

# International HIM: IFHIMA Congress 2013

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By Sarah Sheber

The International Federation of Health Information Management Associations (IFHIMA) will convene the Seventeenth International Health Information Management Congress in 2013, from May 13-15 at the Palais des congrès de Montréal, Québec, Canada. Hosted in partnership with the Canadian Health Information Management Association, this event is an opportunity for health information management (HIM) professionals from around the world to meet and discuss current and developing issues in the HIM field on an international scale.

IFHIMA was formed in 1968 with the intention of promoting and developing best practices for HIM use throughout the world. The IFHIMA international congress makes this goal a consistent reality through cooperative collaboration and information sharing among the organization's member countries and individual representatives. Taking place in a new location every three years, recent congresses have met in Milan, Italy and Seoul, South Korea. This gathering marks IFHIMA's first return to North America since 2004, when the congress was held in Washington, DC.

The 2013 congress will focus on the overall theme of "Health Information Management: Making a World of Difference," and will feature special speakers, educational sessions, workshops, and networking opportunities. Program events provide delegates with the opportunity to engage with fellow HIM professionals in an open forum, creating a unique and collaborative learning environment built through shared information and complimentary experiences.

Delegates wishing to get further involved with the event are encouraged to develop and submit abstracts for presentation. IFHIMA's call for abstracts is open for submissions until September 28. All abstracts undergo a peer review process to evaluate content for originality, merit, and relevancy. Abstracts must be based upon a topic from the list found on the IFHIMA Congress Web site, which is divided into the following categories:

- Electronic health information/record
- Emerging roles and HIM workforce transformation
- Data quality, privacy, confidentiality, and access
- Developing country challenges, achievements, and opportunities

In addition to the three-day congress, IFHIMA will also host a pre-congress Education Day on May 11 developed specifically for the interests of HIM education professionals. All delegates working as educators in the HIM field are invited to attend. IFHIMA is accepting abstracts for this special additional event until September 28. Education Day content will focus on quality improvement, according to the IFHIMA Congress Web site, with topics such as:

- Quality assurance in health information education
- Academic integrity and accountability
- New or emerging topics in health information education
- Examples of learning activities, online courses, student projects
- Curriculum models in other countries for health information education

Approximately 1,200 delegates are expected to attend the IFHIMA Congress in 2013, representing 19 different countries. In the spirit of forging global connections and fostering best practices from a global perspective, IFHIMA has created the developing country delegate sponsorship (DCDS) program. The DCDS offers companies the opportunity to sponsor the attendance of delegates from developing countries. Sponsorship includes full three-day registration, a ticket to evening social events, and a cash stipend.

Delegates are encouraged to take advantage of early bird registration for the event, which offers specified attendees a discounted rate until December 15.

For event and registration information, visit the IFHIMA Congress Web site, [www.ifhimacongress2013.com](http://www.ifhimacongress2013.com).

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