



# 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

## Diane Skiba and Lucy Westbrooke Profiling Honorary Member: Robyn Carr



Robyn Carr, RGON was the first New Zealand representative to IMIA NI SIG. She served as Secretary/Treasurer (2000-2003), Vice chair (2003-2006) and Chair (2006-2009). Robyn followed in her mother's footsteps and became a nurse. The majority of her clinical nursing career was in Operating Rooms and it was during this time she began using a stand-alone PC which ignited an interest in technology supporting practice. After undertaking study in health management she won a scholarship to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> IMIA-NI conference in Melbourne, Australia in 1991. Robyn recognised that computers could benefit clinicians in a wider variety of settings.

In 1992, after a successful clinical management career she moved to the Information Services Department. She led a team supporting, advocating for and providing a channel for communication for all staff and in particular clinicians, who were beginning to use computer technology in their workplace and clinical practice.

As part of her pioneering involvement with computers and technology in health care in New Zealand, she was instrumental in the formation of the first informatics professional organization in New Zealand, Nursing Informatics New Zealand (NINZ), and later the NZ Health Informatics Foundation (NZHIF). These two organisations merged to form Health Informatics New Zealand (HiNZ) in 2000, the society member of IMIA. Robyn was one of five nurses who organized the first nursing informatics conference in New Zealand in 1991. She was involved with all national subsequent nursing and health informatics events over the next two decades.

Robyn retired from her leadership role in the Information Services Department in 2003 and then continued as the Director of I.P.C. Associates from 2003-2013. Concurrently Robyn started serving as a System Operator for the Swinfen Telemedicine Trust, a charitable service that works to connect health care professionals around the world to life saving knowledge at no charge. Robyn's role as the System Operator is to monitor the website for requests for clinical advice and allocate an appropriate clinician to assist. Five System Operators are geographically spread throughout the world allowing this charity to provide clinical advice 24 x 7 x 365 in all hemispheres around the world ([www.swinfentelemed.org](http://www.swinfentelemed.org)).

Over the years Robyn has contributed to numerous informatics projects, initiatives and publications, including as editor of the books *Nursing and Informatics for the 21st Century*, both the first and second editions. Robyn has been an inspiration and mentor to many people, particularly nurses in New Zealand. To further foster nursing informatics in New Zealand she established the Robyn Carr Cup for Excellence in Nursing Informatics that encourages and recognizes nurses in the informatics field who are advancing the goals and ongoing achievements of nursing informatics. It is to her credit that even after her retirement, she has continued to be involved in health informatics in New Zealand and internationally.

## 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.



IMIA Nursing Informatics  
Special Interest Group,  
<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/6716836/>

## Update from the Slovenian Nursing Informatics Interest Group From - Boštjan Žvanut and Ema Dornik

Established in 2001, the Slovenian *Nursing Informatics Interest Group* (slo. "Sekcija za informatiko v zdravstveni negi - SIZN") is a Special Interest Group within the Slovenian Medical Informatics Association (slo. "Slovensko društvo za medicinsko informatiko - SDMI"), and a member of IMIA-NI and EFMI-NI. The Slovenian *Nursing Informatics Interest Group* is an active group of experts from health and social care institutions, academia and industry who share a common interest in the development of nursing informatics.



Figure 1: Photos of Slovenian Nursing Informatics Interest Group events

In 2021, we celebrated our 20th anniversary. The interest group was founded by the first president, our honorary member Asst. Prof. Vesna Prijatelj, RN, PhD, and other founding members. The second president for the period 2017-2020 was Asst. Prof. Ema Dornik, RN, PhD, who is now (2021-2024) vice-president while Assoc. Prof. Boštjan Žvanut, PhD is the current president.

The Slovenian interest group is currently most active in supporting networking and education of our members. Every year members meet at the traditional annual meetings, and every two years there is a scientific congress where our interest group has a full-day section. In 2021, the nursing informatics section consisted of 16 presentations that brought together findings from academia and clinical practice with the experiences of ICT solution providers. One of these presentations that was very important to us was the plenary lecture "The importance of Nursing informatics- history and the future" by Dr. Ann Kristin Rotegård, IMIA-NI Chair. These annual meetings are becoming more visible to the Slovenian audience and their importance is recognized by different institutions. For example, since 2019, the Slovenian Nurses Association evaluates active or passive participation in our meetings with license points required for obtaining or renewing our RN licenses.

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of our work, we organized six "Slovenian Interest Group Evening Meetings" where members and the interested public were connected via a video conferencing system. Each meeting included a short, half-hour presentation followed by a discussion of the topic and current issues facing SIZN. In 2021, we were also invited by the Ministry of Health to participate in workshops on the development of the Slovenian Health Information System.

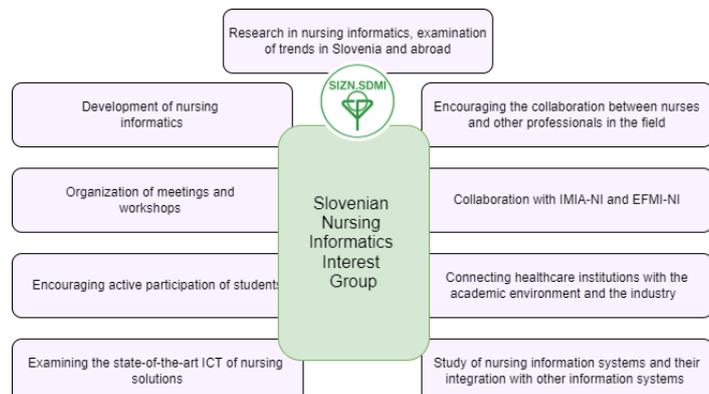


Figure 2: Work areas of Slovenian Nursing Informatics Interest Group

This marks the beginning of a new period for our group, in which we will have the opportunity to participate more in such initiatives. You can follow us on our website <https://sizn.sdmi.si/> and FB page SIZN.SDMI, where our events and achievements will be published regularly.

### Upcoming Events and News

- New Zealand's 2022 informatics conference "**Digital Health Connect**" event in late March includes eHealth Nursing & Midwifery Workshop on 23 March.
- **American Nursing Informatics Association (ANIA) 2022 Conference:** 27 -29 April.
- Medical Informatics Europe/European Federation for Medical Informatics (EFMI) is holding the **32nd Medical Informatics Europe Conference (MIE2022)** in Nice, France, May 27th-30th.
- **MedInfo 2023** is being held in Sydney, Australia 7-12 July.

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