



INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL INTERPRETERS ASSOCIATION

Leading the advancement of professional interpreters

IMIA Approves Extension of Complimentary Membership for International Members from Six Months to Year

Washington, DC, November 19, 2012: The IMIA approved the extension of complimentary membership to international members from six months to one year, to give new international members enough time to familiarize themselves with the organization. The IMIA recognizes that international members have greater difficulties connecting to our services, and although our website can be seen in different languages, all our outgoing communications and many of our meetings are in English.

IMIA Italy Representative Maurizio Di Fresco stated, "The IMIA has demonstrated once again how important the first "I" in its association name is: International! By giving interpreters who live outside of the U.S. the possibility to become members for one year for free, the Board of Directors proved its awareness that we must redouble our efforts worldwide to promote the advancement of professional medical interpreters as the best practice for equitable language access to health care for linguistically diverse patients. This decision will allow us to expand international membership, and I hope that, during this free year, many of the new international members will realize the importance of belonging to the IMIA and will choose to remain with the Association".

The IMIA has International Chapters in fourteen countries: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Spain, South Africa, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. The IMIA International initiative is expanding rapidly due to the growing global need for medical interpreters. Since going international at the Critical Link Event in Sydney, Australia in 2007, the IMIA has had international symposiums, having held symposiums in Canada, Italy, and Spain. As of this date the IMIA international symposiums are set for Brazil in 2013 and Japan in 2014.

Despite such accelerated growth, the IMIA continues to seek international representatives. The IMIA is governed by an Executive Board and consists in structure of State and International Representatives who run IMIA activities in their respective states and countries. Please visit our website to see the activities of those regional and national representatives with respect to language access and medical interpreting.

The IMIA does not yet have a country representative in each country but we are growing rapidly with your involvement! To learn more about the IMIA International efforts and IMIA International Representatives, please visit: <http://www.imiaweb.org/countries/default.asp>.

About the International Medical Interpreters Association:

The International Medical Interpreters Association is a US-based international organization committed to the advancement of professional medical interpreters as the best practice to equitable language access to health care for linguistically diverse patients. Founded in 1986, with over 2,000 members, most providing interpreting services in over 70 languages, the IMIA is the oldest and largest medical interpreter association in the country. While representing medical interpreters as the experts in medical interpreting, membership to the IMIA is open to those interested in medical interpreting and language access. We currently have a division of providers, corporate members, and trainers. Policy makers, health care administrators, and others interested in medical interpreting are also welcome to join us as associate members. The IMIA is recognized as the standard-setting organization for the profession of medical interpreters.