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PREFACE

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MEDINFO 74 has been a challenge to the authors not only as the First World Conference on Medical Informatics sponsored by the International Federation for Information Processing, but as a means of conveying to the Congress participants and those who wish to consult the Proceeding afterwards, the communications that were presented.

The Conference was designed to be both specific and educational and intended not only for specialists but for all those involved in health care. To carry this out eighteen themes were chosen and are presented under the appropriate subject headings. Because of further discussion at the Conference addenda were allowed to authors, and also some additional papers, which were presented, have been inserted as addenda to the Preprints. It was, in fact, possible through the co-operation of the Session Chairmen and authors to have the Preprints completed before the meeting in August 1974.

We hope the readers will accept the compromises that are inevitable in having both the Preprints and the final volume established in format long before the Conference took place. We think the addenda bring the meeting up to date and that this will be one of the main authoritative statements about medical computing and medical informatics that exists in the world today.

The authors are very grateful to Miss Mollie Gordon and Mrs. Megan Bird who acted as secretaries both during the editing and at the meeting. Dr. Stellan Bengtsson has also given up a lot of his time to help us, over and above his role as a member of the Publications Committee, which relieved us of all the contract negotiations with the printers and publishers. We are grateful too to Mr. E. Fredriksson of the North-Holland Publishing Company whose co-operation and enthusiasm made the gigantic task much more realisable. We leave it to the readers to decide whether we have achieved our objectives.

December 1974

J. ANDERSON

J. M. FORSYTHE