



President-Elect

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Friday, 21 September 2007

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Dear Dr Travers

Thank you for your letter of the 9th September 2007 and the formal proposal [WASPaLM_CAP_IHTSDO proposal V3] from the World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine {WASPaLM}. Your letter and the proposal were discussed at the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation {IHTSDO} Management Board meeting of the 18th September 2007. The proposal was warmly received and approved.

So that both parties are entirely clear about structure and process for progress I will take this opportunity to confirm and where necessary to clarify or expand on a number of points.

1. The new Working Group will be called the International Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Special Interest Group {IPaLM SIG} and be one of the SIGs coordinated by the IHTSDO Content Committee.
2. Its prime purpose is to provide advice on all aspects of IHTSDO activity relevant to Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, and in particular to provide new as well as updated content to SNOMED CT.
3. It has the same rights as any other SIG to generate project Groups and has to go through the same mechanisms for these to be approved via the Content Committee.
4. The IHTSDO MB will support the proposal that 'the chair of this Working Group will be nominated on a rotating basis by the President of WASPaLM and affirmed by the chair of the IHTSDO Content Committee', but would strongly advise that the detail of this process that assures succession planning and continuity is described and agreed.
5. At this point in time the IHTSDO does not fund Working Group members or Committee members but is looking at ways of funding the latter. This would certainly apply to chairmen of working groups attending Committee meetings if and when this funding stream can be introduced. Therefore whilst agreeing to the principle in Dr Dash's proposal we cannot at this point sign

- up to the practice until we are in a position to be fair to everyone as fairness is a core principle of the IHTSDO.
6. The IHTSDO accepts full responsibility for supporting and organising the rooms for IHTSDO physical meetings in which the IPaLM SIG contribute, providing the collaborative environment for working in the electronic environment and the technical infrastructure for teleconferences.
 7. The key contact points for the new Working Group are Dr. Kent Spackman as the officer linked to the Content Committee, who is the Continuity Chief Terminologist for the IHTSDO and Dr. Andy Wiesenthal who is the Content Committee Chair
 8. I would like to make sure that within the IHTSDO member countries there is a strong link made between the IPaLM SIG and pathology and laboratory medicine specialist societies and professional bodies. The start point would be (i) for this proposal and our support for it to be shared; and (ii) for the IPaLM SIG representatives from Societies in the Member countries to be highlighted to Kent so that he can make sure the Terminology Lead in the Member country can be briefed to make contact as soon as possible.
 9. Finally should you wish to develop any press statement then our contact would be Mr. Ulrich Andersen the acting CEO and sign off would be myself and presumably yourself.

Thank you for all your support and I hope this is the beginning of a long and enhancing relationship for pathologists and patients.

Kind regards



Professor Martin Severs FRCP, FFPHM
Chairman of the IHTSDO Management Board

Copy
Dr Raj Dash
IHTSDO MB