

## Join an IHTSDO Advisory Group

by *Juliet Gole-Krarup, Association Coordinator*

IHTSDO is forming seven new Advisory Groups to conduct specific activities that will contribute to the fulfillment of the Management Team's responsibilities or the organization's mandate. The Advisory Groups will be chaired by Management Team members and will be agile in nature, given the changing needs and direction of the organization.

At the beginning of each year, the Advisory Groups will develop a group work plan outline, determine whether Task and Finish sub-groups are required, outline any resource requirements, and lay out a set of measures in order to measure the progress of the applicable group work plan. The organization, with the approval of the Management Board, may elect to seek approval for a separate budget item in the annual budget to assist the Advisory Groups in the completion of their approved work plans.

The nomination period is now open. **The deadline for nominations is Friday, 14 August 2015.**

To apply, please go to <http://tinyurl.com/ou9xyn7>

The link above will also take you to

the full IHTSDO 'Advisory Group Manual,' where you can read more about how the AGs will function.

*The seven new Advisory Groups are:*

### Content Managers:

Chaired by the Head of Terminology, it will include a representative of each Member country with its own national extension plus four representatives of the Member countries that do not have national extensions. Its purpose is to assist IHTSDO in setting priorities for its content development work, to undertake some content development work to augment IHTSDO's content development capacity, and to review and provide feedback on IHTSDO's ongoing content development work.

Please download the Terms of Reference document [here](#) for full details of the Group's purpose, scope and membership.

### E-Learning:

Chaired by the Head of Education, it will be the successor the E-Learning Reference Group. The group will facilitate delivery of E-Learning products and services that address requirements of Members and other stakeholders for development of knowledge and skills related to **Cont...**

### In this issue:

**Join an IHTSDO Advisory Group:** Standing Committees coming in for a landing, Advisory Groups ready for take off (pages 1 & 2)

**Positions Open: IHTSDO Management Board:** Apply to be one of up to five new MB members (page 2)

**SNOMED CT - Becoming the Multi-Lingual Standard it's Meant To Be** (page 3)

**SNOMED CT E-Learning:** An update from IHTSDO's Education Team (page 4)

**IHTSDO and INSERM Collaborate to Link SNOMED CT and Orphanet's Rare Disease Nomenclature:** (page 5)

**Drug Concept Model Project Group:** A new and important resource for the Member Forum (page 5)

**Vendor Introduction Guide to SNOMED CT:** The launch of an extensive programme of vendor engagement (page 6)

**SNOMED CT Expo 2015: Call for Papers & Posters:** (page 6)

**Brazil Joins as a Member:** (page 7)

**Consultant Terminologist Program Update:** 2015's cohort is announced (page 7)

**Proposed Deprecation of SNOMED CT to ICD-9-CM Epidemiological and Statistical Map:** (page 8)

**Proposed Deprecation and Withdrawal of Support of SNOMED CT Release Format 1 (RF1):** (page 9)

SNOMED CT and other IHTSDO products and services. Each Member will be permitted to nominate someone, and there will also be two expert advisors selected for skill and expertise.

Please download the Terms of Reference document [here](#) for full details of the Group's purpose, scope and membership.

### **Modeling:**

Chaired by the Digital Product Architect, it will comprise eight people selected for various skills plus four IHTSDO staff members. Its purpose is to advise the MT on clinical knowledge and information modeling.

Please download the Terms of Reference document [here](#) for full details of the Group's purpose, scope and membership.

### **SNOMED CT Editorial:**

Chaired by the Head of Terminology, it will comprise four external Consultant Terminologists (or individuals with similar standing and experience) to provide advice and guidance on issues related to the editorial policy underpinning development and maintenance of SNOMED CT content. It will be a resource for the SNOMED CT Editorial Panel.

Please download the Terms of Reference document [here](#) for full details of the Group's purpose, scope and membership.

### **Software Development:**

Chaired by the Head of Technical Services, it will be a skills-based group that will be integral to documenting and providing the governance around

the Open Tooling Framework open source community. It will also be a regular forum for providing software developers involved in re-using or developing IHTSDO tools with the latest information and essential updates on the IHTSDO's software development practices and tools and services.

Please download the Terms of Reference document [here](#) for full details of the Group's purpose, scope and membership.

### **Terminology Release:**

Chaired by the Digital Product Architect, it will be a skills-based group that will advise on standards, business processes and documentation related to the production, productization, quality assurance, packaging and distribution of SNOMED CT and derivative products.

Please download the Terms of Reference document [here](#) for full details of the Group's purpose, scope and membership.

### **Tooling User:**

Chaired by the Head of Technical Services, the group will comprise Member representatives and be a forum for providing group members and end users of IHTSDO tools with the latest information and essential updates on the IHTSDO's tools and services. It will also allow group members and end users to provide IHTSDO feedback on existing tools, provide input into future tools, and be involved in testing tools.

Please download the Terms of Reference document [here](#) for full details of the Group's purpose, scope and membership.

## **Positions Open: IHTSDO Management Board**

The International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation is calling for applications for up to five positions on the IHTSDO Management Board. Management Board members serve two-year terms, which may be renewed, beginning in October.

Each year the Management Board meets face-to-face at least three times and holds at least three additional teleconferences. Face-to-face meeting locations are London (UK) and a variety of other locations around the world.

### ***Application Process:***

Complete information is available at: <http://tinyurl.com/p4k6xbs>

**The deadline for applications is Friday, 7 August**



Leading healthcare terminology, worldwide

# SNOMED CT -

## Becoming the Multi-Lingual Standard it's Meant To Be

*By Anna Adelöf, Customer Relations Lead EMEA*

SNOMED CT is the global clinical terminology, but in order for it to come into common use around the world and consequently launch the improvement in interoperability and healthcare, it benefits from being translated into local languages.

Other than the English language primary release format of SNOMED CT (named SNOMED CT International release), only a Spanish translation is managed directly by IHTSDO. There are also a number of translations of SNOMED CT that are managed by Member countries. These have been created according to the IHTSDO translation principles and access to these translations can be retrieved through the relevant National Release Center.

As the membership of IHTSDO continues to grow, many more non-native English speaking countries are joining. It is therefore anticipated that the desire for translations will only increase. For some countries the need for translation may be a barrier to adopting SNOMED CT and becoming a Member of the IHTSDO. IHTSDO therefore supports Member country translations of SNOMED CT through guidance and financial support.

Our Members have created and continue to maintain a number of National Extensions and translations. The ones that are available today are:

- Australia: SCT AU, National Extension including Australian English
- Canada: SCT CA, National Extension including English and French components
- Denmark: SCT DK, National Extension including a

full Danish translation

- Netherlands: SCT NL, National Extension including a Dutch translation
- New Zealand: SCT NZ, National Extension
- Spain: SCT ES, National Extension including European Spanish
- Sweden: SCT SE, National Extension including a full Swedish translation
- United Kingdom: SCT UK, National Extension including UK English
- United States: SCT US, National Extension

Additionally, a number of our other Members are working on making their first translated release, these countries are:

- Belgium (French and Dutch)
- Chile (national extension of International Spanish edition)
- Estonia
- Lithuania
- Portugal
- Poland
- Slovak Republic
- Uruguay (national extension of International Spanish edition)

In conclusion, a lot has happened in the last year or so and IHTSDO is happy to see that the language of SNOMED CT has expanded and can be understood by a larger number around the world. We continue working with our Members ensuring good and trusted translations, and we look forward adding more languages to our library. If you wish to learn more about these extensions/translations please contact the National Release center in question, or email us at [info@ihtsdo.org](mailto:info@ihtsdo.org).

# SNOMED CT

The global  
language of  
healthcare

# SNOMED CT E-Learning Update

*By David Markwell, Head of Education*

SNOMED CT is a powerful modern clinical terminology, but gaps in knowledge and understanding lead to a view that it is just a large and complex code system. To address those gaps, IHTSDO is now delivering and enhancing its E-Learning service. Enthusiasm for the SNOMED CT Foundation Course has led to over 1700 people being offered places on the course this year. However, there is more to do to build on that foundational knowledge and encourage deeper understanding of our terminology.

The first two Foundation Course intakes have completed and another intake is just starting. So far 260 people have successfully completed the course and a few more are on track to complete in the next few days.

The latest Foundation Course intake started on June 1st with over 500 new learners and 700 more are due to start in September.

Due to the high demand for these courses and limitations of the E-Learning platform used for the first two course intakes, we investigated more scalable solutions. With the support of our technical team, we were able to switch over to a new platform in time for the Foundation Course intake on June 1st. The new platform is a Moodle-based server hosted and managed by IHTSDO. The migration has been smooth though a little time-consuming. It is already clear that this will be easier to use and maintain going forward, as well as being more scalable and flexible. We are continuing to make adjustments to the presentation of materials, but the new server is already providing an improved service for enrolled learners on the Foundation Course and the upcoming Implementation Course.

You can take a look at the new server at <http://elearning.ihtsdotools.org>. Some presentations are now publicly accessible and in the next few weeks all our existing E-Learning materials will be moved to this server from the current E-Learning

Center web page. We will then have a single consistent source of online training services.

## What next?

As the new platform allows more scalable self-paced course delivery, we will begin regular monthly intakes to the Foundation Course. Application will reopen on August 24th and will stay open indefinitely. From that point forward, our target will be to allow all applicants to start the course within four to eight weeks of applying.

We are also busy developing more advanced courses for those who have completed the Foundation Course. Fifty people have recently been enrolled on the first 'pilot' intake of the Implementation Course which will start in early July. The IHTSDO Content

Team is also working with us and the UK National Release Center to develop a content editors course. This course is initially aimed at National Release Center staff in Member countries that are developing or planning to develop a National Extension. The first 'pilot' intake is expected to start the course at the end of this year.

Currently we only provide E-Learning services in English.

However, we know that this is an obstacle for some learners. We are therefore working with a number of IHTSDO Members to enable them to develop translated versions of the courses. We recognize that this is unlikely to meet everyone's needs for more accessible materials, so we are also looking at options for adding subtitles or written scripts to presentations to facilitate learning.

## Expo Tutorials:

In addition to E-Learning development, the Education and Content teams are also preparing tutorial materials that we and our colleagues in Uruguay will deliver during the [SNOMED CT Expo in Montevideo](#) on 29th and 30th October 2015.

If you have questions or comments, please contact the E-Learning team at [elearning@ihtsdo.org](mailto:elearning@ihtsdo.org).



# IHTSDO and INSERM Collaborate to Link SNOMED CT and Orphanet's Rare Disease Nomenclature

*By Jane Millar, Head of Collaboration*

The IHTSDO and INSERM (Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale, Paris) has recently signed a Collaboration Agreement to link SNOMED CT and Orphanet ([www.orpha.net](http://www.orpha.net)). Orphanet produces a rare diseases nomenclature. It is supported by the European Union but used globally to facilitate collation of information about rare diseases.

The two organizations have developed a detailed joint work plan which means that over the next year IHTSDO will work to ensure that the relevant content in Orphanet is represented in SNOMED CT, and INSERM will work on a resulting mapping table which will then be available from IHTSDO alongside the SNOMED CT content.

This is an exciting collaboration which both organizations have sought for some time and are pleased to now have in place, with expectation that this will lead to other collaborative activity.

For IHTSDO this is seen as a key building block to

start to support the field of Genomics, providing the link from information collected at point of care to research and innovation in this very important area of medicine.



*IHTSDO's Jane Millar and Ian Green with the INSERM team*

## Drug Concept Model Project Group

*By Toni Morrison, Senior Terminologist*

One outcome of the IHTSDO Business Meeting in Copenhagen in April 2015 was a recommendation to establish a Drug Concept Model Project Group, reporting to the Member Forum. This Project Group will support the strategic goals of the IHTSDO and its Member countries by developing, testing, and documenting a drug concept model(s) suitable for use by Member countries as the basis for populating drug content in a national extension.

In the time since the Business Meeting, we have been busy creating briefing papers, terms of reference, and performing needed follow up with the Member Forum.

In addition to the work to be performed by the Drug Concept Model Project Group, the IHTSDO team will create, and distribute for member review and comment, a Technology Preview for a revised

Products hierarchy using only a Medicinal Entity concept class (an abstract representation of active ingredients in a drug product) prior to the IHTSDO Business Meeting in October 2015.

A long-term roadmap for drug product-related content will be created based on the outcome of the concept model development and feedback received about the Technology Preview.

For more details, or to inquire about becoming a member of the Project Group, please contact your Member Forum representative, or your IHTSDO Customer Relation Lead ([Liana Tutina](#), [Anna Adelfof](#), or [Shelley Lipon](#)).

# Vendor Introduction Guide to SNOMED CT

*By David Markwell, Head of Education*

IHTSDO is launching an extensive programme of vendor engagement underpinned by a comprehensive Vendor Engagement Strategy. As part of that, IHTSDO is pleased to publish its Vendor Introduction to SNOMED CT. The guide is targeted at people engaged in the development of electronic health record (EHR) systems and other related services and applications in healthcare information technology. It will also be of interest to a broader audience including anyone engaged in designing, developing, procuring, deploying, configuring or managing EHR systems and services.

The Vendor Introduction to SNOMED CT provides an informative practical introduction to SNOMED CT focused primarily on the needs of vendors and developers of EHRs. It identifies key benefits for vendors arising from implementing SNOMED CT; provides a brief description of the key characteristics of SNOMED CT; acknowledges that the diverse nature of EHR systems, as well as the wide scope of SNOMED CT, means that there can be no universal approach for implementing SNOMED CT in systems; introduces ten ways in which SNOMED CT can be used in EHR systems; discusses potential SNOMED CT implementation strategies; covers a number of

considerations that arise out of embedding SNOMED CT into an EHR system; describes the three types of license that govern use of SNOMED CT; provides links to many of the key resources for further learning about SNOMED CT, and offers high-level guidance on ways to deliver a positive user experience of SNOMED CT as part of an EHR system.

The Vendor Introduction to SNOMED CT provides an authoritative introduction and points readers to other SNOMED CT documentation for detailed information. Basic information about SNOMED CT including its benefits can be found in the SNOMED CT Starter Guide. In-depth technical information can be found in the Technical Implementation Guide and other guides. All these and others are available from the SNOMED CT Document Library.

The link to the Vendor Introduction to SNOMED CT, other SNOMED CT documentation and the SNOMED CT Document Library are below:

<http://snomed.org/vendorintro.pdf>

[http://snomed.org/snomedct\\_starter.pdf](http://snomed.org/snomedct_starter.pdf)

<http://snomed.org/tig.pdf>

<http://snomed.org/doc>

## SNOMED CT Expo 2015: Call for Papers & Posters

*By Fleur McBriar, Events & Business Support*

IHTSDO invites you to submit a proposal for a presentation or poster for the SNOMED CT Expo 2015, to be held from the 29th-30th October in Montevideo, Uruguay.

**Key Dates:**

- **Friday, 10th July** – Call for submissions closes (review by Program Committee begins)
- **Friday, 24th July** – Proposers informed whether their submissions have been accepted
- **Friday, 14th August** – Final abstracts required from presenters (for the Expo program)
- **Monday, 12th October** – Final date to receive electronic copies of posters and slide decks

See the Call for Papers at:

<http://www.ihtsdo.org/resource/resource/161>



Submit your proposal by email to:

[snomedctexpo2015@ihtsdo.org](mailto:snomedctexpo2015@ihtsdo.org)

For more information see the Expo page [here](#).

Or contact: [events@ihtsdo.org](mailto:events@ihtsdo.org)

# Brazil Applies To Be a Member

*By Shelley Lipon, Customer Relations Lead, Americas*

Exciting times for IHTSDO as we will soon welcome Brazil as our newest Member. During the April Business Meeting in Copenhagen, representatives from the Ministry of Health for Brazil formally submitted their application for membership to our CEO. This day was a long time in the making as

discussions with Brazil had been going on for numerous years. There is expected to be an official announcement by their Minister in the upcoming months, once formalities have been completed. Brazil is looking forward to their first meeting as a formal Member in Uruguay in October.



*Left to right: Shelley Lipon, Don Sweete, Fabio Campelo Santos da Fonseca, Moacyr Esteves Perche, Ricardo Puttini, Gustavo Azzolin.*

## Consultant Terminologist Program Update

*By Cathy Richardson, Senior Terminologist*

At the beginning of June the 2015 cohort of Consultant Terminologist's commenced their program. The mentoring program is designed to enable participants to develop the skills to undertake advanced terminology development tasks. Over the next 12 months each of the participants will work on four content development projects as well as a group project. Selected from a strong field of candidates this year's cohort includes Maria Braithwaite, Elaine Wooler, Simon Harry, Sarita Keni, Monique van Berkum and David Sperzel.

Consultant Terminologist's must recertify every three years to remain on the IHTSDO register, and in April this year Jim Case, Bruce Goldberg and Guillermo Reynoso were approved by the Management Board for recertification. Over the next few months we should also see several new Certified Consultants as the 2014 cohort complete their projects.

# Proposed Deprecation of SNOMED CT to ICD-9-CM Epidemiological and Statistical Map

You are invited to participate in the public consultation stage of a proposed IHTSDO deprecation of the SNOMED CT to ICD-9-CM Epidemiological and Statistical Map. The consultation stage will run from 20 July to 20 September 2015. Participants will be able to review and comment on, via an online form, the deprecation document, including the proposed plan and timeline. The deprecation document and the link to the feedback form will be available on the IHTSDO website

at <http://www.ihtsdo.org/news-articles> during the consultation period.

## Scope:

The SNOMED CT to ICD-9-CM Epidemiological and Statistical Map includes maps from the SNOMED CT Clinical Findings to ICD-9-CM 2012, the last updated version.

## Reason for deprecation:

The World Health Organization stopped maintenance of ICD-9 in the 1990s when ICD-10 came into use by the WHO Member States. The United States (U.S.) National Center for Health Statistics is responsible for maintenance of the clinical modification (CM) of ICD-9. The last regular, annual update to ICD-9-CM code was on October 1, 2011.

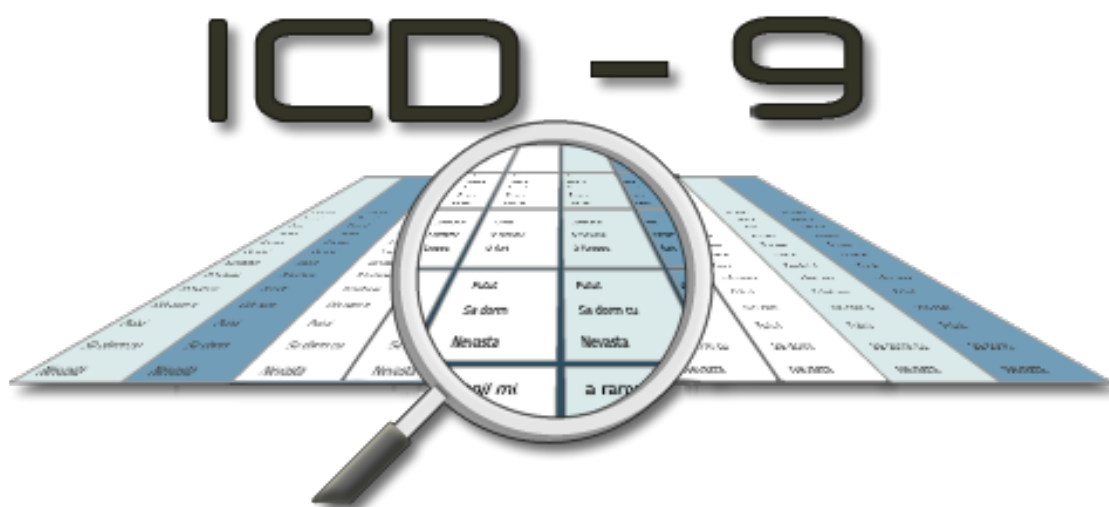
The target system (ICD-9-CM 2012) for the SNOMED CT to ICD-9-CM Epidemiological and Statistical Map is being replaced with ICD-10-CM, a newer classification. The owners of ICD-9-CM consequently no longer will be maintaining and updating it. With the adoption of ICD-10-CM or other modifications of the WHO version of ICD-10, the SNOMED CT to ICD-9-CM Epidemiological and Statistical Map usage will end.

## ICD-9-CM Replacement:

ICD-10-CM or other modifications of the WHO version of ICD-10. ICD-10-CM was developed by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), the (U.S.) Federal agency responsible for use of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th revision (ICD-10).

## Proposal for new artifact:

None. The U.S. National Library of Medicine is responsible for the SNOMED CT to ICD-10-CM map.





# Proposed Deprecation and Withdrawal of Support of SNOMED CT Release Format 1 (RF1)

You are invited to participate in the public consultation stage of a proposed IHTSDO deprecation and withdrawal of support of RF1. The consultation stage will run from 17 July to 1 October 2015. Participants will be able to review and comment on, via an online form, the deprecation document, including the proposed plan and timeline. The deprecation document and the link to the feedback form will be available on the IHTSDO website at <http://www.ihtsdo.org/news-articles> during the consultation period.

## Reason for Deprecation:

Three of the nine founding IHTSDO Members currently distribute the RF1 version of SNOMED CT. The number of IHTSDO Members has tripled to 27 since RF2 superseded RF1 as the authoritative SNOMED CT distribution format. Only one-ninth of the IHTSDO Membership currently uses the outdated distribution format. There is no longer a business case for IHTSDO to allocate resources to maintaining and mitigating risks associated with this outdated format.

In addition, RF1 has well documented design flaws. Its derivation from RF2 introduces potential safety risks, resulting from possible anomalies in the manually curated Compatibility Package. The design flaws have been corrected in RF2. By deprecating these obsolete artifacts, IHTSDO will reduce risk and

save resources, and it will be able to focus on a more streamlined, accurate, efficient and safe product line.

## Scope:

The scope includes RF1 files distributed as part of the six-monthly release of the SNOMED CT International Edition. These files are distributed in the package called "SnomedCT\_RF1Release\_INT\_yyyyddmm". These files contain the SNOMED CT terminology, the ICD-O map, and VTM and VMP subsets. These products will continue to be available in the RF2 distribution. The RF1 canonical relationship file and RF1 developer toolkit will be withdrawn, pending the prioritization of replacement products to be included in the RF2 distribution.



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](mailto:fmc@ihtsdo.org)