Unfortunately on May 14th, 2015 our colleague and friend Assa Reichert lost his battle against his difficult disease. Assa, Reichert, our very long time member of Board and Council of European Federation for Medical Informatics (EFMI), was our a true friend. He devoted to his family, his country, his friends, his profession and EFMI, IMIA and Medical informatics, generally. As Medical informatics expert and scientist he was “elder statesman” (how one of our colleagues defined him) and has been a person with great treasure of warmth and experiences and man carrying a peaceful vision of the world. He would be right person from whom always you can ask some advice for solving some difficult problems or situations.

During all EFMI events Assa has showed his true commitment to the Medical Informatics field. Especially he inspiring the young scientists with his always charming, witty and thoughtful remarks. He always supported people who invested their time and efforts to produce himself as a little interface for the ultimate human EFMI network like “Key success-factor” as Jacob Hofdijk mentioned in his memory letter. MIE 2009 Conference in Sarajevo organized by myself Assa promoted and supported by great influence on important decision makers in our country and abroad.

Assa Reichert directed the first computer department in the Israel Ministry of Health. He was assistant director of Sheba Medical Centre, the largest in Israel, and VP of COMET, an Israeli-American software house specializing in medical institution management and Electronic Medical Record’s software. He served as consultant to the Ministry of Health. Assa achieved a BA in Life sciences and a MA in Life sciences and Computer sciences from Bar-Ilan University, Israel.

Assa served as President of the European Federation for Medical Informatics (EFMI) during a period 2002-2003, and served as Vice-President of the International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA) during a period 2004-2005. During STC EFMI Conference in Reykjavik, Iceland, Assa received the medal as Honorary Fellow of EFMI. We will remember him for all his contributions and commitment in the different roles he has held during his time in EFMI.

All of us in EFMI and IMIA lost one of prominent personality. His voice and his deep thoughts for best and most reasonable solutions in critical situations during our Council meetings will persist in our minds. His way of discussing about important problems was typical. He was straight, but always in a fair way. The best way to keep his memory is to continue his plans and to follow his example. His “presence” in our minds will not be felt and will touch every EFMI and IMIA friend’s soul and heart. Assa was living on the edge with his dedication to his motorbike and his endless (business) travels around the world, and survived many near miss accidents, always returning with a smile, never complaining, but fight against lung cancer he couldn’t won, unfortunately. Everybody of us will miss his friendship, honesty and his ethos. We will remember Assa with deepest admiration, compassion and desolation.

Sarajevo, May 15th, 2015

Izet Masic
HealSis Ltd.
Healthcare systems planning & technology management

Prof. Izet Masic,
Chairman of the LOC
MIE2009,
Sarajevo

Dear Izet,
I am sure that now you, your family and your colleagues, are all having a quite and peaceful weekend, probably the first in many months. I am home, or more accurate in my office, and I find it hard to get back to work. This happens to me only when I am going out from my routine tasks, but only if I had a deep and very impressive experience, which fills me with special and different emotions. For me, the deeper the experience the longer the time it takes me to get out of the special atmosphere and to return to my regular "Working Mode".
Keeping this in mind I know that it will take me long before I will be back from the special and unique experience we all had last week. Many colleagues from the EFMI board and council wrote you very impressive letters, probably better than those I can write. Therefore, I will not be long, and I will just add few sentences to the beautiful and warm words you justifiably earned, with hard work. I am happy the efforts you and your colleagues made, were crowned with such a great success.
For highly successful conference,
For very well organized MIE,
For days and nights of hard work,
For overcoming all obstacles,
For not letting any barrier discouraging you,
For not giving up your high targets,
For not stopping by any difficulty.
For leading the LOC to unusual achievements, and
Mainly for your unlimited devotion,
For all the above, and for more that was not mentioned,
Please accept my, and many of our colleagues, appreciations and thanks.
My dear friend Izet, You did it!
Thank you.
With my best and warm regards,

Assa Reichert
Executive V.P.

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Figure 1. Letter from Assa Reichert to Izet Masic