

Mikko Korpela receives an African lifetime award

The Health Informatics in Africa Association HELINA has nominated Dr Mikko Korpela as its first Honorary Fellow, in recognition of his long term work in promoting research and development in Health Informatics in Africa. The position of Honorary Fellow was also transferred posthumously to Dr Sedick Isaacs of South Africa, who was imprisoned at Robben Island together with Nelson Mandela before becoming a leading Health Informatics activist at national, continental and global levels.

HELINA is the regional organisation for Africa of the international top scientific society in Health Informatics IMIA (International Medical Informatics Association). Its members are respective national societies in African countries. IMIA's member society in Finland is the Finnish Social and Health Informatics Association FinnSHIA/STTY which belongs to EFMI, the regional organisation in Europe similar to HELINA.

Dr Korpela organised the first HELINA conference in 1993 together with his Nigerian partners, under the auspices of IMIA. He has participated in all but one of the conferences, been member of the Scientific Programme Committees, and supported the activities of the HELINA association which was established later. The award was handed over to him on 7 October 2013 in Eldoret, Kenya, in the 8th HELINA conference, the Scientific Programme Committee of which Dr Korpela chaired. The new scientific journal of HELINA, the Journal of Health Informatics in Africa (JHIA), was also

launched in the conference. Dr Korpela was invited to be the Editor of the journal for two years.

Dr Korpela has the title of Docent in the University of Finland where he works as Research Director in the Daisy research group of the School of Computing. He also works part of the year in South Africa as Adjunct Professor in the Cape Peninsula University of Technology in Cape Town and as Honorary Professor in Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth.

Further information:

Korpela M. Two decades of HELINA conferences: A historical review of health informatics in Africa. IMIA Yearbook of Medical Informatics 2013: 197-205.

<http://www.helina-online.org>

Mikko Korpela
Tutkimusjohtaja, dosentti, tkt-laitos, Itä-Suomen yliopisto, PL 1627, 70211 Kuopio
Research Director, Docent, School of Computing, University of Eastern Finland
Adjunct Prof, Dept of IT, Cape Peninsula Univ. of Technology, South Africa
Honorary Prof, School of IT, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, South Africa
Tel. +358-40-355 2811, fax +358-17-16 2595, mikko.korpela@uef.fi
www.uef.fi/act/people/mikko.korpela