



ifhro

International Federation of Health Records Organizations
The link to health records/information management around the world.

What/Who is ifhro?

The International Federation of Health Records Organizations (*ifhro*) supports national associations and health record professionals to implement and improve health records and the systems, which support them. IFHRO was established in 1968 as a forum to bring together national organizations committed to improvement in the use of health records in their countries. The founding organizations recognized the need for an international organization to serve as a forum for the exchange of information relating to health records and information technology.

The purposes of *ifhro* are to:

- promote the development and use of health records/information in all countries
- advance the development and use of international health records/information standards
- provide for the exchange of information on health records/information education requirements and training programs
- provide opportunities for education and communication between persons working in the field of health records/information in all countries
- promote the use of technology and the electronic health record

ifhro is a non-profit organization affiliated with the **World Health Organization** (WHO) as a non-governmental organization (NGO). The Federation sends representatives to WHO meetings and works closely with WHO on specific projects of particular concern or interest to WHO in the field of health records and information systems. Currently *ifhro* is working on a joint project with WHO (the WHO-FIC-IFHRO Joint Collaboration Project) to certify morbidity and mortality coders across the world.

ifhro also has a partnership with the **International Medical Informatics Association** (IMIA), which provides opportunities for interested professionals to share information through newsletters and to participate in meetings dedicated to healthcare informatics. The partnership also provides an opportunity for *ifhro* and IMIA to work together to promote health informatics and health records throughout the world.

ifhro activities include:

- International Health Records Congress: Every three years the

Congress is hosted by one of the national member organizations.

This is an opportunity to bring together member countries, other interested countries and individuals in an international forum to participate in educational sessions and networking opportunities.

The 16th International Congress will be held in Milan, Italy in 2010.

- Web site: The web site provides information about health records activities in member countries as well as interesting and informative articles on the latest health information standards and technology and the IFHRO Education Modules, which can be downloaded free from the website.
- Education programs: Educational programs and consultations may be provided to countries upon request. Health records educational tools are also available for the training of health records professionals, specially the educational modules located on the web site and the Joint Collaboration Project page.
- International Committees, Task Groups and Projects: members have the opportunity to serve on international committees, task groups or projects, which focus on health information and health records.

ifhro Leadership:

The leadership of *ifhro* is comprised of the **Executive Committee**, which is made up of elected officials, the President, the President-Elect, and six Regional Directors representing the Americas, Europe, Africa, Eastern Mediterranean, South East Asia and the Western Pacific.

The Executive Committee reports to the **General Assembly**, which is made up of representatives from the national member countries.

The **National Member** organizations make up the members of the General Assembly, which meets every three years at the time of the International Congress.

Regional Organization:

In order to improve communication and participation of the national member countries, *ifhro* is organized into regions consistent with the WHO regions. Coordination of *ifhro* activities in each Region is the responsibility of each Regional Director.

How can you become involved?

- National Membership is reserved for national organizations in each country, which are representative of the national activities within the field of health records/information. The purposes of the organization must be compatible with those of *ifhro*. Only national members are entitled to hold office or vote
- Associate Membership is for individuals from any country who wish to support *ifhro* and get involved in its activities.
- Affiliate Membership provides for international organisations, which have an alliance or partnership with *ifhro*.
- Corporate Membership enables companies working in the field of health records or related fields to join *ifhro*.
- Honorary Membership is a special award to individuals who have earned exceptional merit in furthering the goals and interests of the International Federation

Initiatives:

The organization has five (5) primary initiatives related to health records/information management. They are: the Electronic Health Record, Data Quality, Education, Privacy and Confidentiality and Needs of Developing Countries. Strategic goals are set by the Executive Committee to further the advancement of the 5 initiatives.

An opportunity you cannot afford to miss:

The world is getting smaller every day and health information no longer has national boundaries.

Join *ifhro* today and become part of an exciting global network of individuals and countries dedicated to improving health care through health information. For more information, please visit our website at www.ifhro.org.