DATE: March 28, 2011
TO: Fellows of the American College of Medical Informatics
FROM: Joyce A. Mitchell, Ph.D.
Past President and Chair, Elections and Nominations Committee
SUBJECT: Call for Nominations for Fellows, 2011

One of the most important responsibilities of members of the American College of Medical Informatics is the election of new fellows. The objectives of membership in ACMI are to recognize expertise in Biomedical Informatics; to designate to others those who are experts in Biomedical Informatics; to assemble a community to promote Biomedical Informatics; to participate on projects that advance the field; and to cultivate leadership for growth of the field. For ACMI to achieve these objectives, it must have among its members the recognized leaders in biomedical informatics.

The Elections and Nominations Committee now solicits nominations for the ACMI Class of 2011. Candidates for regular fellowship must reside in North America (United States, Canada, or Mexico). Candidates from other countries are eligible for election as International Fellows. International Fellows must meet the same criteria as Fellows, and in addition must have had an impact on the field that extends to North America. We ask, therefore, that you indicate on the nomination form if you are proposing a nominee for election as an International Fellow. A Bylaws change approved in 2010 granted International Fellows the same rights, privileges and responsibilities as regular Fellows.

Consideration should be given to those individuals who have demonstrated major contributions in Biomedical Informatics; have achieved national recognition in the field; and who are committed to advancing the charitable, scientific, literary, and educational purposes of the College. The College defines Biomedical Informatics broadly. The phrase medical should not be interpreted as restricted to physicians, but rather all aspects of health care and biomedicine: allied health, the biological sciences; clinical practice; education; health care facilities; health services research; librarianship; nursing; public health; etc. Informatics is also used broadly to include such foundational areas as: algorithms; artificial intelligence; cognitive science; communications; computer science; database methods; engineering; evaluation and assessment imaging and signal analysis; hardware design; simulation and modeling; standards development; systems and organizations; and visualization.

Candidates should be at least mid-career, those who received their terminal degrees or their equivalents at least five years ago, and who have AT LEAST TEN YEARS of documented, sustained contributions to biomedical informatics. The primary criterion for election to the College should be their contribution to our field. Contributions may be of several different forms, with the most important ones being defined below. Objective documentation of accomplishments is required (not just subjective letters of recommendation), such as peer-reviewed literature-based bibliographies, or publicly accessible meeting notes documenting leadership on a national-level committees. To be considered for nomination and election, an individual should have made significant contributions in at least one, and preferably more than one, of the following areas:

1. Publication/promulgation of seminal ideas that have influenced the field in a significant way on a national basis.
2. Excellence in research in biomedical informatics as evidenced by numerous grants, received publication in refereed national journals, and subsequent use of research findings by others. The influence of the work on outside institutions beyond the individual's home institution is critical.
3. The development of important technical innovations, including standards and policies that have been widely used in the field.
Production of useful and influential applications. Again, the influence of the work on institutions other than the individual's own organization is considered critical. The development of a good application, which is implemented or used only in a single institution, would not generally be sufficient to qualify an individual for election to fellowship.

Excellence in education and training of informaticians as evidenced by the number of former students who have become productive contributors to the field.

Excellence in administration, management, or policy development that has led to increased visibility and funding for the field, or to the development of significant initiatives or applications.

The following contributions should be considered when evaluating an individual's total contributions, but will not, in and of themselves, be considered sufficient reason for nomination or election:

1. Significant contributions to the professional organizations in the field, e.g., AMIA and its predecessors, the spring and fall meetings, etc.
2. Promotion of biomedical informatics within professional organizations in other fields.

For each candidate whom you wish to nominate, please fill out the enclosed nomination form and attach a copy of the candidate’s 2-4 page concise curriculum vitae (an NIH-style biosketch would be appropriate for this purpose). These materials will be used by the Elections and Nominations Committee to verify that the candidate meets the criteria for membership in ACMI and will be included in the ballot packet for review by voting members of the College. For fellows who do not know a candidate well, this material may be critical in determining how their vote is cast. Please be thoughtful and take the time to insure that your presentation of the candidate's accomplishments will properly reflect the nominee's professional contributions. Note that this year we have asked for a 140-word-or-less summary of “The nominee’s Accomplishments and Reason for Nomination”. This summary will be used as the ballot synopsis.

Nomination forms must be received by the AMIA office before 5:00 PM Eastern Time, Friday May 20, 2011.

All nominations must be seconded by another Fellow, who is not a co-worker of the candidate, but who is able to affirm the significance of the candidate's contributions to Biomedical Informatics. Include the requested information about the Seconder on the nomination form. The Seconder may e-mail his or her concurrence to Jeff Williamson at the ACMI office. Although we will only send ballots to voting fellows of ACMI, all fellows (voting, nonvoting, senior, and inactive) are permitted to nominate or second candidates for fellowship.

We have attached a copy of the Nomination form to this email in Microsoft Word format. Additional copies of the instructions may be downloaded at:

http://www.amia.org/college/fellowship.asp

Instructions for nomination to Fellowship:

1. Complete the Nomination Form
2. Obtain a Second for your nomination from another Fellow of ACMI and list him/her on the Nomination Form. Ask the Second to send e-mail to Jeff Williamson at the ACMI offices confirming their concurrence.
3. Append current Curriculum Vitae for the Nominee. We suggest you request a 2-4 page NIH style biosketch from the nominee.
4. Deadline – Nominations must be received by the AMIA office before Close of Business Day [5:00 PM Eastern Time], Friday May 20, 2011.

Send nomination materials to: Elections and Nominations Committee, ACMI, 4915 St. Elmo Avenue, Suite 401 Bethesda, MD 20814. [E-mail to Jeff@amia.org]

A key factor in the success of our field is recognition and commendation of those who truly do exceptional work that differentiates our efforts. I strongly encourage you to submit nominations and thank you in advance for your contributions.