MEDINFO 2010
CAPE TOWN SOUTH AFRICA

Daily News

Partnerships for Effective eHealth Solutions

International Medical Informatics Association

13th World Congress on Medical and Health Informatics | Cape Town International Convention Centre   **15 September 2010 | Issue 3**

Magnificent Medinfo

Medinfo2010 has been a magnificent success!

"I'm thrilled," said congress and local organising committee chair, Lyn Hanmer. "I'm thrilled that people have come, I'm thrilled that people are enjoying it - and we have an enormously strong programme, and I'm delighted that people are here to experience it."

"I think it's been very successful," said Peter Murray, IMIA's executive director, who noted that there had been concerns about the possible effects of the global financial crisis.

"A lot of conferences have been affected, and the decision to have the event here was made before the crisis hit. But - certainly from what I've seen, and talking to people over the last couple of days - I think everybody agrees that Medinfo2010 has been extremely successful."

Asked why he thinks this has been so - despite the challenges - Murray said that it was "probably because of the importance of the subject to so many countries - the importance of exploring how information technology can support the delivery of health care.

"Although the exact issues may be different because of different health care systems, different levels of technology, different approaches to funding, we all share similar challenges."

He said that the theme of the conference revolved around partnerships and sharing, "and I think that helped to focus a lot of the discussion we've had - and we deliberately tried to structure activities around exploring this both here and through the social programme."

Murray believes that South Africa's successful World Cup may have helped to reassure some delegates. "The England fans were saying exactly the same thing - they'd had concerns about coming to South Africa, but their view of the country was totally turned on its head by the experiences they had when they got here."

Hanmer said that the organisers had worked "very hard to get the number of delegates that we've had. I'm very pleased with them."

She said that she was also excited "by the very, very strong support we've had from our colleagues outside of Africa."

Asked what she'd like to see happening in medical informatics on this continent over the next five years,

The baton passes on - outgoing SAHIA President Vuma Magaqua (left) with Conference Chair Lyn Hanmer and the new SAHIA President, Johann Odendaal.

she said that her vision started with the success of Medinfo2010.

"I'd like to see more recognition for the work that's being done in Africa - because there's some stunning stuff being done," she said.

"I'd also like to see more people being trained and educated in health informatics. We have many existing, isolated pockets of excellence, and I'd like to see them being increased, and connected, so that the impact can be greater."

And, according to SAHIA's incoming president, Johan Odendaal, Medinfo2010 will help to ensure that Hanmer's vision will succeed because "SAHIA will now be able to drive bursaries and sponsorships for young students to qualify in this field - the numbers that have come out of this conference will make this possible."

Medinfo2010 - a great success indeed.

Dedicated teams ensured that you received your copy of the Medinfo2010 Daily News fresh from the printers every morning.

S(c)ene@**Medinfo2010.org**

Nada Lavrac - Slovenia

An extremely well organised conference, in a beautiful and functional conference centre.

The congress covers a very wide range of medical informatics topics. Being such a large congress I was unable to attend all the presentations that would be of interest for my own research, but those that I attended were professionally presented.

My first visit to South Africa and I am impressed with the beauty of Cape Town. I am planning to attend the next congress.

Weigia Zing and Clémont Turbelia – France

Great congress, giving full view of medical informatics.

The presenters were excellent, giving a great scope of many interesting topics. It was very helpful to discover the different domains that we do not know of.

Our visit was too short – but it was a great snapshot – we will be back!

Would love to go to the next congress!

Tedesse Wuhib, USA

Well organised conference in a great country and setting. I enjoyed the plenary sessions and salute the rigorous process of choosing presenters and topics. More effort needed to get more participants from Africa. I also believe bottom-up, local solutions should be encouraged.

South Africa is a great country – I love it and I loved the youth choir! I will attend the next congress.

Please give us bottomless coffee!

Ramesh Krishnamisthy, Switzerland

The congress is remarkable in attracting major players from many continents. Public/private partnerships are well presented.

The conference topics addressed urgent needs to strengthen health informatics systems. The opening ceremony was good!

South Africa is a beautiful country with beautiful people!

I will attend the next congress.

Malesela Phillemon Letlalo – South Africa

The congress offered current and future information technology solutions for the health industry.

The topics were very fascinating and practical and were well presented.

I will go to the next congress – and many more to come!

José Luis Hernández – Cuba

Excellent congress, well organised with a warm atmosphere.

Good topics and good presenters that broadened my vision.

South Africa is the rainbow – the future of humankind.

I hope to attend the next congress.

Alisha Myers – USA

Excellent congress - very informative and well organised.

It is great that there is a focus on health informatics in low resource settings – and globally. I appreciated the information about innovations and the exchanging of ideas.

Cape Town is awesome! Next conference? Perhaps.

Ju Han Kim – South Korea

Great gathering of all medinfo friends over the world with wonderful flavours of South Africa.

Perfectly organised congress -with more than 30 Koreans attending.

Add Table Mountain to the list of new seven wonders of the world!

Order your photograph CD now!

A cd with some 500 congress photographs will be on order at registration @ R100 per copy.
You can also get your copy outside the expo in Hall 4, or call Anthea on +27 (0) 82 953 8656.

Xprompt speaks your language

Xprompt multilingual assistance, a brilliant application for iPhone and iPad, is the perfect tool for facilitating communication between the physician and patient who do not speak one another's language.

Developed by an international team of experts, headed by Urs Albrecht of the Hanover Medical School in Germany and team member of the PLR Institute for Medical Informatics, Xprompt has 22 languages options to choose from, including two sign languages.

It helps the physician, nurse or care giver to obtain essential information about the patient, including his or her medical history and care routine.

With the press of a button the physician can give the patient important messages in his or her own language, such as 'I am going to write an ECG', 'I am going to take your temperature' or 'I am going to take some blood.'

Medinfo2010 delegates who have not yet seen

this useful tool, should just find Prof Dr Herbert Matthies of the PLR Institute for Medical Informatics in the convention centre and he will be glad to give a quick demonstration. Or send him an e-mail on Herbert.Matthies@plri.de.

The Xprompt also has a specialist application, Dental Explorer 3D, which was developed in conjunction with the Quintessence Publishing Company of Berlin.

Xprompt can be life-changing – for the doctor and for the patient. Get it at your nearest Apple store.

Help change biomedical research in Oregon

Delegates interested in becoming more involved in biomedical informatics and research should consider joining the Biomedical Informatics Education Program at the Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU).

The programme integrates two distinct disciplines – bioinformatics and medical informatics – into biomedical informatics, a rapidly growing and relatively new field, involving multiple disciplines. People who have chosen this career include researchers, librarians, computer scientists, managers, writers, engineers, physicians, nurses and science majors – all of whom are involved in making the computer a useful tool for medical professionals.

Biomedical Informatics is a graduate-level program at OHSU and offers students a range of options from introductory training, through more extensive courses of study that result in a graduate certificate, master's degree or PhD.

Graduates of the program have gone on to become chief information officers, software architects, researchers, consultants, professors, solution designers and many more.

For more information visit www.ohsu.edu and www.amia.org.

Using Informatics and imaging to address a difficult South African challenge

Keynote Speaker Tania Douglas, Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Cape Town, and Director of the MRC/UCT Medical Imaging Research Unit, spoke in her keynote address yesterday about how image processing is being used in the South African context - and, in particular, how it's being used in the study of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.

This is significant, she said, because South Africa - and particularly the Western Cape and Northern Cape provinces of this country - present the world's highest rates of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD), and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS).

In one Western Cape community, she said, between 68,0 and 89,2 in every 1 000 people exhibited FAS, while in another, in the Northern Cape, between 56,2 and 79,7 per 1 000 exhibited the syndrome. This compares to 0,97 per thousand in the developed world.

Children with fetal exposure, she said, exhibit a range of structural and functional abnormalities which can impair normal functioning, and it's important to identify both FAS and FASD because "if one has a method of accurately diagnosing these disorders, one can undertake studies to understand how alcohol affects the

Creating diagnostic tools for effective interventions - Professor Tania Douglas.

fetus, and one can develop protocols for intervention. This can include targeted interventions to mothers, to educate them, and to prevent them from having more children with fetal alcohol exposure, and also assisting children with developmental problems."

Methods of measurement of facial anomalies have progressed from the rather intrusive use of rulers, tape measures, and compasses, to today's advanced 3D cameras - and, said Douglas, the MRC/UCT Medical Imaging Research Unit's aim is to create a diagnostic tool that will employ the new technology to effectively identify people with FADS so that effective interventions can be put in place.

Donors assist more than 40 African delegates to attend Medinfo2010

Back from left - Retha de la Harpe, IT Programme Co-ordinator at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology who will co-ordinate the innovators programme in Southern Africa, Mwihaki Kimura Muraguri of the Rockefeller Foundation and sponsored delegate Joshua Komba of the Permiho Mission Hospital in Tanzania.

Front from left - Karl Brown, Associate Director of the Rockefeller Foundation, Conference Chair Lyn Hanmer and Chaitali Sinha, Programme Officer for the IDRC.

Two of Medinfo2010's major donors - the Rockefeller Foundation and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) - have directly and indirectly helped to bring more than 40 delegates from Africa to this year's conference.

"We wanted to find a way to support participation by people in Africa and other low income countries who would not otherwise have been able to join in," said the associate director of the Rockefeller Foundation, Karl Brown.

Since his Foundation and the IDRC have similar ideas, he said, they decided to co-fund SAHIA to support selected delegates.

"Then we thought of extending that idea into two related programmes - a mentorship programme through which the selected delegates would receive linkages and training from more experienced practitioners (like help in writing papers) - and a longer-term follow-up programme."

The Rockefeller Foundation and the IDRC recognised

that people whose access to resources is limited often produce interesting innovations in medical informatics - and that, he said, was the root of the idea for the eHealth Innovators Awards.

"Originally we wanted to try and identify a number of innovators in advance of the conference, and then offer a small cash prize so that they could continue with their work," he said.

But, said Chaitali Sinha, the IDRC's programme officer, "we both have an allergy to one-time things - so we decided to bring the innovators to Medinfo2010 as a short-term celebration, and, in the longer term, to offer them additional practical help - like helping with getting papers accepted for the next conference."

And after the conference, she said, "there will be a call for anybody else who has innovative eHealth ideas - and they will be helped to follow this model of mentorship and learning."

The details of the eHealth Innovation Awards will be announced at IMIA's closing plenary this evening.

All the way from Germany – on crutches!

Shortly before leaving from Germany to South Africa to attend Medinfo2010, Stephan Schultz's right leg was put in braces.

"In my home town we extensively use bicycles and an accident landed me on crutches. However, this did not deter me from attending the conference and I have not been disappointed.

"I find the Cape Town International Convention Centre a very good venue. The presenters and topics were well chosen and of good quality.

"For me, personally, there were too many parallel sessions and I believe the congress could be one day longer - and Cape Town is in very good shape!"

It's good to be in Cape Town - albeit a bit on the limp - Stephan Schultz.

Medinfo exhibition – have you spoken to everyone?

If you have not yet spoken to each and every exhibitor at Medinfo2010, today is your last chance.

Visit booth 30 and speak to the Faranani IT Services representative about their patient administration and billing system. The key elements of the system include account, patient and visitor registrations, visit based ICO-10 diagnostics, inpatient and outpatient management, chronic disease management, patient file tracking and electronic claims submission.

Speak to a Meditech representative at booths 12 and 13 to find out more about how Meditech helps health care organisations turn goals into reality. As a healthcare information system provider Meditech delivers more than a product or a service – it helps you to fulfill your mission and joins you on a journey to destination excellence.

For information on a modern, web-based hospital information management system – from Africa, for Africa – go to booth 14 and find out more about the Trifour Health offering. TriMed is aimed at hospitals, primary healthcare clinics, multi-disciplinary medical practices, casualty facilities and day clinics for private, industrial / mining and public facilities.

At booth 5 you can hear more about Health Informatics Building Blocks (HiBBs) – focused informatics training modules, developed by experts in cooperation with AMIA. Try out the prototype training modules on offer.

Also find out about AMIA's 34th Annual Symposium on Biomedical and Health Informatics, scheduled to take place in Washington DC from 13 to 17 November 2010, as well as NI 2012, the 11th International Congress on Nursing Informatics in Montreal, Canada in June of that year. This is the official meeting of the IMIA Special Interest Group on Nursing Informatics.

Trifour Health offers a modern, web-based hospital information management system.

ACI journal – subscribe now!

Have you subscribed to the official eJournal of IMIA and the Association of Medical Directors of Information Systems (AMDIS)?

ACI – or Applied Clinical Informatics – publishes approximately 100 peer-reviewed articles per year and aims to establish a platform that allows sharing knowledge between clinical medicine and health IT specialists, as well as bridging gaps between visionary design and successful and pragmatic deployment.

It is the third Schattauer journal with biomedical and health informatics, complementing Methods of Information in Medicine and the Yearbook of Medical Informatics.

The core editorial subject matters of ACI include clinical information systems, administrative and management systems, eHealth systems and information technology development. For orders and further information visit www.aci-journal.org or send an e-mail to andrea.muehl@schattauer.de.

Upcoming international events

HL7 24th Annual Plenary and Working Group Meeting
Cambridge, MA
3 – 8 October 2010
www.HL7.org

HIMSS Asia '10
Daegu, South Korea
26 – 28 October 2010
www.himssasiapac.org/congress10/index.aspx

eChallenges e-2010
Warsaw, Poland
27 – 29 October 2010
www.echallenges.org/e2010

HL7 UK Technical Committee & RIMBAA Joint Working Meeting
London, England
4 November 2010
www.HL7.org.uk

AMIA 2010
Washington DC, USA
13 – 17 November 2010
www.symposium2010.amia.org

HL7 January Working Group Meeting
Sydney, Australia
9 – 14 January 2011
www.HL7.org.au

MIE 2011 – Medical Informatics Europe 2011 Conference and Exhibition
Oslo, Norway
28 – 31 August 2011
www.mie2011.org

NI 2012 – 11th International Congress on Nursing Informatics
Montreal, Canada
23 – 27 June 2012
www.ni2012.org

Experience the first heart transplant

Groote Schuur Hospital, Cape Town - where the first human heart transplant was performed.

Medinfo2010 delegates who plan to stay on in Cape Town for a few days after the congress, should not miss out on a visit to the Heart of Cape Town Museum.

Here you can experience the drama of the ultimate operation and see the heart which gave the world new hope.

On 3 December 1967 the world's first human to human heart transplant was performed at Cape Town's renowned Groote Schuur Hospital.

The man who performed this feat of pioneering surgery and led the world into an era of sophisticated and medical advances was Christiaan Barnard, the surgeon who dared.

Today the Heart of Cape Town Museum honours the skill and wisdom of the heart transplant team, as well as the courage of the recipient, Louis Washkansky, the generosity of the donor's father, Edward Darvall and the memory of the young donor herself, Denise Darvall.

A two-hour guided tour of the museum provides details of the extraordinary chain of events leading up to the operation.

Visits to the museum are conducted on the basis of pre-arranged tours at 09:00, 11:00, 13:00, 15:00 and 17:00.

Transport from your hotel to the museum and back again, can be arranged on request.

For more information pick up a brochure in exhibition hall 4, phone 021 404 1967 or visit www.heartofcapetown.co.za.

Medinfo 2013 – see you in Copenhagen!

Medinfo 2013 will take place from 8 to 12 September at the Bella Center in wonderful Copenhagen.

The topic? – Conducting medical informatics by converging technologies, conveying sciences and connecting people.

Medinfo 2013 will be hosted by the Danish Society of Medical Informatics (DSMI). DSMI President Pia Elberg says Denmark is one of the front runners internationally in making information and communication technologies facilitate cooperation and improve quality across organisational and institutional borders.

"With strong support from various stakeholders in Denmark and the surrounding Scandinavian countries, the Danish Society of Medical Informatics looks forward to bring together a broad range of people with a common interest in healthcare to share knowledge and experiences within health, medical and bio-informatics."

Pre-congress workshops and tutorials, as well as the IMIA board meeting, will take place on Sunday, 8 September, with workshops and tutorials, the IMIA General Assembly and the opening on Monday, 9 September. The actual congress will take place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Delegates can look forward to a wonderful trip to Copenhagen. A number of international magazines have named Copenhagen one of the world's leading cities. In 2008, lifestyle magazine, Monocle, ranked Copenhagen as the world's best city to live in, saying that it is simply 'designed for living.'

Medinfo 2013 will take place in wonderful Copenhagen.

Copenhagen is a compact city that is easy to navigate, and the city can and should be experienced on foot! But Copenhagen also boasts one of the world's most efficient public transport systems, which not only makes it easy to travel quickly through the city centre, but also means that in just ten minutes you can escape from the city to experience forests, beaches and fresh air.

Autumn in Denmark, which lasts from September to November, can be quite windy, but the forests and parks change colour from green to yellow and orange in this period, which is truly a lovely sight.

For more information visit www.medinfo2013.dk or www.visitcopenhagen.com.