



Global News

International Federation of Health Records Organizations

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

Message from the president:



Lorraine Nicholson, IFHRO-President
2007-2010

The 15th IFHRO Congress was held in Seoul, Korea from 28th – 30th May 2007 at the COEX Convention Centre. 750 representatives from 37 countries around the world gathered to hear topical presentations, participate in workshops and discussions and to network with their international peers. The theme of the congress was "Business Intelligence in Health Care Management".

As we gathered for the opening ceremony there was a video backdrop detailing the history of the Korean Medical Record association, which was hosting the conference.

The opening ceremony itself was uplifting and included a welcome by Mrs Ok-Nam Kim, President of the Korean Medical Records Association (KMRA), a welcome from Jean Clark, President of IFHRO, an address by Young-Ho Lee, Director General of the National Health Information Task Force at the Ministry of Health and Welfare in Korea and a superb performance of classical and modern music by three female professors from one of the Universities in Seoul.



Ok-Nam Kim, President of the Korean
Medical Records Association (KMRA)



Jean Clark, IFHRO-President 2004-2007



Dr. Ustun (left) and M. Greenberg (right)

Dr. Bedhiran Ustun, Coordinator, Classifications and Terminology at the World Health Organisation (WHO), gave one of the three keynote addresses "Health Records; Coding and Managing Knowledge in Terms and Classes". Marjorie Greenberg, Chief of the Classifications and Public Health Data Standards Staff at the National Centre for Health Statistics in the USA, spoke on "Health Information Management in the Electronic and Global Age" and the final keynote address was by Young-Ho Lee who spoke about "The National Health Information Strategy for Korea".

The three full days of the conference were packed with high quality speakers from around the world presenting papers on a wide variety of topics relevant to Health Information/Health Record Managers. The sessions were organised around the following themes: The Seoul EHR Forum Health Information Systems and Electronic Health Records, Classification systems and Clinical Coding ,

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Information Technology, Knowledge Management and Privacy, Inter-operable EHR in Korea,



Joon Hong, Past- President of the Korean Medical Records Association (KMRA)

Business Intelligence and Knowledge Management, Education of Health Record/ Information Management Practitioners, Electronic Health Records and Standardisation, Data Quality Management and Public Health Reporting. I presented two papers "Developing a Code of Practice for Records Management in the NHS in England" and "The Importance of Patient Identification in National EHR Systems". I also participated in a panel discussion on "The changing role of the Health Record/ Health Information Manager" with colleagues from Australia, Korea and the USA and I chaired a session devoted to the Education of Health Record/Information Management Practitioners.

The IFHRO European Regional Team (ERT), which I chair, also produced a poster for the poster sessions and Darley Petersen from Denmark presented this poster on behalf of the ERT.

The social programme was excellent and gave us all a real taste of Korean Culture and amply demonstrated the warmth and generosity of our Korean hosts. On Sunday 28th May we went to the Korea House, a museum of Korean life and a cultural centre, for the welcome reception.

On Monday, I was one of a number of privileged international visitors invited to a special dinner hosted by Joon-Hyun Hong and her husband. This was held at Phill Kyung Jae (meaning "respect for the elderly"), which is a historical house built in the 1400's and designated the first traditional architectural landmark by the Ministry of Culture and Information (now the Ministry of Culture and tourism) on 8th April 1987. The house was built by Lee Chon-Soo who was a great grandson of Prince Kwang-Pyeong, the fifth son of King Sejong (1397-1450) and his descendents still live there to this day. It was a very special place.

The Gala Dinner on the last night was a feast for the body and also for the senses! There was a truly

magnificent buffet dinner with an unbelievable array of food. Traditional Korean music, dancing and song followed the dinner.



The closing ceremonies on Wednesday 30th May started with a traditional Korean dance.



The ceremonies included the presentation of certificates to ten Underlying Cause of Death (UCD) Coders from Korea and two from Canada and the presentation of certificates to two Korean (UCD) trainers. Recognition awards were also presented to members of the Korean Medical Records Association (KMRA) who had been involved in organising and hosting this very successful conference.



Presentation of Certificates to Underlying Cause of Death (UCD) Coders

The final part of the closing ceremony was devoted to IFHRO. Jean Clark outlined IFHRO's achievements during her term of office and thanked the out-going Executive Committee for their hard work during this time. She then announced the **New Executive Committee** and they are as follows:

▪ **President:**

- Lorraine Nicholson, UK

▪ **President Elect:**

- Margaret Skurka, USA,

▪ **Other EC members:**

- Director Americas: Marci MacDonald,
- Director, Europe: Angelika Haendel, Germany
- Director Africa: Robert Wamalwa, Kenya
- Director, Eastern Mediterranean: Not yet filled

- Director, South East Asia: Gemala Hatta, Indonesia

- Director, Western Pacific: Keniti Vaigafa, Samoa

Jean then handed over the IFHRO gavel to me to install me as the new President of IFHRO for the period 2007 – 2010. My first duty was to present Jean with a well-deserved recognition award and to thank her for her hard work and dedication as IFHRO President. I made an acceptance address and then handed over to Mrs Ok-Nam Kim, President of KMRA to formally close the 15th Congress of the International Federation of Health Records Organisations.

Elsie Royle-Mansell, who was a founding member of IHRIM, was also a founding member of IFHRO and a real driving force behind the establishment of the Federation. During a presentation about the

history of IFHRO, Professor Phyllis Watson from Australia described her as "The Mother of the Federation". As a Briton I feel an additional weight of responsibility as President to nurture and progress the rich legacy of my predecessors. I do hope that all of you will support me in this and take a personal and professional interest in IFHRO and the very important work that it does in both the developed and the developing world. I have been a member of IFHRO since 1984, when I attended the 9th International Health Records Congress in Auckland, New Zealand and I have attended every successive congress since then. Little did I realise when I landed in Auckland in 1984 knowing absolutely no one that I would make so many fantastic friendships, which continue to this day.

Lorraine Nicholson



From left to right: Gemala Hatta (Indonesia), Robert Wamalwa (Kenya), Keniti Vaigafa, (Samoa), Angelika Händel (Germany) Margaret Skurka (USA), Lorraine Nicholson (UK), Jean Clark (USA)

Members of the Executive Committee:



Lorraine Nicholson
MIHM, MRSH, FHRIM
IFHRO-President 2007-2010

Lorraine Nicholson is currently working with the Department of Health and NHS Connecting for Health in England on the update of the national retention schedules for all types of NHS records including

health records. Previously she has been involved in the development of the NHS Code of Practice for Records Management, the Clinical Information Assurance component of³ the Information Governance Toolkit (IGT) and also the "Roadmap" to help NHS organisations improve their compliance with Information Governance Toolkit requirements (standards). She also provides independent advice on health records management to Initiate Systems (UK).

Her overseas consultancy portfolio has included work at Ministry of Health and hospital levels in Malaysia, Uganda, Thailand and the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and closer to home, the States of Guernsey and the Isle of Man

Government. Lorraine has a particular interest in health records in developing countries.

Lorraine is President of the International Federation of Health Records Organisations (IFHRO) 2007 – 2010 and Chief Executive of the Institute of Health Records & Information Management (IHRIM) which is the UK professional body for staff working in health records and clinical coding. She chairs the IFHRO European Regional Team working on harmonisation of health records/ health information management across European boundaries.

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Margaret Skurka, MS, RHIA, CCS
IFHRO President elect

Mrs. Skurka is a professor and director of Health Information Management (HIM) programs at Indiana University Northwest in Gary. In addition, she serves as an HIM and coding consultant to numerous ambulatory and other types of healthcare facilities. She served as the president of the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) in 2000.

Prior to her election as president, Ms. Skurka served AHIMA and the HIM profession in many ways.

She was a member of the association's Board of Directors, as well as its Nominating and Annual Meeting Program Committees. She also served on the Councils on Accreditation and Certification. In addition, Ms. Skurka represented AHIMA on the American Medical Association's Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation and has made presentations and speeches to HIM and physician audiences on a range of HIM topics. She is currently the AHIMA representative from the US to the International Federation of Health Records Organization (IFHRO) and is serving as president-elect from 2007 to 2010. In that capacity she is a member of the Executive Committee and is the co-chair of the WHO-FIC Joint Collaboration committee working on the project of international coder recognition. She will assume the International Presidency in 2010.

A recognized HIM leader, Skurka has served as president of the Indiana Health Information Management Association and received its distinguished member award in 1989. She is an author of books on HIM topics, including Health Information Management: Principles and Organization for Health Record Services. The 5th edition was published in 2003 by Jossey-Bass.

Ms. Skurka received her bachelor's degree in HIM from the University of Illinois at Chicago and her master's degree in Education from Purdue University's Calumet Campus in Hammond, Indiana. She was recognized in 2004 by the University of Illinois, Department of Health Information Administration as the alumnus of the year.

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Angelika Haendel, B.Sc.

Angelika Haendel is employed at the Department of Ophthalmology of the Friedrich-Alexander-University in Erlangen, Germany. Her predominant areas of responsibility there are quality management (certification according to the ISO 9001 standard) and DRG controlling. Moreover, she is responsible for the organization and coordination of the so-called "integrative care"-project between the university eye hospital, selected health insurance companies and ophthalmologists in practices. One of the main tasks of this project is the development of a web-based electronic patient record with common access to all relevant patient data. Apart from that, Angelika's daily work also includes a variety of other organizational functions, e.g. personnel management.

Angelika is part of the executive board of the German association for professionals in the field of medical documentation (DVMD, www.dvmd.de), and is also an active member of the editorial staff of the DVMD-journal.

As far as the international field of Health Information Management is concerned, Angelika not only is a member of the European Regional Team (ERT) and IFHRO Director for Europe but has also been a member of the IFHRO executive committee since 2004. One part of her IFHRO activities include the work for the editorial team of its former "IFHRO Newsletter", now called "Global News". Any feedback on this is warmly welcome !

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Dr. Gemala Hatta

Dr. Gemala Hatta is currently working as the Secretary of the Indonesian Medical Council in Jakarta and has acted as an government official to the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia for more than 30 years now.

After graduating from the School of Medical Record Administration in Sydney, Australia and attending the School of Public Administration, Mrs Hatta worked as Director of MRD at the "Harapan Kita"- Children and Maternity Hospital in Jakarta for 13 years. Today, Mrs. Hatta is also serving as a visiting lecturer for ICD and Medical Record Management at the University of Indonesia, having completed her Ph.D. in Public Health there in 2002.

Mrs. Hatta has not only developed MRM serial books but also established the first three-years-course (Indonesian bachelor degree) at the School of Medical Record Administration in Jakarta. In 1989 she founded PORMIKI, the Indonesian organization for Professionals on Medical Record and Health Information, fostering its development as their president and still serving as adviser.

On an international level, Dr. Hatta took part in two joint WHO-IFHRO projects in the early 1980's, (e.g. "Learning Packages for Medical Record Practice", Ed.: Ph. Watson, 1992), and has also been involved in general IFHRO activities prior to her appointment as IFHRO Director for Indonesia (1992) and her recent election as IFHRO Regional Director for South-East Asia.

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Marci MacDonald

Marci MacDonald is currently employed as Director Clinical Information Services/Privacy Officer at Halton Healthcare Services, which is comprised of hospitals in Oakville, Milton and Georgetown, Ontario, Canada. Originally from British Columbia, she received health information management training at the Alberta Institute of Technology in Calgary. She held various management jobs in various hospitals, including manager of records in a federal penitentiary! Marci serves and has worked with many health information management groups, namely the Utilization Managers of Ontario and the Ontario Health Information Management Association. She just completed her term as vice - chair of the Canadian Health Information Management Association, is on the Council of Education for CHIMA, and represents the Americas on the International Federation of Health Record Organizations, which involves working on a project implementing world wide coding standards with WHO. She is also involved in the Provincial Clinical Data Quality Task Force, various Ministry of Health Client Registry initiatives, as well as Chair of Data Management for Local Health Integrated Network # 6, for Ontario.

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Keneti Vaigafa



Keneti Vaigafa is currently working as the Principal Health Information Officer under the Strategic Development Planning Division, for the Ministry of Health, Apia, Samoa. Previously he has been the Medical Records Officer for the Main Referral Hospital on the island, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole Hospital (TTM) for the last five years. He was also involved and assisted with the training of the medical records and coding staff of the TTM hospital under the facilitation of overseas consultants who conducted these short term trainings.

Keneti has attended short term trainings overseas in Research Methodology, and Regional and International Forums on Health Records and Information Management. He has also provided advice and trainings on health records management and medical records practices for all medical records staff of both hospitals on the island.

He is still working collaboratively with the IFHRO and WHO-FIC in trying to establish a curriculum for Coding and Health Information Management for the Pacific Island countries.

Keneti is the President of the Pacific Health Information Group that was established at Noumea, New Caledonia in 2006. He was also nominated as the Representative for the Pacific Region in the IFHRO Executive for the year 2007-2010.

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Robert Wamalwa



Robert Wamalwa is a Kenyan, currently a lecturer in the department of Health Records and Information at the Kenya Medical Training College in Nairobi Kenya. The College offers diploma training in health professions in Kenya with a constituent college spread all over Kenya and has produced over 90% of Health Workers in Kenya since 1922. The Department of Health Records and information was established in 1978 to offer certificate in Health Records Technology. In 1990 they started offering Diploma in Health Records and Information Technology to this day.

Before this, Robert worked as an Assistant Health Records and Information Officer at a District Hospital of the Ministry of Health for about six years before being called to teach.

He is a member of the Association of Medical Records Officers of Kenya, currently on the executive committee, serves as National Treasurer for the association, is now advising on the same and a representative for the association to IFHRO, of which he is also the African Director.

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WHO-FIC/IFRHO Joint Collaboration Reaches Milestone in Seoul

The Joint Collaboration between IFHRO and the Education Committee of the World Health Organization, Family of International Classifications Network, reached a milestone in late May, during the 15th Congress meeting of IFHRO in Seoul, Korea.

The JC has been working for the past three years to standardize coder training and to award certificates to those individuals who have completed ICD training that meets standard core knowledge clusters. The JC first developed core curricula, which are recommended as the basis for educational programs in morbidity and mortality coding using ICD-10. The JC then subsequently developed assessments for coding training materials, based on the core curricula, and also developed a process to evaluate coding educators/trainers. The first process developed was an assessment of currently practicing mortality coders, which involved completing a self-assessment and successfully completing a coding examination. A score of 80% or better was required on the 50 case exams.

12 coders were recognized in Seoul as having successfully completed the coding examination. 10 were from Korea and 2 from Canada. They were presented certificates at the closing session of the conference. The 10 from Korea were present, and the two from Canada were recognized on the screen in a picture that had been forwarded. Of the 10 Koreans, 4 were also awarded Trainer Certificates, indicating they had successfully completed a second, more challenging exam.



They were recognized then as possessing the necessary skills and abilities to serve as trainers in ICD-10 coding.

The project has been in a pilot phase up to this point and now will be fine-tuned by the JC going forward. The JC will also work on the process for the evaluation of the skills of new coders who are participating in a training course in coding. The new coders will then sit for the exam at the appropriate time. Work is also commencing on the process for morbidity coders. Web-based training materials for ICD-10 coding are also in the process of development. There is much work left to do!

Good health outcomes depend on the availability and use of good health information. The work of the JC supports attainment of the vision of the WHO-Health for All. Through improvements in the availability, quality and comparability of coded health information, better decisions relating to the provision of healthcare and allocation of health resources will be facilitated.

The project is co-chaired by Margaret Skurka of the US, representing IFHRO, and Sue Walker of Australia, representing the Education Committee of the WHO-FIC Network. Marjorie Greenberg of the US, the Head of the WHO Collaborating Center for the US, serves in an ex-officio capacity to the group.



The Era of HIM Larger – Louder – Faster

4th Quarter 2007



Bryon D. Pickard, MBA, RHIA

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2007 President – American Health
Information Management
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In 2007, implementation of electronic health record (EHR) systems and other health information technologies (IT), initiatives by government and private industry, and ensuing implications for improving health care delivery in the United States continue to accelerate. The call for improving patient safety and quality, health care operations and communications, and clinical decision support is boosting overall investments and spending on health information technology. This in turn is creating significant demand in advanced health information management job roles. Clearly, health IT and electronic health records offer new innovations and workflows to enhance support for clinician and patient actions, processes, and tools, making it easier for all stakeholders to do the right thing, in the right way, at the right time. In other words, putting health information into the hands of those who need it, when they need it,

where they need it and in the amounts necessary for making better health care decisions.

American Health Information Community (AHIC)

The American Health Information Community (AHIC) has announced formal plans to transition to a public-private partnership entity in order to construct a sustainable independent body for achieving an interoperable nationwide health information infrastructure. The AHIC is the federal government advisory body charged with advising the Department of Health and Human Services on accelerating the development and adoption of health IT.

The primary purpose of the new successor organization will be to carry forward this work, build momentum, and continue the attention on health IT solutions which support the health and well-being of all US citizens. This includes an ongoing focus in such areas as electronic health records, chronic care, consumer empowerment, bio-surveillance, confidentiality, privacy and security, quality, and personalized health-care.

Certification Commission for Health Information Technology (CCHIT)

2007 also marked the beginning of certification of inpatient electronic health record (EHR) products by the Certification Commission for Health Information Technology. CCHIT, a recognized private, non-profit certification body, was created in an effort to promote a national standard and accelerate the adoption of interoperable health IT throughout the United States. CCHIT first launched the certification of ambulatory EHR systems in 2006 to provide

assurance that EHR products meet accepted standards-based criteria.

Personal Health Record (PHR)

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) states that an essential transformation requirement toward implementing an interoperable nationwide health information network must include emphasis toward preventive care and interventions to improve population health. Health IT solutions providing personal health records (PHRs) will enable consumers to become better stewards of their own health information, which can ultimately lead to better care and improved health.

In 2007, Microsoft, Google, Dossia, and several other companies and employer groups announced major initiatives for providing web-based tools for the creation and maintenance of PHR systems. This trend coincides with the US government's strategic framework, expectations and sponsored initiatives directed toward widespread adoption of PHRs. AHIMA provides an informative website; <http://www.myphr.com> as a free public service with step-by-step guides and many useful tips for creating and managing a personal health record.

ICD-10 CMS Implementation Assessment and Training

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the primary health care policy-making agency for the US government, awarded a contract to AHIMA to provide consultation services to develop ICD-10 integrated project and implementation plans, and assessment of training needs for CMS. Although no specific

timeframes for ICD-10 implementation have been established, this is seen as a significant preliminary step in the direction toward upgrading essential medical classification system code standards in the US.

AHIMA Annual Convention and Other Activities

The American Health Information Management Association held its largest convention and exhibit ever

in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, during the month of October. A real extent of the convention and many of the individual educational sessions centered on the health IT landscape and future transformation of health care. Plans are already underway for the 80th AHIMA Convention & Exhibit which will be held in Seattle, Washington, October 11 – 16, 2008.

AHIMA and the Canadian Health Information Management Association (CHIMA) recognized the

week of November 4 – 10, 2007 as Health Information and Technology Week. This is an annual event to recognize and celebrate the important work of health information Management professionals throughout North America. Visit the link <http://www.ahima.org/hitweek> to see some of the ideas and special activities used to educate other health care professionals and consumers about the significance of the people and practices behind HIM.

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<http://www.ahima.org>

Medical Documentation in Korea



Joon H. Hong
past president of KMRA
member of WHO-FIC-IFHRO
Joint Collaboration

The Korean Medical Record Association (KMRA) was founded in 1966 and currently has about 2000 members. All of the certified Medical Record Professionals (MRPs) belong to this professional association.

The usual tasks carried out in Medical Record Departments (MRDs) are as follows:

- After patient treatment and before being archived, a patient record usually passes through this department and is checked here for its completeness (i.e. for presence of all diagnostic findings, the discharge letter and all signatures). It is thereby irrelevant whether the patient record exists in paper form or in electronic form.
- Capture and evaluation of certain data for statistical analyses in the field of clinical studies and hospital administration.
- Analyses and evaluations (e.g. performance analyses like number of cases, length of stay, occupancy figures, surgery statistics, etc.)
- Tumour-registration

- Supporting the development of electronic patient records together with medical doctors and computer experts.
- Coding (of medical data)
- Integration of patient care data into the database and retrieval by research topic of appropriate cases or research data, as required by medical doctors or other authorized researchers.

The Diagnosis Related Groups (DRGs) are being introduced in Korea in the course of a 5years-project since 2002. Since September 2003, hospitals have been able to bring their services to account according to DRG on a voluntary basis. In a first instance, this will apply to seven diagnostic groups: lens surgery, tonsillectomy respectively adenoidectomy, anal surgery, inguinal hernia, appendectomy, benign diseases of the uterus and Cesarean section deliveries. More than 2000 mostly smaller hospitals take part in this voluntary project. The encoding of the diagnoses is usually done by Medical Record Professionals, whereas physicians themselves do not code.

The predominant number of Medical Record Professionals are working in Medical Record Departments. Furthermore, some MRPs work in clinical departments of university hospitals as research assistants or at health insurance companies, and a few serve as secretaries or as IT-administrators.

The necessary education for becoming Medical Record Professional or Medical Information Professional is offered by 50 training schools, so-called "Colleges", in the course of a 2-years- or 3-years-

training, or by 16 universities in the course of a 4-years-bachelor's degree program ("B.Sc."). If they pass the national certificate exam, the graduates receive a nationally acknowledged certificate. Since the establishment of this national exam in 1985, more than 10.000 graduates have received this certificate.

There has not been installed a subsequent master's degree-program so far. Therefore, interested students choose master's programs in the field of public health, hospital management, health information management, etc. instead.

Pilot tests for the International Certificate for ICD-10 Mortality Coders and Trainers, hosted by the WHO-FIC-IFHRO Joint Collaboration, were implemented twice last year in Korea, and 57 members of KMRA passed the exam, including 18 members who got the certificates for both coder and trainer.

We would like to thank Mrs. Joon Hong for her friendly support and the provision of this information .

Calendar of Events:

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|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ➤ World Health Day | April , 7 th , 2008 | |
| ➤ 13th EPD symposium NVMA
Dutch National Meeting | June, 12 th 2008 | Amsterdam / The Netherlands |
| ➤ IFHRO Sea conference | Oct. 2008 | Bali / Indonesia (planned) |
| ➤ Ahima Convention & Exhibit:
Ahima National Meeting | Oct. 11 – 16, 2008 | Seattle / USA |
| ➤ DVMD (German National Meeting) | 2009 | Ludwigshafen/Heidelberg (Germany) |
| ➤ IFHRO Congress | 2010 | Milan / Italy |



Latest News:

We are very happy to announce that the English version of the website for the Japan Society of Medical Record Administration (JSMRA) was launched on March 14, 2008.

We hope you will take this opportunity to learn more about our activities.

The URL is as follows: <http://www.jsmra.com/>

Best regards

Yukiko YOKOBORI
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Editorial Board:

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