



@jenbicfin

## IMIA Recommendations on education in BMHI – the way ahead

Dr Jen Bichel-Findlay, IMIA VP Special Affairs, IMIA  
Recommendations Taskforce Coordinator

Prof Kaija Saranto, PhD, IMIA Recommendations Taskforce, EFMI  
WG Edu





## Recommendations of the International Medical Informatics Association on Education in Health

2000

Recommendations of the International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA) on Education in Biomedical and Health Informatics: Second Revision

International  
Working  
Group on  
Health a

Meth

Jen Bichel-Findlay<sup>a,\*</sup>, Sabine Koch<sup>b</sup>, John Mantas<sup>c</sup>, Shabbir S. Abdul<sup>d</sup>, Najeeb Al-Shorbaji<sup>e</sup>, Elske Ammenwerth<sup>f</sup>, Analia Baum<sup>g</sup>, Elizabeth M. Borycki<sup>h</sup>, George Demiris<sup>i</sup>, Arie Hasman<sup>j</sup>, William Hersch<sup>k</sup>, Evelyn Hovenga<sup>l</sup>, Ursula H. Huebner<sup>m</sup>, Elaine S. Huesing<sup>n</sup>, Andre Kushniruk<sup>o</sup>, Kye Hwa Lee<sup>p</sup>, Christoph U Lehmann<sup>q</sup>, Svein-Ivar Lillehaug<sup>r</sup>, Heimar F Marin<sup>s</sup>, Michael Marschollek<sup>t</sup>, Fernando Martin-Sanchez<sup>u</sup>, Mark Merolli<sup>v</sup>, Aurore Nishimwe<sup>w</sup>, Kaija Saranto<sup>x</sup>, Danielle Sent<sup>j</sup>, Aviv Shachak<sup>y</sup>, Jai Ganesh Udayasankaran<sup>z</sup>, Martin C. Were<sup>aa</sup>, Graham Wright<sup>ab</sup>

International Journal of Medical Informatics, 170, 1-16

IMIA White Paper

## Recommendations of the International Medical Informatics Association on Education in Health Informatics

2010

2023

Hasman; Reinhold Haux;  
Fernando Martin-Sanchez;  
(eForce)

Volume, 18, 1-16



## Why are recommendations needed?

- Support BMHL curricula development
- Identify BMHL certification skills/competencies
- Provide BMHL program quality accreditation tool
- Motivate establishment and further development of BMHL programs





## How were the recommendations developed?

- 29 interested and enthusiastic volunteers
- representing various countries from six continents
- participated in several meetings throughout 2021-2022, assigned to smaller working groups
- engaged in robust discussion and debate
- 3 taskforce members acted as an editing committee



## What are the major differences?

- All information contemporized
- Knowledge domains
- Levels of BMHI roles
- Topics rather than learning outcomes
- Suggested BMHI domains percentage within various programs



## Knowledge domains

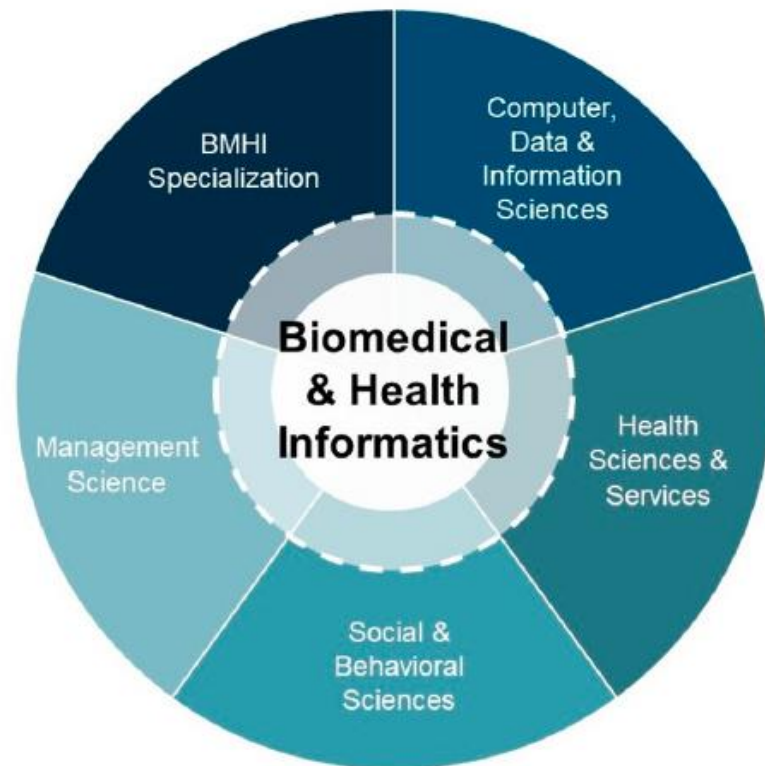
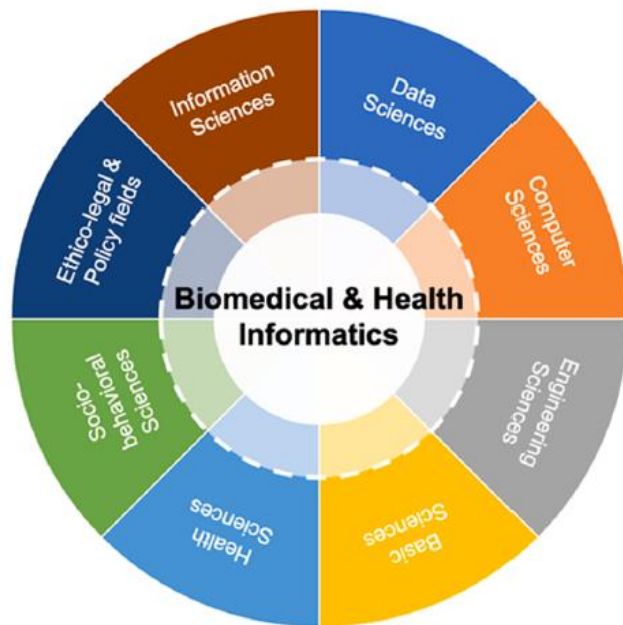
---

- Previously 4 – Core, Health, IT/Computer, Optional modules
- Acknowledgement of contributing intersecting disciplines
- Compared BMHI competency frameworks – A, C, SA, EU, UK, US
- Now 6 – BMHI Core Principles / Health Sciences & Services / Computer, Data and Information Science / Social & Behavioural Sciences / Management Science / BMHI Specialization





## Knowledge Domains





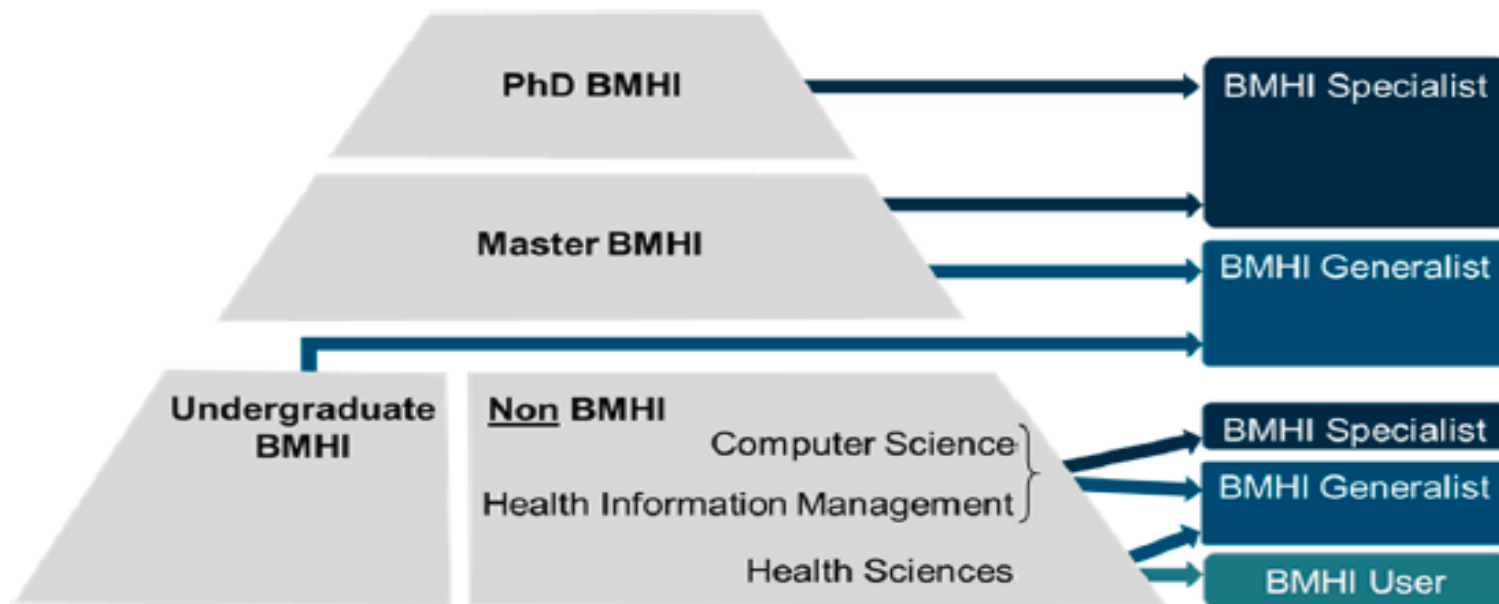
## Levels of BMHI roles

- Previously 2 – IT User, BMHI Specialist
- Acknowledgement of pervasiveness of ICT in health sector
- BMHI much more interdisciplinary
- Now 3 – BMHI User / BMHI generalist / BMHI Specialist
- Generalist:
  - non-BMHI learners delivering healthcare or contributing to healthcare services
  - BMHI learners of UG and some PG programs





## Levels of BMHI roles





## Topics

- Previously 48 learning outcomes
- Now 81 topics

BMHI Knowledge Domains and Corresponding Topics.

1 BHMI CORE PRINCIPLES	2 HEALTH SCIENCES AND SERVICES
Clinical decision support Data governance Education support through informatics methods and tools Evaluation and assessment of information systems Health informatics standards and interoperability Health record structure, design, and analysis principles History of BMHI Information literacy Information processing in healthcare Literature retrieval and analysis Nomenclatures, vocabularies, terminologies, ontologies, and taxonomies Regional networking and shared care Research methods and paradigms Telemedicine and telehealth	Biomedicine Care delivery models Clinical decision making Determinants of health Epidemiology Evidence informed practice Health policies and regulatory frameworks Health promotion Health sector roles Health terminology Healthcare service organization structure and function Human anatomy and physiology Participatory health Patient empowerment Patient safety Person-centred care Public health
3 COMPUTER, DATA, AND INFORMATION SCIENCE	4 SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
Artificial intelligence Blockchain technology Cloud and edge computing Data and information analysis Data and information attributes Data and information visualization Design and development principles Information science theories Information structure and design Internet of Things Network architectures and topologies Robotics System design System lifecycle System security Wireless technology, sensor-based systems	Digital literacy and the digital divide Ethics, Security and Privacy Health literacy Indigenous data sovereignty principles Medical law Problem solving Sociotechnical aspects Stakeholder education Stakeholder engagement User experience
5 MANAGEMENT SCIENCE	6 BMHI SPECIALIZATION
Business alignment Change management Health economics Information culture Leadership Interdisciplinary team management Process reengineering Project management Quality management Resource management Risk management System governance Value management and benefits realization	Biomedical imaging and signal processing Biomedical modelling and simulation Chemoinformatics Clinical bioinformatics and computational biology Clinical research informatics Global health informatics Nanoinformatics Participatory health informatics Personal health informatics Public health informatics Translational bioinformatics



@ksaranto

## IMIA Recommendations on education in BMHI – examples of the implementation

---

Prof Kaija Saranto, PhD, IMIA Recommendations Taskforce, EFMI  
WG Edu

Dr Jen Bichel-Findlay, IMIA VP Special Affairs, IMIA  
Recommendations Taskforce Coordinator





## Suggested BMHL domain percentages

- Different perspectives for BMHL education due to educational variety
- BMHL courses - part of biomedical and health science programs U / G
- BMHL courses – part of HIM programs G / S
- BMHL courses – part of informatics/computer science programs G / S
- Dedicated BMHL programs – bachelor's, master's, doctoral
- Continuing education



## Suggested BMHI domain percentages

Suggested percentage for the six BMHI domains within BMHI bachelor's programs.

Program	Medical informatics, biomedical informatics, health informatics	
Program type	Undergraduate BMHI	
Program length	At least 3-years full-time study	
Knowledge/Skill Area		Percentage
1	BMHI core principles	15
2	Health sciences and services	30
3	Computer, data, and information science	30
4	Social and behavioral sciences	10
5	Management science	10
6	BMHI Specialization	5
Σ		100

Suggested percentage for the six BMHI domains within BMHI master's programs.

Program	Medical informatics, biomedical informatics, health informatics	
Program type	Postgraduate	
Program length	Either 1-year OR 2-years full-time study	
Knowledge/Skill Area		Percentage
1	BMHI core principles	40
2	Health sciences and services	15
3	Computer, data, and information science	15
4	Social and behavioral sciences	5
5	Management science	5
6	BMHI Specialization	20
Σ		100



## Health and Human Services Informatics master degree program at UEF - Accredited by IMIA

- Only master degree program of its kind in Finland since 2000
- The aim is to produce professionals and researchers in information management for the needs of health and social care
- Based on IMIA Recommendations on Education in Biomedical and Health Informatics from the very beginning
- Two-year master degree program (full time), 120 ECTS points
  - BA degree or corresponding studies as a background
  - Personal study plan for each student
  - Supplementary studies max 60 ECTS points
  - Multifaceted teaching with web studies
  - Electronic assessment and feedback system





## Curriculum of HHSI

- Depending on the student's previous education, some students must complete complementary basic qualitative or quantitative methods courses.
- The purpose of the methods courses is to expand and deepen students' methodological competencies.
- The aim of these courses is to prepare the student for completion of the thesis.

Master in Health and Human Services Informatics	Advanced course in statistical methods	Master's Thesis	2nd Semester
	Evaluation research		
	Evidence Based Social and Health Care		
	Research Methods in Health and Human Services Informatics		
	Information Retrieval		
	Theory Building in Health and Human Services Informatics	Knowledge Management in Health and Human Services Informatics	1st Semester
	Introduction to Health and Human Services Management		
	Data Modelling and Analytics		
	Data Protection and Data Security		
	Legislation in Health and Human Services	Practical Training	
	Basics of Health and Human Services Informatics	Cost accounting and budgeting in public organisations	
	Introduction to Academic Studies; Individual Study Plan	Efficient Social and Health Services	
		Research and Development of Health and Human Services Informatics	
	Compulsory 25 ECTS of basic computer science courses		
	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	



# The six BMHI domains within HHSI Master's program

Master's programmes		Medical informatics, biomedical informatics, health informatics	Health and Human Services Informatics
Programme type		Postgraduate	Postgraduate
Programme length		Either 1-year OR 2-years full-time study	2-years full-time study
Knowledge/Skill Area		%	%
1	BMHI core principles	40	30
2	Health sciences and services	15	10
3	Computer, data, and information science	15	20
4	Social and behavioural sciences	5	5
5	Management science	5	5
6	BMHI Specialization	20	30
Σ		100	100



## IMIA Accreditation

---

- Accreditation service to establish worldwide benchmarks for BMHI education
- In addition to traditional local endorsement procedures [may not have enough BMHI expertise]
- Ensures BMHI core competencies covered using these recommendations
- Accreditation service recently reviewed and updated + virtual model
- IMIA Accreditation Committee continues to seek additional qualified experienced BMHI volunteers – letter of interest + CV submitted to CEO via [imia@imia-services.org](mailto:imia@imia-services.org)



## Questions

---

Dr Jen Bichel-Findlay

[jen.bichel-findlay@uts.edu.au](mailto:jen.bichel-findlay@uts.edu.au)

Professor Kaija Saranto

[kaija.saranto@uefi.fi](mailto:kaija.saranto@uefi.fi)