

2016: A Year of Achievements

By Don Sweete, IHTSDO CEO



The organization has had a very busy year building on the success of the first ever Business Meeting in the United Kingdom in April. The momentum of that conference has continued over the past 6 months and the conference in New Zealand was both exciting and a great show of the strengths of all facets of the organization working as a team.

The organization itself is moving forward to meet increasing demands in all areas and continues to maintain a consistent full time staff compliment. We have launched new internal work in the area of clinical engagement, quality assurance of SNOMED CT, and the development of the first ever product strategy, all of which will help position IHTSDO for the future.

The Technical Services Team has been working on the completion of their major project, the authoring tool, and has migrated both Sweden and Denmark to our new cloud managed service. I am hopeful that this service may be offered to other Members to help support and reduce costs for our Members.

Our Content Development and Mapping Teams have embraced the new project management system put in place and have focused their efforts to deliver on long standing projects in the areas of drugs, substances, anatomy and observables, as well as a number of smaller projects that the majority of our Members have requested through the budget process.

The organization is also seeing record numbers in both requests for changes in content, customer requests for support through Freshdesk (our online help tool), and in the education area where we continue to develop course content and prepare these materials to be distributed to our Members to allow them to meet the demands for online education.

IHTSDO is also moving forward with communications (Contd...)

In this issue:

[Seasons Greetings from our CEO \(page 1 & 2\)](#)

[Refsets, Maps and Translations - now accepting Member contributions \(page 2\)](#)

[Introducing SNOMED International - New Trading Name Launches January 1st \(page 3\)](#)

[Consultant Terminologist Update \(page 3\)](#)

[Governance Review Update \(page 4\)](#)

[SNOMED International to Appear at the 2017 HIMSS Conference in Orlando \(page 4\)](#)

[Wonderful Wellington - Successful Business Meetings and SNOMED CT Expo 2016 in New Zealand \(page 5 & 6\)](#)

[Two Major Collaboration Agreements Announced - AMA & HL7 \(page 7\)](#)

[Technical Services Team Update - 2016's many achievements! \(page 8\)](#)

[IHTSDO Content Team - 2016 In Review \(page 9 & 10\)](#)

[Clinical Engagement Team Update - including Strategy, Starter Set & Translations \(page 11\)](#)

[Ireland joins IHTSDO as a Member \(page 12\)](#)

[Drug Model Project Group - An update from October's face-to-face \(page 12\)](#)

[Happy Holidays from IHTSDO \(page 13\)](#)

and marketing work to launch both SNOMED International in the New Year, and also begin to showcase the many positive achievements of both the organization and our Members. We also are looking to move into the emerging markets of Genomics, Big Data, Mobile and Consumer Health, with a view to educate senior leaders in those sectors about the value of SNOMED CT and how it can play a key role in those sectors.

Since 2014 the organization, and more particularly the Corporate Services Team under Kuldip Nijjar, has worked diligently to put in place business processes throughout the finance, risk and metrics areas. I am pleased to say this work is almost complete. One area that was a major focus for the past few years was the aggressive use of past surplus funds to move projects forward quickly in all areas of the organization, to provide scalable service delivery to meet the demands.

The 2017 budget tabled at the October Business Meeting was a balanced budget. We have worked very hard to look for cost reductions in every area to ensure that we both for 2017 and beyond will be well positioned to maintain a balanced financial position. While this may cause challenges in meeting all of the demands of placed on the new organization, I feel this will provide both sustainability and flexibility for measured and planned growth in the future. In the area of customer engagement it has been a landmark year with major progress on collaboration agreements with GS1, HL7, and Joint Initiative Council work, along with forging new positive working relationships with the WHO. At the October Business Meeting we signed a collaboration agreement with the American Medical Association, which will allow both organisations to work together to provide better options for clinicians to work in the digital age.

We have also made great strides in the area of translation and will deliver SNOMED CT translated starter sets in Chinese, French, German and Japanese by the end of 2016. This will eliminate one of the main barriers the Organisation has faced in the past.

We are working closely with vendors and have launched both the IHTSDO Vendor Portal, and the Vendor Forum. We have begun work on a vendor tool kit and hope to begin meaningful collaborations with vendors to help make SNOMED CT more robust and easier to deploy in their solutions.

On the prospective Member front we will have two new Members – Ireland, who joined just prior to our conference, and Norway, who intend to join in January. We have made great strides in each region: The Assess CT report is almost complete and will yield positive recommendations for the use of SNOMED CT in the EU. China, Japan and other Asia Pacific countries are ramping up their interest in SNOMED CT and IHTSDO and there will be both pilot projects and new Members from this region in 2017. In the Americas we are seeing continued dialogue with Peru and Mexico, which may lead to further inroads in that region.

In looking forward into 2017 and beyond I can see many positive opportunities on the horizon, but also challenges in relation to the demands being placed on the organization, moving into new emerging markets and dealing with the non-English-speaking nations. However, with the continued support of both the General Assembly and the Management Board I believe we are well positioned to answer the call and we will continue to deliver innovations and positive results.

In closing I want to wish everyone a safe and festive holiday season.

Refsets, Maps and Translations - Now accepting Member "contributions"

By Juliet Gole Krarup, Association Coordinator

IHTSDO is committed to supporting Member and users of SNOMED CT through the exchange of information on reference sets ("refsets") and other SNOMED CT products. As part of this commitment, we are happy to collect and post information about Member countries' refsets, maps and translations.

By providing information and links, Members will allow the Community of Practice to access a richer, fuller set of SNOMED CT products, ideally increasing and improving implementation of the terminology.

How do you contribute or see what is available?

Please visit:

<https://confluence.ihtsdotools.org/display/PSC>.

Introducing SNOMED International: New Trading Name Launches January 1

By Alison Delle, Communications Manager

It is an exciting time in our organizational history: we will officially begin trading in the UK under the name SNOMED International as of January 1, 2017.

The road to SNOMED International has been a lengthy one. The name IHTSDO was proving challenging for some of our non-English-speaking community to pronounce, and the name of our main product (SNOMED CT) enjoyed better brand recognition. After a thorough search and examination of options, it was decided to adopt the new trading name of SNOMED International in conjunction with the move from Copenhagen to London. Although the London office began operating in late 2015, everything has not been in place to officially begin trading in the UK under SNOMED International until now.

As of January 1, there are several important changes you will notice:

- We will change how we refer to the organization in almost all public-facing contexts to "SNOMED International"
- We will begin using our new logo (see picture)
- Our main website and staff email addresses will use "snomed.org" as the domain name (if you forget, "ihtsdo.org" will still work!)



- Our official address will now be that of the London office in Paddington
- IHTSDO will remain our legal name; contracts and other legal documents will continue to be executed in that name
- Document templates with the new branding have been developed, and all new material created after January 1, 2017 will use "SNOMED International"
- Historical documents will not be changed
- Living documents and educational materials will be changed, but will likely not all be completed by January 1

The move to the UK is actually quite a complicated process, and the formal wind-down of the Danish entity will not be complete for a while yet. However, aside from those involved in the formalities (such as the General Assembly and Management Board), you will not be affected by the remainder of the Danish wind-down activities.

We appreciate your patience as we make this

exciting change; we will try to make things as seamless as possible for the community and our Members.

Watch the website for the official announcement and for more details.

Consultant Terminologist Program Update

By Cathy Richardson, Senior Terminologist

The IHTSDO Consultant Terminologist Program commenced in 2011, and in total 32 participants have undertaken the program. We are pleased to report that 20 have become certified, with another 6 continuing to progress towards that goal.

However, based on feedback from participants and changing organizational requirements, IHTSDO will

now be undergoing a review of this program. The aims of this review include assessing the value of the program, its structure and content, as well as other potential delivery methods.

Given this, expressions of interest for the 2017 cohort will only be accepted from internal IHTSDO employees. For those who require recertification we will continue to provide that service.

Governance Review

By Andy Wiesenthal, Vice Chair IHTSDO Management Board

In April 2016, IHTSDO's General Assembly decided to commission a review of the organization's governance structure. It felt that there were tensions between the General Assembly and the Management Board, and between the Management Board and the Management Team. Tavistock Consulting was brought on to determine the roots of those tensions and to suggest whether changes to the Articles of Association, governance structure, governance manuals or operational guidelines might be required to manage both the organization's growth and its move to the UK.

A summary of the report is available for review at <https://goo.gl/zB90qH>.

Overall, the General Assembly, the Management Board and Management Team felt that the report was too negative in its findings but that it made some valid and useful observations and recommendations. In August 2016, the Management Board, the organization's Executive Team, and the 3-member General Assembly Executive Committee met to discuss the final report. It was a positive and productive meeting that resulted in a number of conclusions and in the appointment of a 6-person Governance Committee, charged with making recommendations in time for the October business meeting in Wellington.

At the October meeting, the Governance Committee put forward a plan to revise the structure of the Management Board with the aim of creating better cooperation between the Board, the Members, and the organization.

The recommendations included:

- The Board would have seven independent directors (as opposed to its previous eleven or twelve), plus five non-voting observers: the CEO and CFO (ex-officio) and the General Assembly Executive Committee members (who would serve as liaisons between the Members and the Board);
- The independent directors would serve three- instead of two-year terms, and after two terms they would have to step down for at least two years before being eligible to serve again;
- The Management Board Chair would be selected annually (previously the term had been for two years).

The General Assembly and Management Board agreed to the proposal in Wellington.

As for next steps, the existing ten-member Board, plus the GA Executive Committee and the IHTSDO Executive Team will meet in January to discuss the plan for going forward, as well as the recently revised governance manuals that more clearly describe the roles and responsibilities of each governance body. In April, the Board will likely be reduced from ten to seven independent directors and the new governance structure will be instituted.

Further information will be forthcoming at the Ordinary Meeting of the General Assembly on 26 April in London and will be published in a subsequent newsletter.

SNOMED International to Appear at the 2017 HIMSS Conference in Orlando

By Alison Delle, Communications Manager

Orlando welcomes the 2017 HIMSS Conference & Exhibition, February 19–23, 2017, at the Orange County Convention Center. More than 40,000 health and IT professionals are expected to attend to explore creative solutions to real-world challenges, discover the latest innovations, and connect with and learn from experts and each other.

IHTSDO (soon to be known as SNOMED International) is proud to support this annual event that helps health IT professionals find the right products and solutions for their organizations so that they can continue to transform health and lives through IT.

There are several ways you can interact with us at this year's event:

- Attend our Conference education session "Enabling Advanced Clinical Analytics with Clinical

Terminology". See here for more details: <http://bit.ly/2heudvI>. IHTSDO is also an endorser of the preconference session "Interoperability and Health Information Exchange - Making it Work." More than 300 peer-reviewed sessions, including roundtables and workshops, round out education offerings at HIMSS17

- Visit us at booth #4088 in the Exhibit Hall. We will be featuring several presentations a day, demonstrating SNOMED CT on demand and having experts on hand to answer questions. The exhibit floor features many different knowledge centers, a new Innovation Zone, a redesigned HIMSS Interoperability Showcase™ and more



IHTSDO community members are entitled to a discount at HIMSS17.

Contact us at events@ihtsdo.org for your discount code. For more information about HIMSS17 and to register, visit www.himssconference.org

Wonderful Wellington: Successful Business Meetings and SNOMED CT Expo 2016 in New Zealand

By the SNOMED CT Expo Planning Group

The SNOMED CT community converged in Wellington, New Zealand in October. The week kicked off with several days of IHTSDO Business Meetings. The Management Board, General Assembly, Member Forum, Special Interest Groups, and Advisory Groups all met and were able to make good progress on their various agendas. The meeting facilities at the Te Papa museum were superb, and our Kiwi hosts had helped to line up several networking, social and cultural events which were enjoyed by all. The next set of Business Meetings will be in London from April 23-26, 2017 and we have some special events in store, including a celebration of our organizational 10th anniversary.

The two-day SNOMED CT Expo 2016 followed the Business Meeting. Over 360 delegates from 23 countries were in attendance. For the first time we had a conference app, which was downloaded by 75% of attendees. There were many other "firsts" at this year's event, several of which are highlighted below.

Daniel Karlsson and Guillermo Reynoso Recognized at IHTSDO Awards Gala

IHTSDO presented two awards at our 2016 Awards Gala in October in Wellington, New Zealand. The awards were held in conjunction with the SNOMED CT Expo and for the first time we had more delegates, exhibitors and sponsors from the Expo attending.



University in Sweden. Mr. Karlsson has been

The Award of Excellence is given for outstanding contribution to the improvement of SNOMED CT and its successful implementation in health and social care. The 2016 award was presented to Daniel Karlsson, a Senior Lecturer in Medical Informatics at Linköping

continuously involved as an advisor and active participant in different positions related to the content in SNOMED CT since IHTSDO's inception. His involvement in other organizations has also facilitated the content of SNOMED CT to better match supplementary standards and to facilitate both formal and informal collaboration with other organizations.

The Lifetime Achievement Award is given for outstanding individual, sustained contribution in the development and promotion of SNOMED CT and for global leadership in the terminology field. The 2016 award was presented to Dr. Guillermo Reynoso, a physician and Director,



Terminology Services at termMed IT in Buenos Aires, Argentina. For over 20 years Dr. Reynoso's commitment to the development and success of SNOMED CT as a global healthcare terminology has been unwavering. He has held numerous positions with IHTSDO over the years and has generously shared his extensive technical and content knowledge with his colleagues.

Congratulations to both well-deserving gentlemen!

All-Star Expo Speaker Lineup

The SNOMED Expo was proud to present a number of distinguished keynote speakers this year. We were honored to welcome New Zealand's Minister of Health, Hon Dr. Jonathan Coleman as our



guest speaker of honor to share his vision of the future direction for the healthcare in New Zealand. The Director-General of Health of New Zealand, Chai Chuah, provided an update on the health strategy for New Zealand that was adopted in April 2016 and its implications for SNOMED CT. Experience from the clinical side was explored by Dr. Tom Morton from Nelson-Marborough District Health Board, New Zealand and by Dr. Tony Smith, Medical Director at St John, New Zealand.

One of the highlights of this year's Expo was the keynote speech by the international health IT guru Dr. John Halamka. Dr. Halamka gave a thrilling speech about the



opportunities and challenges in the healthcare, and the important role that SNOMED CT can play in enabling better use of health data for patient care.

For the first time, all sessions were recorded and are available [here](#) for viewing (not just registered delegates). Abstracts and presentation slides for many of the sessions are also available [here](#).

SNApp 2016: Innovation Abounds at First-Ever SNOMED CT Hackathon



IHTSDO held its first hackathon in Wellington, officially branded as "SNApp 2016". In all, 30 developers registered and were split into 5 multi-disciplinary teams including clinicians, software

developers and medical students.

The two challenges were developed by our friends

from the New Zealand Ministry of Health, and focused largely on utilizing drug information for clinical benefit, interoperability and mapping. We were very pleased that SNApp 2016 garnered so much interest, and the room where the teams were working was visited by many of the Expo attendees.

Ultimately, the winner was Team MediPro, who developed an app that would replace the paper-based 'Yellow Medication Cards' used in New Zealand that help patients manage multiple prescriptions. The app, using SNOMED CT, aims to go beyond the functionality of the existing cards, assisting in improving patient adherence, patient education and connection to pharmacies. The other teams also delivered incredible apps given the short time they had to come together as teams, and deliver a functional prototype.

Overall, it was an amazing learning experience and successful event that we hope to replicate at the Expo in the coming years. Thanks to all who participated in making our first SNApp a great success!

Looking forward to 2017: See you in Bratislava!



The Expo returns to Europe in 2017 and will be hosted by the Slovak Republic in Bratislava. Join international peers and leaders and immerse yourself in SNOMED CT. The location is picturesque and easily reachable by various forms of transport for European and international delegates. We have started to plan the conference already, looking to build upon the successes of the 2016 event.

Look out for updates for this exciting event on a new conference website (snomedexpo.org) that will launch in early 2017, or sign up for our Expo 2017 mailing list (<http://eepurl.com/b2dmK9>).

Two Major Collaboration Agreements Announced

By Alison Delle, Communications Manager
& Jane Millar, Collaboration Lead

IHTSDO announced two major collaboration agreements this past quarter, demonstrating our commitment to working with other organizations and advancing the interoperability agenda globally.

American Medical Association (AMA)

In October IHTSDO and the AMA announced a new collaborative agreement to coordinate on the design and development of their



respective coding and terminology products. By working together, the organizations plan to address the health system's emerging need for greater integration between proprietary codes sets in support of interoperability and healthcare data analytics.

AMA's Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) is the most widely accepted medical nomenclature used to report medical procedures and services under public and private health insurance programs in the United States. The collaboration comes from both organizations' recognition of the complementary nature of CPT and SNOMED CT and the critical role they play in healthcare delivery and administration. It will produce valuable tools to organize vital healthcare data. Additionally, the AMA and IHTSDO will collaborate to promote broader adoption of their content products; share tools and expertise related to the development and maintenance of their respective standards; and improve current content to better support existing and emerging uses of health data.

Health Level Seven International (HL7)

In November we announced a new two-year collaboration agreement with HL7 International to support the further adoption of working practices

that facilitate the use of IHTSDO's clinical terminology standards with HL7's healthcare information technology standards. The new agreement expands the organizations' collaborative work that began in 2009, and particularly builds on joint work since 2014. The agreement focuses on a number of targeted activities to further support the implementation of SNOMED CT in HL7 products internationally, including:

- Licensing arrangements that support the use of SNOMED CT in the development of HL7 artifacts globally, including IHTSDO non-Member countries Providing policy and guidance direction when referencing SNOMED CT content, including TermInfo
- Launching a joint project focusing on defining the best practice for the use of SNOMED CT with HL7's Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR®) in support of international use cases
- Ensuring the HL7 International terminology portal to access SNOMED CT International Release is maintained and updated to support users
- Exploring the use of IHTSDO Open Tool Framework to review SNOMED CT and create value sets against defined requirements
- Develop webinars/educational materials that can be made available for HL7 Working Groups and International Affiliates

The progress and outcome of this work will be notified through the IHTSDO website or you can contact info@ihtsdo.org with 'HL7 collaboration' in the subject line.



SNOMED CT

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IHTSDO Technical Services Update

By Rory Davidson, Head of Technical Services

As another year edges to a close, the Technical Services Team can look back on another busy and successful year, coming to the end of the first stage of a journey started just over three years ago in Washington DC.

This year, working very closely with the Content Team, we have moved on from Workbench to the new Authoring Platform, which has already opened up other possibilities for us, allowing IHTSDO to make changes and additions to SNOMED CT that we could not have done easily before. This also helped us migrate Denmark and Sweden, our Managed Service Members, to the new platform, preparing us for the expansion of this service to other Members in 2017.

We also migrated off of SIRS on to the new Content Request Service, which is integrated with the Authoring Platform, and makes the end-to-end process considerably more efficient.

We have a growing number users from NRCs, vendors, and other organizations, working on the Refset & Translation Tool, with some excellent feedback, allowing stakeholders to manage and translate SNOMED CT reference sets, and in some cases release preview reference sets to their community. Our Mapping Tool has been serving us very well for the last few years, and now we are managing more in there than we had hoped to, including ICD-O and GMDN, providing a more structured approach to QA and release management.

The Release Management Team has been hard at work, automating as much as possible to ensure higher quality releases in shorter timescales. As well

as the International Edition, they have a number of derivatives that also get released, including the Spanish Edition and GMDN, as well as the Managed Service releases for Denmark and Sweden.

We are currently embarking on new, exciting areas of development including Template Based Authoring, the Human Readable Preview Service and the expansion of the Managed Service and a new Technical Strategy aligning with the Product Strategy. Suffice to say that next year, the Team will continue to produce tools and services that help us all in our SNOMED CT journey.

All of this, whilst supporting all of IHTSDO and the community on MLDS, SNOMED CT Browser, Confluence, Freshdesk, our various websites, designs and the list goes on.

Now the Team is looking forward to the next part of the strategy from 2017 onwards, where the knowledge and experience the Team has gained can be used to continue the adoption of SNOMED CT on a global level.



IHTSDO Content Team - 2016 in Review

By Lesley MacNeil, Head of Content

It's been a big year for Content, with both the Authoring and Mapping Teams making progress on many initiatives while adapting to new tools and new work processes. Here are a few of our accomplishments:

Content Request System

- January 2017 Release 5,123 new concepts, year total 7,725.
- Finished and assigned Content Request System (formerly SIRs) requests within the SLA timeframe for July 2016 and January 2017 Releases.
- Introduced new Continues Delivery workflow and process, which included weekly peer review of the content changed by other authors leading to no build up at the end of the editing cycle.
- New QA KPI's set and met for various patterns.

ICD-10 Map

- Major update for ICD-10.
- Mapping QA Tracker set up to track issues and improve quality of existing ICD-10 map.

ICD-O Map

The ICD-O map was completed for the January 2017 Release. As well, the IHTSDO Mapping Team have 3 proposals on the ICD-10 update platform to improve the quality of ICD-10:

- Mahaim fibre tachycardia - this was accepted as final in Tokyo at the WHO-FIC meeting as an addition to the ICD-10 index (not the Tabular) with a code of I45.6.
- Polyneuropathy due to systemic sclerosis - accepted in 2016 as an addition to both the ICD-10 Tabular list and index so will go forward as an accepted proposal to the next stage.
- Exclusion note error at T80-T88 (The exclusion note should be to category E89 and not to E86-E87.) Still in Moderation layer not moved to Accepted yet.

GMDN

- Map completed.
- In excess of 400 obsolete terms have been reviewed and removed from the GMDN mapping tables as appropriate.
- Transitioned from processing new GMDN concepts twice a year to processing them on a monthly schedule to provide more current content.
- Introduced new auditing process of GMDN concepts used.

Anatomy

- Foundational Model of Anatomy (FMA) alignment (differences only) - Completed Report of Semantic Findings, Report on Hierarchical Relationships and Final report of issues/solutions.
- SEP (Structure/Entire/Part) assignment - Resolve ambiguity between structure and the entire concept by developing policy for naming convention and update existing content - 9K descriptions inactivations and 3.6K new descriptions.
- Laterality assignment - The development of editorial guide for term convention and concept model for lateralized concepts. As well at the Laterality refset to support RF2 to RF conversion, MRCM rule specification, and lateralization of content in situation, finding, procedure hierarchies for post-coordination of laterality. Laterality refset update for new content and rectification of issues from feedback as business as usual task from July 2017 and onwards.

LOINC

- Created 215 new concepts for LOINC - SNOMED CT Cooperation Project.
- Awarded RFP for assistance with LOINC Part mapping and commenced project.
- Made progress with mappings for LOINC Parts to SNOMED CT concepts.
- Reviewed feedback on LOINC Alpha release 3 in consultation with internal groups such as Substance and Observable project, IPaLM SIG, EAG and external groups (RII and other SMEs). Updated the linkages and also the guidelines accordingly.

Observable

- Remodeled 150 vital sign observables with new Observables model.
- Updated IHTSDO-979: Vital signs observables modeling Inception/Elaboration document and moved to construction phase.
- Implemented MRCM updates for Observable entity hierarchy in line with the new Observables model.
- Updated SNOMED CT Editorial Guide with Observable entity domain and range based on new Observables model.
- Updated IHTSDO-434 Observables and investigation procedures redesign Inception/Elaboration document brought it to a stable state.
- Helped IPaLM SIG with creation and progress of the model for cancer synoptic reporting based on the new Observable model.

- Worked with Organism Project Group on issues related to microbiology reporting such as representing organism serotypes and biotypes.
- Worked with EAG, CMAG, and Organism Project Group in creating guidelines for managing organism name changes.
- Reviewed over 30 outstanding content tracker items in the domains of pathology reporting, microbiology reporting and organisms to provide feedback on their recommended status and possible overlap with other tracker items.
- Reviewed and prepared a report of the SNOMED CT value sets associated with five HL7 FHIR resources (Procedure, Diagnostic Report, etc.) as well as assisted in evaluating and refining the value set review process.

Content Tracker Project

Although this is a stalled project due to constrained resources, progress has been made. Open Content tracker issue numbers have decreased by 100 from 722 to 622. This is as a result of tracker clean up, movement of content to the proper projects plus a small number closed due to work completed. As well the CMAG has done pre work to get the Tracker organized so prioritized work can progress when resources allow.

Consultant Terminologist Program

- Development of draft testing requirements to support testing of Content Tracker Solutions
- Certifications: 3 in May, 2 in June, 1 in October (plus 2 re-certifications). 1 ready for submission in December but more expected.

Other Notables

- IHTSDO certified 1 internal Author in the Consultant Terminologist Program.
- Two Map Specialists completed the IHTSDO Content Development Course.
- IHTSDO Content presence at Shock and Awe.
- IHTSDO Content Presence at ISO/WG6.
- Mapping SIG - chaired and contributed to
- Expo 2016 presentation of successful collaboration between UKTC and IHTSDO.
- Reviewed and revised Chinese translation of IHTSDO Fact Sheets.
- Assisted with the improved transformation of SNOMED CT into OWL ontology (the updated Perl script will be released on MLDS and also available on Github at <https://github.com/IHTSDO/snomed2owl>).
- Editorial Guide: Continuous improvement in the SNOMED CT Editorial Guide reflecting changes to modeling patterns and addition of new content e.g. Laterality, LOINC and Combined disorders.
- Refset development tool: Collaborated with

outside vendor to upload and manage refsets in the new tool.

- CRS: Transitioned change request service and processes successfully to the new tooling environment in conjunction with Technical Services.
- Updated Confluence Content Development Roadmap with consistent look and feel, also with live updates to deliverables and timelines. Our Subject Matter Expert (SME) contribution to the Education Team and Product Support Team was key in enabling the development (and now running) of the Content Development Theory Course. Nearly 93% of those who responded to a feedback survey on the course (42 responses) rated it 'very good' or 'excellent'.
- Content Management Advisory Group
- Content Tracker prioritisation criteria developed.
- Confluence site structure and documentation improved. The improved structure and communication has seen positive feedback from some group members.
- The group's way of working has changed to support more active engagement.
- ICD-11 - Delivery of content to support MMS 1200 concepts.
- Allergies – Updating of editorial guidance to align with current content for Hypersensitivity condition, allergy, and allergic reaction. Reviewed concept model for allergy to X and proposed an alternative approach. On the Content normalization work on concept pattern Allergy to X only.
- CMT - 275 concepts Clean-up work- rework to include laterality etc, CMT Delivery. Schedule - approx. 705 concepts.
- Orphanet - 1200 concepts for 2016 workplan.
- New QA rules introduced to increase quality in authoring.

If you have a question, please contact me or check out the Content Roadmap at this link <http://snomed.org/content-roadmap>.



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SNOMED CT

Many thanks to all the people who helped in this success, from internal IHTSDO staff to external volunteers, contractors and collaborators.

Clinical Engagement Update

By Ian Green, IHTSDO Clinical Engagement and Education Services Business Manager

Over the last 6 months, the Clinical Engagement Team has been busy building clinical contacts within Member countries. This has led to some notable success stories, particularly in the United States. The focus of the clinical contacts has been to raise awareness and present approaches to the implementation of SNOMED CT, focusing on high value implementations. This looks to identify how SNOMED CT can best support clinicians to identify patients with comorbidities, which will lead to enhanced patient care. The Team will be looking to document and publish these use cases in the future, to provide valuable resources both to clinicians and clinical groups, and also to IHTSDO's Members.

Clinical Engagement Strategy

The Clinical Engagement Team has worked together to produce the Clinical Engagement Strategy, which was ratified by the General Assembly and Management Board at the October 2016 IHTSDO Business Meeting. The vision of the Strategy is to ensure that all activities of IHTSDO are influenced by global clinical communities, and that IHTSDO's culture provides a progressive and sustainable approach to engaging clinicians. As a global clinical terminology, SNOMED CT must provide content that meets the requirements of its clinical users. Engaging with clinicians ensures that the current content of SNOMED CT is comprehensive and clinically correct.

Ongoing clinical engagement also ensures that as changes occur in global clinical practice, these are reflected by updated content in SNOMED CT. The Strategy also focuses on delivering support to clinicians through the development of SNOMED CT derivatives and supporting guidance documentation. The goals of the Clinical Engagement Strategy are to support the IHTSDO strategic direction through:

- Raising the profile of SNOMED CT for clinicians locally/nationally/globally
- Identifying and supporting local/regional/national/global healthcare professional ambassadors/SMEs for SNOMED CT
- Identifying and gathering use case examples from clinical and research perspectives to demonstrate benefits of using SNOMED CT

- Increasing the access to relevant SNOMED CT educational materials for healthcare professionals
- Identifying key clinical requirements/priorities/trends to inform IHTSDO products and services
- Demonstrating high value clinical decision support capabilities of SNOMED CT
- Identifying clinically focused interoperability opportunities to enhance SNOMED CT

The Strategy and associated workplan will be made available publically via the IHTSDO website within the New Year, following some minor edits.

Starter Set and Translations

IHTSDO has developed a starter set of SNOMED CT concepts, based on available usage figures from Member countries.

The set contains 6,300 concepts

covering diagnoses, procedures, clinical findings and observations. The set is subsequently being translated into French, German, Chinese and Japanese. The set and translations will be made available early in 2017 through the normal IHTSDO release mechanisms, and aligned with the January 2017 International Release of SNOMED CT.

The subset will be technically maintained at each subsequent International Release to ensure only active concepts are included. Every two years the content of the subset will be reviewed and updated based on the most recent usage figures available to ensure the release reflects current clinical usage. At this point the translations will be updated, and new concepts/translations added. New translations will not be added in the intervening releases.



Ireland Joins IHTSDO as Member

The International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO) announced in November that Ireland had joined as a Member. The addition of Ireland has grown the Membership to 29 countries and territories across five continents.

Ireland decided to join IHTSDO after an extensive consultation process, which included a report from the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA). The report identified the adoption of a standard terminology such as SNOMED CT as essential to the implementation of the national Irish eHealth Strategy, as well as the risks associated with not adopting SNOMED CT. As IHTSDO's newest Member, Ireland will enjoy benefits such as:

- Use of SNOMED CT within Ireland
- Management of the release, distribution, and sublicensing of SNOMED CT and other IHTSDO products within Ireland
- Representation on the IHTSDO General Assembly

- Access to forums and networks to share and learn from others' experiences implementing and using the terminology

"We are delighted to be the 29th Member of IHTSDO and we see this as an important step towards interoperability and connected health to support eHealth Ireland," said Richard Corbridge CIO HSE, CEO eHealth Ireland. "As we strive to put in place the concepts of a 'digital fabric' for health, the Irish healthcare system understands the need for working on an international platform around standards and best practice."

"Ireland joins a global community with shared assets, common needs, and a commitment to exchanging experiences and working together on shared priorities," said IHTSDO CEO Don Sweete. "We welcome them as a Member and look forward to further growing our Membership in 2017".

Drug Concept Model Project Group Update

*By Robert Turnbull, Digital Product Architect
& Toni Morrison, Senior Terminologist*

Notes from the face-to-face meeting in Wellington, on October 23, 2016.

The session was conducted in two parts. In the first, the internal IHTSDO team engaged with the Project Group to reiterate the ground rules for obtaining a definitive model. As a group we reviewed the project roles, scope, and objectives as well as the project plan and expected milestones. We also agreed on the decision making process: The Project Group would vote to accept the proposed model, and would recommend to the Member Forum to adopt it. It was agreed that total consensus was not required. The need for a standards development process was introduced, and the process for obtaining General Assembly approval was outlined.

The Project Group then transitioned to the second part of the meeting, which was a working session of a subgroup that focused on the issues at hand. These included confirming that drug products in SNOMED contain active ingredients (e.g. product containing acetaminophen), but not that the specified ingredient was the only active ingredient (e.g. product containing acetaminophen and nothing else). The Group also agreed on the consequences of this decision on drug product terms, resulting in forthcoming changes to terming guidance. Briefing notes on these topics will be presented to the Member Forum in December 2016.

The Group debated ways to represent product strength because a solution was sought that was

compatible with the current concept model.

An agreement was reached that product strength would be represented using concepts. "Products with strength" would be fully defined when the model was implemented. This led to a discussion on normalizing strengths and unit of measure combinations so that concentrations and percentages could be represented accurately and consistently. Following this, the Group agreed that the "products with strength" class would be included in the SNOMED CT International Edition, and that this would be the boundary between the international and national parts of the drug concept model. The adoption of all these approaches is subject to testing, which is currently being conducted.

And so to next steps... The discussion had been focused primarily on the international part of the drug model. To progress the national part of the model, the Group needed requirements from Project Group members who were not present. The IHTSDO team took this as an action. Also among the next steps are to agree on which grouper concepts would remain in the terminology, refining editorial guidelines to account for variations among concept classes, finalizing terming guidelines, modeling guidelines, and the dispositions of concepts that don't fit well in any concept class. Testing, to prove the approaches selected, is required as the work progresses. Working group meetings will resume in December 2016. We will continue to post monthly summaries for the Project Group, on the IHTSDO Confluence website.

Season's Greetings!



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