



International Medical Informatics Association

International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA)
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Sent by email

Dear Sirs

SUBJECT: Safeguards for Health Domains, World Health Organization Proposals on Principles and Governance

Subsequent to our letter of January 2014, I write further on the issue of appropriate safeguards for the health-related Internet domain names. On behalf of the International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA), an independent not-for-profit association and NGO, I am writing to express our support for the call made by the World Health Organization, and published on its website on 15 May 2014 (<http://www.who.int/ehealth/programmes/governance/en/>).

IMIA supports the World Health Organization in its call on the ICANN Board to require the adoption without restriction, by any third party potentially eligible as operator of the .health gTLD, of the safeguards developed by the GAC as well as the governing principles outlined by the World Health Organization, and that together they should govern a future .health gTLD. In common with the World Health Organization, IMIA views it as imperative that the management and operation of health-related generic top-level domains (gTLDs), including .health, be consistent with public health objectives in order to serve the public, civil society, governments and industry on a global scale.

The International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA) is the world body for health and biomedical informatics. As an "association of associations", IMIA acts as a global bridging organization for its constituent Member Societies (60 nationally-based health and biomedical informatics associations around the world) and through its network of more than 50 Academic and Corporate Industrial Members. IMIA draws on the expertise of more

than 80,000 individuals within its member societies and organizations, who contribute their academic and scientific expertise directly or through their activities within IMIA's Special Interest Groups and Working Groups, which form the core of IMIA's scientific activity. IMIA provides leadership and expertise to the multidisciplinary, health focused community and to policy makers, to enable the transformation of healthcare in accord with the world-wide vision of improving the health of the world population.

IMIA has operated for nearly 50 years, is an independent, not-for-profit international scientific organization, and is an NGO in official relations with the World Health Organization, and a Liaison A category organization in cooperation with ISO. IMIA plays a major global role in the application of information science and technology in the fields of healthcare and research in medical, health and bio-informatics. The goals and objectives of the association include:

- promoting informatics in health care and research in health, bio and medical informatics;
- advancing and nurturing international cooperation;
- stimulating research, development and routine application;
- moving informatics from theory into practice in a full range of health delivery settings; and
- furthering the dissemination and exchange of knowledge, information and technology.

Health information, data, products and services have an important and unique status on the Internet. It is imperative that operators of health domains manage them for and in the public interest.

We therefore reiterate our call on the ICANN Board to delay the allocation of .health and other health-related names until adequate safeguards, and baseline conditions for their implementation, are in place.

Signed on behalf of IMIA



Dr Peter J. Murray
CEO, IMIA

02 June, 2014

Geneva, Switzerland

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A non-governmental organization (NGO) in official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO)
An Affiliate Member of the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP)