



# International Medical Informatics Association: Nursing Informatics Special Interest Group

WEB PAGE: <https://imiamedinfo.org/wp/sig-ni-nursing-informatics/>

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## 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

## Honorary Member: Joan Edgecumbe by Diane Skiba



Joan Edgecumbe (1942-2019) started her career in nursing and midwifery at Women's Hospital in Melbourne. For years, she managed this tertiary hospital's neonatal unit. She received a Florence Nightingale scholarship to complete her Graduate Diploma in Nursing Administration. Joan then progressed to administration where she was involved in hospital-wide projects in quality management, research and computer technology. She recognized the rise of computers in health care and

devoted her career to ensure nurses could use technologies to provide better nursing, midwifery, and health care. To this end, in 1980 she took a Diploma in Information Technology course that spearheaded her health care informatics work.

In 1985, Joan and her colleague, Robyn Harvey called a meeting of nurses and it was at this meeting that the Nursing Computer Group Victoria (NCGV) was established. As this group grew, it initiated a relationship with IMIA NI. As an organization, Joan, along with Evelyn Hovenga submitted a bid to host the 1991 4th international conference on Nursing use of Computers and Information Science in Melbourne. It was after this event, the NCGV changed their name to Nursing Informatics Australia Inc. Joan served as Chair of this newly established national group. As a means of communication, Joan created the Informatics in Healthcare Australia Journal (IHAJ). The first issue of IHAJ was published in April 1992 and was indexed in the Cumulative Index to Nursing and Applied Health Literature (CINAHL). This journal was eventually transformed by Evelyn Hovenga into the Journal of Health Informatics.


Joan's work in offering national informatics meetings led to the creation of Health Informatics Society of Australia (HISA) and HISA NI (Nursing Informatics). Joan joined HISA's secretariat as its Executive Officer in 1995. Some highlights of her HISA career was a joint meeting held with the Asia-Pacific Association of Medical Informatics (APAMI); HISA's successful bid to host Medinfo 2007 and she also supported Enrico Coiera to establish the Australasian College of Health Informatics (ACHI) in 2001.

Joan was recognized with numerous honors including as a member of IMIA's Senior Officers Club, honorary membership of IMIA NI and honorary life member of HISA and HISA NI. The Australian Institute of Digital Health offers The Joan Edgecumbe Continuing Professional Development Scholarship (<https://digitalhealth.org.au/awards/joan/>) in her name.

This draws on the 2020 [IMIA Yearbook of Medical Informatics article Remembering - Joan Edgecumbe \(1942-2019\)](#) by Hovenga, E. with contributions from Ronald, J., Westbrooke, L and Skiba, D.J.

## 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.

Follow us on 

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/6716836/>

**Please share this newsletter  
with your networks and  
national nursing informatics  
organizations.**

## Register for the Free Global IMIA NI webinar in September

Do you want to attend the first of a series of global webinars? This event on “*Workforce empowerment for future challenges*” is being hosted by the Slovenian Nursing Informatics Interest Group in collaboration with IMIA NI.



### IMIA NI Global Webinar

Hosted by:

SLOVENIAN NURSING INFORMATICS INTEREST GROUP

This free two-hour webinar will be offered at two different times:

- 29 September 2022, 20:00, Central European Time (CET), OR
- 30 September 2022, 06:30, Central European Time (CET)

[Click here to convert to your time zone](#)

**NB:** To attend this free two-hour webinar please register your interest by Wednesday, 21 September 2022 by completing the form using this link:

<https://forms.gle/dSFbZkR8cXGDN1Qb7>

You will be asked which of the two date and time options you will be attending (see above).

The link to the webinar will be sent to you a day before the first event, i.e. by Thursday, 28 September. For more detail about the content of the webinar please read the previous newsletter.

## Update from New Zealand Nursing and Midwifery Informatics Group

Michelle Honey reports, from 1 July this year a major reform of health services in New Zealand took effect, moving from twenty District Health Boards and other support entities, to a new organisation, Te Whatu Ora / Health New Zealand. This central organisation will manage all health services, including hospital and specialist services, and primary and community care. It will take over the planning and commissioning of services with the aim of reducing duplication and allow for national planning. A new Te Aka Whai Ora / Māori Health Authority will work in partnership with Te Whatu Ora to improve Māori health outcomes and embed the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi to achieve equitable health outcomes. The Health Informatics New Zealand Nursing and Midwifery Informatics Group (HiNZ-NMI) will monitor carefully to ensure recent advancements in nursing and midwifery informatics and a new recognition of the benefits of informatics and digital health are not lost during the transition. Te Whatu Ora recognises that investment in “data and digital” is key to improved health outcomes.



In terms of nursing education there is also change. There are currently 18 schools of nursing in New Zealand offering a Nursing Council-approved Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Health Science (Nursing) programme to become a registered nurse. While four of these programmes are offered by universities, the others are provided by Technical Institutes or Polytechnics. The Technical Institutes or Polytechnic sector has been amalgamated under a new organization, Te Pūkenga, and plan to provide a new national, unified curriculum. The locally produced “[Guidelines: Informatics for nurses entering practice](#)” has been used to guide the curriculum development and HiNZ-NMI have been asked to review the proposed curriculum with a nursing informatics lens. We see this as positive for nursing informatics and recognition of the expertise that HiNZ-NMI can provide.

## Upcoming Events and News

- **2022 IMIA NI General Assembly** Either Monday September 12 at 2000 OR Tuesday September 13 at 0630 CEST — [Central European Summer Time](#) (try this meeting planner site to convert to your local time).
- **Global IMIA NI webinar** 29 September 20:00 hours OR 30 September 06:30 CET (see above)
- **MedInfo 2023** is being held in Sydney, Australia 8 - 12 July. Accepting submissions now until 18 November.

Please let us know if you have any news or events to share