International Medical Informatics Association:
Nursing Informatics Special Interest Group

Inside

Executive Committee (2021-2024)

Chair Ann-Kristin Rotegaard

Vice-Chair (Membership) Joy Lee

Vice-Chair (Admin & Finance) Margie Kennedy

Vice-Chair (Communication) Michelle Honey

Vice-Chair (Working Groups) Nick Hardiker

Diane Skiba Profiling an Honorary Member: Maureen Scholes SRN, MBCS

The first Chair of IMIA Working Group 8 was Maureen Scholes. Maureen trained as a nurse at the Royal London Hospital. Throughout her nursing career, she held various roles, culminating as the Director of Nursing Services at the Royal London Hospital. As an administrator, she became interested in computers when she was struggling with the task of allocating a "thousand learner nurses for experience and staffing of the wards."[1] Maureen was an integral member of the multidisciplinary team to experiment with a patient administration system. As part of this executive team, she facilitated the development of computer modules by the hospital staff. It was during this time, she worked with Dr. Barry Barber, another honorary member who was actively involved in IMIA and was also a founding member of the European Federation of Medical Informatics (EFMI). Both Maureen and Barry were also members of the British Computer Society (BCS) and considered a MBCS professional member.

Pictured: Barry Barber, Maureen Scholes, Marianne Tallberg. Behind Maureen and Marianne is Elly Plutyer-Wenting.

References:
1. Masic, I and Mihalas, G. (Eds.) (2014) Contributions to the history of medical informatics. Sarajevo: Avicena.
2. Scholes, M., Tallber, M. & Plutyer-Wenitng, E. (2000). *International Nursing Informatics: A history of the first forty years 1960-2000.*Swindon, UK: British Computer Society.

After attending several IMIA and EFMI meetings, Maureen noted there was a growing interest among nurses. She, therefore, with her colleagues organized and chaired the first International Conference on "The Impact of Computers on Nursing" in London in 1982. According to Scholes, Tallberg & Plutyer-Wenting[2], there were 550 participants at the conference with a variety of keynotes and papers. Afterwards, a select group of 59 delegates participated in a post conference that served as a catalyst for the formation of the initial working group. At the September 1982 IMIA board meeting, a proposal was accepted to form the Working Group 8: Nursing informatics. Maureen served as the first chair and thus was one of the first honorary members.

WHAT IS IMIA-NI?

IMIA-NI is the world body for health and biomedical informatics. The focus of IMIA-NI is to foster collaboration among nurses and others who are interested in Nursing Informatics to facilitate development in the field. We aim to share knowledge, experience and ideas with nurses and healthcare providers worldwide about the practice of Nursing Informatics and the benefits of enhanced information management.

IMIA Nursing Informatics Special Interest Group, https://www.linkedin.com/groups/6716836/

Message from the Vice-Chair Working Groups - Nick Hardiker

Dear colleagues

I am really excited to take on the role of Vice-Chair Working Groups within IMIA–NI. We are filling some very big shoes, but I am reassured that I am part of a strong leadership team, with an outstanding new Chair to guide us. I am grateful and indebted to Kaija Saranto for her work to maintain energy within the IMIA-NI Working Groups, and I am eager to build on these strong foundations.

I see Working Groups within IMIA-NI as the 'engines' of member activity – places where people with shared interests and ambitions can come together to think about and debate contemporary informatics issues that impact on nurses and nursing, and crucially to work on practical solutions, in the form of recommendations, guidance and even tangible artefacts such as white papers and journal articles. In addition to advancing the discipline, I am determined that our Working Groups also bring benefit to their members, providing peer support and a framework to help them achieve their own personal ambitions.

There are currently two very active Working Groups within IMIA-NI: NI-Health Informatics Standards, currently led by me and Margie Kennedy, who joins me on the IMIA-NI Board as the new Vice Chair Finance and Administration; and NI-Education, currently led by Paula Procter and Max Topaz. Two further Working Groups remain in place: NI-Evidence Based Practice and NI-Consumer/Client Health Informatics, although they have been less active recently.

We welcome new members to any of these groups - please consider joining and let your colleagues know that these groups exist. We also welcome new ideas for joint working – we are currently undertaking a horizon scanning exercise, in the form of a member survey, to identify together new possible areas of activity. The goal is to refresh existing Working Groups and establishing new ones that collectively serve to meet the needs of nurses working in informatics.

If you are interested in helping to drive the global nursing informatics agenda forward, please contact me.

I hope to hear from you soon

Nick Hardiker
IMIA-NI Vice Chair Working Groups
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WORKING GROUPS

- **NI-Health Informatics Standards**
Co-Chair(s): Nick Hardiker, Margie Kennedy
- **NI-Education**
Co-Chair(s): Paula Procter, Max Topaz
- **NI-Evidence Based Practice**

- **NI-Consumer/Client Health Informatics**

Upcoming Events

- **MIE 2021:** 31st Medical Informatics Europe Conference (MIE2021), May 29-31 2021. Information.
- **NI2021:** Nursing Informatics International Congress (NI2021), 23 August – 2 September 2021. https://ni2021.org/. Open to receive submissions until 30 April 2021.
- **IMIA-NI 2021 General Assembly** meeting will be held during NI2021 23 August – 2 September 2021 – details to follow.