, including the upcoming IFHIMA congress in Brisbane, the newly established Communities of Practice (COPs), a few brilliant pieces from our IFHIMA members and the latest in ICD-11 and WHO news.

This issue will be the first of three Global News issues for 2023 and we will strive to bring you interesting, relevant, and informative content from across the IFHIMA regions.

We encourage contributions from all our member nations to make it a truly global newsletter. Please feel free to contact us with your submissions, ideas and questions. A copy of the guidelines can be found here.

Hope you enjoy this edition and happy reading!

Our team is comprised of Health Information Managers (HIMs) with a diverse range of interests and experience. Brooke Macpherson and Filippa Pretty are our senior HIMs with more than 40 years of experience between them. Breanna Harnetty and Georgia Savvopoulos are recent graduates itching to experience everything HIM has to offer.

Breanna Harnetty BHlthSc (MedClass), BHlthInfoMgt
Georgia Savvopoulos BICT (HIM)
Brooke Macpherson BBSc, BHS, BHIM(Hons)

Disclaimer:

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