

Spring Blooms in London

By Don Sweete, IHTSDO CEO



Last week IHTSDO hit a number of new firsts in London. It was the first time our Annual Business Meeting was held in this great city and a record attendance mark was set for the April Conference.

It was evident from the opening address by both our Board Chair Jamie Ferguson and our honored guest Lord Hunt that the meetings would be both productive and a resounding success!

The Member Forum meeting kicked things off the day before with a collaborative effort on reviewing the products and services, and it saw the groups

working hand in hand to find solutions to our common problems. Further work will be done in this area but it was a great start. The Management Board and General Assembly spent time over three days looking at translation direction, emerging markets for the organisation, mobile licensing, relocation, strategy and quality among a host of other things.

In looking back at the presentation that Kuldeep Nijjar put forward at the Open General Assembly ([click here](#) to view) we too often forget the effort it takes to not just be successful, but to stay that way over a period of years. The amount of passion, effort and long hours spent by all staff over the past two and a quarter years should not be forgotten. We should take this year to build on our successes but also celebrate our accomplishments.

Truly this organisation's number one asset is the team effort that I see every day.

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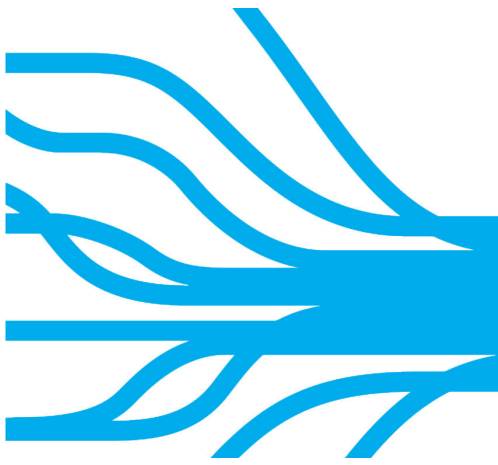
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Expo 2016

Trusted, Actionable, Health Information
October 27-28 | Wellington New Zealand

NZ Minister of Health to speak at SNOMED CT Expo 2016

By Liara Tutina, Customer Relations Executive for AsiaPac

We are pleased to announce that the Hon. Dr. Jonathan Coleman, New Zealand's Minister of Health, will be presenting at the forthcoming [SNOMED CT Expo 2016](#).

New Zealand is a charter member of IHTSDO (SNOMED CT's governing organization). Dr. Coleman will discuss New Zealand's three-year journey to establish a lifetime electronic health record that embraces SNOMED CT for clinical decision support, care coordination and precision medicine.

The international SNOMED CT Expo 2016 will bring together health IT professionals, clinicians, researchers and government representatives from across the world to the picturesque city of Wellington in New Zealand on 27-28th October 2016.

The Expo will showcase how use of the global language of health, SNOMED CT, benefits patients and healthcare professionals from improved health data interoperability, clinical decisions and analysis.



Hon. Dr. Jonathan Coleman

Call for Papers - Deadline Extended

By Fleur McBriar, Events & Business Support

IHTSDO is pleased to announce that due to popular demand the deadline for submissions for the SNOMED CT Expo 2016 program has been extended to Friday 20th May 2016.

Proposals for the SNOMED CT Expo 2016 program should focus on the following topics:

- SNOMED CT Solutions
- Enhancing Clinical Practice with SNOMED CT
- SNOMED CT Development

Please see the [Expo website](#) for full details.

New Key Dates:

- **Friday 20th May (21:00 UTC)** – Call for submissions closes (review by Program Committee begins)
- **Monday 20th June** – Proposers informed whether their submissions have been accepted
- **Friday 8th July** – Final abstracts required from presenters (for the Expo program)
- **Monday 19th September** – Final date to submit electronic copies of posters and slide decks (for future publication after the event)

If you require assistance please contact us by email at events@ihtsdo.org.

Record Attendance at First-Ever London Business Meeting

By Alison Delle, Communications Manager

The Annual April Business Meeting wrapped up last week in London. Over 180 attendees converged on the Amba Charing Cross Hotel from April 16-20 to discuss SNOMED CT.



Many Working Groups, Advisory Groups and SIGs met over the course of the five days, along with the Management Board, the General Assembly and the Member Forum. It was amazing to see the amount of work that had been done over the course of the meetings, as the groups reported at the closing plenary on Wednesday afternoon (please [click here](#) to see the slides).



The central London location meant that attendees only had to step out of the front door of the hotel to immerse themselves in everything London had to offer. The British-themed Tuesday evening reception provided a great opportunity for people to chat and mingle in a social setting.

The conference was opened by the [Rt Hon Lord Philip Hunt](#), who officially welcomed IHTSDO to London and the UK:



IHTSDO would like to thank everyone who attended and helped make this inaugural meeting such a success!

SNOMED CT

The global
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healthcare

Update of the New Authoring Tool

By Ian Green, Business Services Executive

The IHTSDO Authoring Team moved to a new authoring tool at the beginning of the year. The tool continues to be enhanced, and the Authoring Team are working closely with the IHTSDO developers to ensure the tool is fit for purpose. The new tool will ensure that the Team has a robust authoring platform for both current, and future demands.

As we publicised earlier this year, the Team has faced some challenges with the new tool, and as a result the volume of authoring for the July 2016 release will be lower than in previous releases.

However, although this is the case, we are pleased with the progress being made by the Team on both request submissions and content development projects, and expect to provide substantial content enhancements for the July 2016 release.

The main advantage of the new tool is the ability to continue authoring activity between releases, unlike previous authoring platforms. We therefore expect overall, that for 2016, the effects of implementing the new tooling environment will be minimised. We will continue to provide updates to the community on the progress being made, in the implementation of the new tooling platform.

Drug Project Group Meets in London

By Toni Morrison, Senior Terminologist

The Drug Project Group held a well-attended half-day session during the recent IHTSDO April Business Meeting in London.

The agenda included a discussion on the status of the Default Model for Extensions that is currently under development, and a status update for the Substance Hierarchy project.

This was followed by detailed discussions regarding the upcoming changes to the Product Hierarchy for concepts representing product roles and for concepts that include

strength. Changes are expected to be available to Members in the January 2017 International Release and will include inactivation of relationships, relocation and/or inactivation of concepts, terming normalization, and the potential creation of a new module.

Please monitor the [Project Group's Confluence space](#) for meeting information, availability of previews of upcoming changes, and requests for input and feedback.

Consultant Terminologist Program Update

By Cathy Richardson, Senior Terminologist

Please be advised that the call for applications for the 2016 cohort of [IHTSDO Consultant Terminologist Program](#) will be made in July this year via the IHTSDO website.

The planned start date for this cohort will be mid to late September. This decision has been made to enable a review of the program to be undertaken. Further information will be provided in the next newsletter.

Calling Clinicians: Contribute to Important Global SNOMED CT/ICD-11 Project

By Jane Millar, Collaboration Lead

Are you (or do you know) a practicing clinician with an interest in terminology and electronic health records? Would you like to contribute a small amount of volunteer time, gain experience with SNOMED CT and help with an important global project? If so, this opportunity is for you.

The International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO), developers and owners of SNOMED CT internationally, has a collaborative agreement with the WHO to ensure linkage between SNOMED CT and WHO classifications. IHTSDO is undertaking a key piece of work to ensure alignment between SNOMED CT and that proposed in ICD-11.

We are looking for practicing clinicians in a variety of specialties to review the proposed changes to SNOMED CT to ensure clinical relevance for international usage.

It is important the clinical definitions are understandable and in line with current clinical thinking.

The commitment includes:

- Attending a mandatory training session (delivered remotely)
- Approximately 10-20 hours of work over a one month period (timing varies by specialty)

Clinicians will benefit by gaining more knowledge of SNOMED CT and its application for their specialty. Join this important project and contribute your clinical expertise!

Please [click here](#) to download an information sheet providing more details about the project, including timelines.

To participate, or to find out more, please contact Jane Millar, Collaboration Lead, at jmi@ihtsdo.org.

SNOMED CT in Clinical 'Byte' Sized Chunks!

By Jane Millar, Collaboration Lead, and Ian Green, Business Services Executive

IHTSDO has recently released an update to the General/Family Practice subset for 'Reasons for Encounter' and the map of this subset to WONCA's ICPC-2.

This subset has been developed by the profession to support those using SNOMED CT in their Electronic Health Records (EHR). IHTSDO is committed to maintaining and updating it in line with clinical practice, with expert input from the profession through the IHTSDO IFP/GP Special Interest Group.

Also, in conjunction with ICNP, IHTSDO has released an update to the equivalence table between ICNP and SNOMED CT for Nursing Problems, first released in 2015.

New in 2016 has been the release of the equivalence table between ICNP and SNOMED CT for Nursing Intervention. This table should enable nurses who are using ICNP to be able to produce SNOMED CT data which can be further shared in the EHR to support patient care.

These products are available from IHTSDO Member Countries National Release Centres. If you are not in a Member Country, you can access it through IHTSDO's [Member Licensing and Distribution Service \(MLDS\)](#) or by contacting IHTSDO at info@ihtsdo.org.

IHTSDO is keen to hear from anyone who is reviewing or using any of these products to ensure that they meet the needs of clinicians and can be updated in line with practice. Again, please contact info@ihtsdo.org.

Know Anyone Who Would Be a Good Board Member?

The application period for Management Board positions is now open. Perhaps you know someone?

Information is available at: <https://ihtsdo.freshdesk.com/support/solutions/4000004827>

The deadline for applications is Friday, 12 August 2016.

If you see any problems, please let us know at info@ihtsdo.org.

If you know of any good candidates, please let them know!

SNOMED CT Implementation Spotlight: Providing Support to a Patient Care Platform

By Anna Adelöf, Customer Relations Executive for EMEA

Eldrix provide an all-Wales web-based patient care platform where SNOMED CT is supporting the recording of diagnostic and problem lists with treatment, medication and procedural information.

The purpose with the platform was to create a secure web-based electronic patient record for a wide-range of conditions with a focus on long-term health condition management and the routine recording of clinician-derived outcomes measures and patient reported outcome measures. Currently it has over 20,000 patients recorded and there have been about 147,891 clinical encounters since 2009.

SNOMED CT has been used since 2009. It is used to populate pick-lists such as ethnic origin or clinical findings, and to support rapid free-text data entry with terms matched as-you-type into SNOMED CT. In addition, based on a range of generic and disease-specific rating scales, SNOMED CT terms are auto-entered. SNOMED CT

provides semantic knowledge so that for example, the software makes configuration changes based on an understanding of the specified diagnoses.

An example: Different options and screens will be shown for patients with multiple sclerosis or a similar disease and the SNOMED CT hierarchy allows such semantics to be understood algorithmically.

The reason for using SNOMED CT is that it provides a comprehensive and exhaustive list of clinical terms that are understandable to clinicians, and at any point it is possible to limit user searches to a subset or tree of

terms / synonyms appropriate for the data field in question. As a standard terminology in Wales and England, when they generate clinical correspondence, these clinical terms can be included in the bundle to support interoperability with future systems that will support SNOMED CT.

For more information visit: <http://www.eldrix.com>



Be seen here!

Register your use case of
SNOMED CT on
Snomedination.org for your
chance to be chosen as the next
'Implementation Spotlight.'

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Education and Product Support News

By David Markwell, Head of Education

The start of the year has been an exciting and busy time for the Education and Product Support Team. More than 950 people have successfully completed the Foundation course since it started early last year and our more advanced E-Learning courses are also subject to high demand.

So far 30 people have successfully completed the Implementation Course and a further group of 70 are expected to complete by early May. More than 200 others have places on the course and most of these should complete later this year. The Content Development Theory pilot group will complete the course in May and in total more than 100 people have been offered places on this course and are expected to complete during 2016.

At the April Business Meeting the E-Learning Advisory Group had a full day workshop during which the Team received valuable input that will help to shape the future direction of E-Learning development. One outcome from this advice is that the Team are planning to supplement our formal course with alternative learning pathways. These will be based on a substantial increase in openly available E-Learning presentations. Look out for further announcements about this in the next three months.

Another focus of the Team's work this year is on enhancements to the documentation resources that support the use of SNOMED CT. This will see changes to the structure and presentation of documentation to directly complement our E-Learning courses and to make specifications and guidance easier to access, use, review and maintain.

In preparation for the work ahead two new staff were recruited and on April 1st they joined the Team as Implementation Specialists.

At the same time the organization recognized the exceptional knowledge, skills and dedication of **Linda Bird** by promoting her to the role of Senior Implementation Specialist. A key part of her enhanced role will be assisting with mentoring and directing the efforts of the new team members.



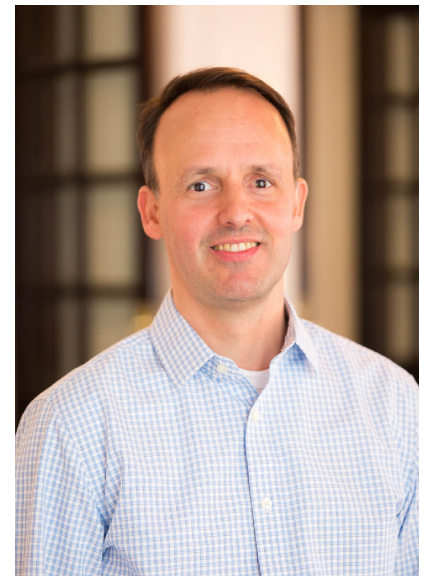
Introducing our two new Implementation Specialists, who will facilitate the implementation and use of SNOMED CT through documentation, education and support activities:

Anne Randorff Højen joins IHTSDO after seven years as a teacher and researcher at Aalborg University, Denmark. During that time she was engaged in a variety of SNOMED CT related projects. These included national and local implementation initiatives and research exploring the applicability of SNOMED CT.



In 2013, Anne participated in the SNOMED CT Implementation Advisor Scheme, where she contributed to the development of the SNOMED CT Starter Guide and the National Release Center Guide. More recently Anne contributed to the development of E-Learning materials for the Foundation and Implementation courses.

Jon Zammit joins IHTSDO after five years of service with Cancer Care Ontario in Canada. During that time he gained implementation and mapping experience. Jon was involved in requirements definition, interface development and data modelling, and represented his employer on the IHE Radiology Technical Committee. During his career he has worked for health information system vendors and other organizations engaged in health informatics.



Jon has a degree in Civil Engineering and has been accredited as an HL7 International Control Specialist and a Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer. More recently he gained the top (A+) grade when completing the SNOMED CT Implementation E-Learning course.

Staff Changes at IHTSDO

By Clare Gibbs, Head of Human Resources

Following on from the Education and Product Support announcements listed above, IHTSDO is pleased to highlight the following staff changes that have also taken place this quarter:

New Roles...

Kuldip Nijjar - became Executive Lead, Finance and Corporate Services (March 2016)

This new role will build upon the work Kuldip has successfully undertaken as Head of Finance and will cover all aspects of financial management and corporate services within the organization.



Kuldip's responsibilities range from annual planning and budgeting, financial control, procurement, risk management and management reporting to the governing bodies of the Association to overseeing the Corporate Services team based in Denmark and the UK.

Kai Kewley - became Technical Architect, Technical Services Team (January 2016)



As Technical Architect, Kai is responsible for continuing to develop and maintain the overall architecture and design principles for the development of IHTSDO tools to support the organization's objectives.

Departures...

Romin Khazai left us at the end of March with the intention of pursuing his life in Korea. We wish him well.

New Starters...

Chris Stokoe - Support Engineer, Technical Services Team (March 2016)

Chris joined IHTSDO after working as a Senior Research Associate at the University of Cambridge.



Whilst at Cambridge he was responsible for the technical outputs for a number of information/data science projects largely focused around access, discovery and visualisation of digital

humanities datasets. Previous to this he held a lectureship in the Department of Computing, Engineering and Technology at the University of Sunderland. Chris will be picking up the support of IHTSDO's internal IT, including Confluence, JIRA, and Freshdesk, as well as documenting guides and policies for users.

Terance Shird - Technical Services Manager, Applications & Architecture Team (January 2016)



Terance joined IHTSDO after fifteen years with the UK National Health Service, the last five years of which was with the UK Terminology Centre (UKTC). During his time with the UKTC he was responsible for the Service Management of their Technical Team, hosting and developing the tooling for the UKTC Authors as

well as the production of the SNOMED CT UK Extension.

Terance has over twenty years of experience in the IT industry including five years as a software developer, creating web-based tools for the eLearning industry. Qualified as an ITIL Expert, Terance is passionate about Service Management., ensuring customers and end users get high quality, value for money business and IT services.

New SNOMED CT Links to Other Standards

By Jane Millar, Collaboration Lead

In order to meet the IHTSDO's Strategic Direction 2015-2020, collaboration with other standards developers is key and there have been a lot of exciting developments recently. Here are some of the highlights:

American Dental Association (ADA): Cooperation Agreement updated to a revised Collaboration Agreement



The American Dental Association (ADA) is a not-for-profit and the largest professional association for dentistry in the United States. It represents more than 157,000 dentist members, is the premier source of oral health information in the United States (if not the entire world), and has advocated for the public's health as well as promoted the art and science of dentistry since 1859. In this connection it has developed and continues to develop the SNODENT dental diagnostic code set.

In 2012, ADA and IHTSDO signed a Cooperation Agreement which focused on aligning the content of SNODENT and SNOMED CT, where appropriate, and also saw the instigation of the IHTSDO International Dentistry Special Interest Group (SIG).

This Cooperation Agreement has been updated to a Collaboration Agreement in April 2016 which focuses on agreed joint work, including:

- Development of a SNOMED CT General Dentistry Diagnoses Subset
- Release and maintenance of this SNOMED CT General Dentistry Diagnoses Subset
- Ongoing provision of Subject Matter Experts by ADA
- Support for maintenance and updating of the linkage between SNOMED CT and SNODENT at respective releases.

The [IHTSDO International Dentistry SIG](#) welcomes new participants to ensure a global perspective is represented in their work.

DICOM: New Global Licensing Agreement for SNOMED CT Code inclusion in the DICOM Standards



On March 2nd 2016 IHTSDO and the DICOM Standards Committee announced a new global licensing agreement for SNOMED CT codes and descriptions to be used in the Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine (DICOM) standard. The renewable five-year licensing agreement between IHTSDO and DICOM continues the long-standing DICOM policy of using SNOMED terminology, previously established with the SNOMED

DICOM Microglossary of 1997 and an agreement with the College of American Pathologists.

The SNOMED CT licensing agreement covers the use of a subset of 7,314 SNOMED CT codes and descriptions, including all current SNOMED CT concepts used in the DICOM standards. Other key points from the agreement include the following:

- The agreed SNOMED CT subset will be updated after each biannual SNOMED CT International Release, taking into account changes to SNOMED CT and requests from the DICOM Standards Committee to use additional concepts.
- The agreed SNOMED CT subset is free for use, both for publication in DICOM as well as by implementers and users of DICOM-compliant products and software globally, without restriction to IHTSDO member countries.
- If implementers use additional SNOMED CT codes (beyond the scope of the agreed subset), they are subject to SNOMED CT licensing arrangements that may incur a fee in IHTSDO non-member countries.
- The DICOM standard will be updated to retire and replace concepts that have been inactivated in SNOMED CT.

GS1: New Collaboration Agreement includes a Joint Work Plan



GS1 is a leading global organization dedicated to the development and implementation of global standards and solutions to improve the efficiency and visibility of supply and demand chains internationally and across sectors. GS1 is a neutral and not-for-profit organization, with over a million member organizations globally.

In 2010, GS1 and IHTSDO signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), facilitating liaison between the two organizations and committing to closer working to ensure compatibility between our respective standards where appropriate. The terms also complemented both organizations' involvement in the Joint Initiative on SDO Global Health Informatics Standardization (JIC).

This MoU has been replaced, in April 2016, by a Collaboration Agreement which focuses on agreed joint work, including:

- Development of guidance/principles for linking SNOMED CT and GTINs that can be applied at the national/local level
- Exploring options, feasibility and benefits for a technical solution/model at international level to support local/national linkage between SNOMED CT and GTINs. This will come out of the guidance/principles work.

Congratulations due to Dr. Nicolette de Keizer

By John van Beek, IHTSDO Management Board

It is our pleasure to report that Dr. Nicolette de Keizer (PhD) has been appointed Professor in Medical Informatics at the University of Amsterdam. She presented her inaugural lecture on April 22, 2016 at the auditorium of the University. The 'oration' was entitled 'From black box to glass house: Transparent care and care informatics.'

As a member of our Standing Committees and Advisory Groups, Nicolette has been an active member of the

IHTSDO community of practice for many years. Her professional life has been dedicated to evaluation of healthcare and healthcare information, and teaching that to her students. We have been fortunate to have her expertise at work in IHTSDO.

We congratulate Nicolette on this major achievement, and we congratulate the University of Amsterdam for rewarding such an outstanding scholar.

Nominate Someone for an Award

By Juliet Gole Krarup, Association Coordinator

IHTSDO is accepting nominations until June 30 for the Award for Excellence and the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Please consider nominating someone! For more information and the nomination forms, please visit our FAQs via <http://tinyurl.com/zmaq593>.

Communications Changes

A new Communications Manager, Alison Delle, joined IHTSDO on a contract basis in Q1. As she gets more familiar with the organization, you can expect to see a few changes on the communications front.

Social Media

Did you know about our Twitter and LinkedIn accounts?

We have mostly just used them for announcements, but we want to expand. Follow us @snomedct on Twitter. #sctexpo2016 is our hashtag for the SNOMED CT Expo 2016.

Click the icons to link to our accounts...



Join your colleagues and be a part of the **SNOMED CT LinkedIn** group. There are lots of announcements from IHTSDO in this forum, but we hope to increase the discussions amongst members of the SNOMED CT community as well.



Newsletter

Look for a refreshed newsletter next quarter. We will be introducing a new format and expanded content about happenings in the last quarter, and what's to come in the next one.

If you want to be sure you receive the newsletter please [click here](#) to ensure you are subscribed.



Delivering
SNOMED CT

The IHTSDO Newsletter provides news and features from IHTSDO, delivering SNOMED CT. If you have comments on the editorial content, then please contact the editor, Fleur McBriar, at fmc@ihtsdo.org