

yEFMI WG - Working Group of Young professionals and scientist within EFMI

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yEFMI WG (Working Group of Young professionals and scientist within EFMI) is devoted to young professionals and leaders in the field of medical and health informatics, addressing specific issues of education, research, and professional development. The yEFMI journey symbolically started in 2020 from the area close to the largest and most beautiful sanctuary of ancient Athens, Acropolis during [International Conference on Informatics, Management and Technology in Healthcare \(ICIMTH2020\)](#).

Early to mid-career researchers and professionals are expected to be the bearers of development and innovation, which is especially emphasized in digital era of rapid developments of information technologies, and at the same time increasing challenges in maintaining health and developing high quality health services. However, many challenges are an integral part of modern society constituting potential barriers to knowledge and career development, naming just a few: *limited financial support for innovations, intense competitions for research positions, disbalance between different regions and countries from the perspective of the potential for research and innovation, increasingly expectation of conducting research, necessity for creating a balance between science and life* (especially for female researchers). Also, there are challenges specifically linked to the field of medical and health informatics (MI/HI), such as: *different approaches in professional recognition and professionalization of the field, the rise of accreditation in training programs, diversity of national and European population health challenges and threats, heterogeneity in structures and organisation of healthcare systems and institutions, etc.*

With the aim to support young generations in the field and to enhance their future contributions in digital health community, yEFMI defines the following key objectives and strategic goals:

- To attract young MI/HI professionals to be actively involved in EFMI working groups;
- To exchange of experience in high quality research and promote potentials for gaining financial support for innovations;
- To promote exchange of standards and best practices, making balance between different regions and countries from the perspective of the potentials for education, research and innovation,
- To disseminate results and experiences across EFMI members.

In order to attract young MI/HI professionals and create sustainable grounds for cooperation with experienced colleagues who invested their carriers and huge efforts to establish EFMI, the following on-going actions are initiated:

- i. All the *Young Scientists in the field of Medical and Health Informatics* across the Globe are invited to help EFMI to develop an innovative program to support the young scientists and professionals, by expressing their interests and expectations from yEFMI and completing the survey available at following link.
- ii. All the *National Societies in the field of Medical and Health Informatics* are invited to contribute to yEFMI activities and help in aligning joint activities involving young researchers and professionals. The survey is open for interested representatives of the national societies and available at following link.
- iii. Leaders and co-leaders of all *Working Groups that are established within EFMI* are invited to help in creating joint activities with yEFMI supporting active involvement of young generations in EFMI's actions and the Working group activities, as well as in designing and implementing modern training and educational opportunities. The survey is open and available at following link.

yEFMI plans intensive activities in 2021 aimed at spreading the network and increasing visibility, organisation of workshops presenting survey analysis and designed actions with National societies and other EFMI Working groups; as well as active support in organisation of international conferences and establishing links with other similar associations.

yEFMI members have a unique opportunity to give a voice to young scientists around Europe in the field of digital healthcare! Let's together make the yEFMI community to grow!

yEFMI chair

Ivana Ognjanović, Associate Professor