

## **PROF. DR. K. C. LUN**

**PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL  
INFORMATICS ASSOCIATION (IMIA), VICE-DEAN, SCHOOL  
OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL  
UNIVERSITY, SINGAPORE**



Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen!

Good morning to you.

I am extremely honoured to be invited to address this very distinguished gathering at the official opening of UMIT – the University for Health Informatics and Technology Tyrol. On behalf of my colleagues from the International Medical Informatics Association – or in short IMIA – I extend our warmest greetings and congratulations on this historical occasion.

IMIA is an international organisation, which was established in 1967 with the mission to actively promote the teaching, research and practise of medical informatics around the world. Today with health and medicine becoming increasingly data and information intensive disciplines there is obviously a great demand all over the world for education and skills training in medical informatics. In this regard IMIA is indeed very glad that there is now a university, the first in Europe and possibly the first in the world, to focus on education and research in medical informatics and its related disciplines.

This university therefore is a testimony of the great vision of the people who have planned and contributed to its establishment. And it is also a great vision of the Austrian government in support of science and technology to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Now the born between IMIA and UMIT is extremely strong, because two of our senior IMIA colleagues Prof. Reinhold Haux and Prof. Jan van Bommel are closely associated with this university. Prof. Haux, as you know, is the first rector of UMIT and we are very proud that one of our IMIA colleagues is the first rector. He is also an IMIA vice president who oversees our IMIA information and publication services, including our very popular Yearbook of Medical Informatics. Prof. van Bommel, who chairs the UMIT supervisory board, is our IMIA immediate past president and I am very privileged to be his successor.

Although already we are very pleased to admit UMIT as an IMIA academic institutional member, we are also working together to jointly offer a medical informatics award of excellence to a medical informatics professional who has made a significant and lasting contribution to our field. I suppose you will hear more about this joint award later on. The recipient will be invited to give a plenary presentation at MedInfo 2004, which is our next world congress of medical informatics to be held in San Francisco in 2004. These activities are just the beginning of what we see will be very strong and sustain links between our two organisations. And I am very convinced that these links will grow in the common years. IMIA is happy to be associated with the academic activities of UMIT.

We are confident that the university will be a great success and will be an excellent model for medical informatics education for other countries to follow. Once again my congratulations.

Thank you.