

A Time for Change

By *Don Sweete, CEO*



Spring is in the air here in the Northern Hemisphere, and warmer weather is around the corner. Similar to spring, SNOMED International is in full bloom as a global organization. The relocation to the United Kingdom is official, and the organization has taken major steps to work with global vendors - as evidenced by the global license agreement with IBM and Watson Health. We had a great showing at HIMSS 2017 where we were highlighted as one of the supporters of the Olympic Health Interoperability Initiative which will allow us to be part of the solution for electronic records for all Olympic participants. We also have started initiatives in the Genomics area and continue to build on the services we provide to our end users.

2017 promises to be an exciting year as we continue to build on the

work we have accomplished over the last year with an increased focus on drugs and substances in the content area, the strengthening of our clinical engagement strategy and new agile ways to connect with the community as you will see with our Virtual Clinical Groups. We will also be offering a managed service to our Members for the first time.

Spring is also the time for change and I wish to take the opportunity to show my appreciation for the current board members who have worked tirelessly over the years to drive the organization forward. At our upcoming April meetings, a new Management Board will be appointed, comprised of both current and new members. I look forward to sharing more about this governance change following our April 2017 Business Meeting.

In closing, I want to thank the General Assembly and Management Board Executive for their leadership and direction over the past year. Most especially, I wish to thank our Board Chair, Jamie Ferguson, who has worked tirelessly to get the organization to the point where we can celebrate a decade of success with our 10th Anniversary in London.

I hope to see all of you this April in London.

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SNOMED International Embarks on a New Journey in 2017

By Kelly Kuru, Executive Lead, Communications

As the new year brings a sense of promise and new beginning for many, it does the same for IHTSDO as it begins its new journey as SNOMED International.

As was previously communicated in our last newsletter, January 1, 2017 marked the official start of the organization operating under its new trading name, along with its geographical relocation to the United Kingdom. The impetus for the change? An organization name that more closely identifies with the SNOMED CT product.

In preparation for this significant change, the entire organization has worked tirelessly to make the transition as seamless as possible. While from a public facing perspective the organization will come to be known as SNOMED International, IHTSDO remains

our legal name, and contracts and other legal documents will continue to be executed in that name. In terms of the wealth of collateral material developed and hosted by SNOMED International, changes will not be made to historical documents, however, the organization's living documents and educational materials will be changed in a planned and sequential manner.

It is important to note that while the formal wind-down of the Danish entity is still in progress, members of the General Assembly and Management Board not directly involved with arrangements will not be

impacted by the remaining activities.

We welcome 2017 with excitement and look forward to a successful and productive year with our Members, Community of Practice, partners, and stakeholders.



Drug Concept Model Project Group Update

By Toni Morrison, Senior Terminologist & Phuong Skovgaard, Project manager

The Drug Concept Model Working Group has continued to make progress towards the development of a drug concept model to support the content in the International Release as well as a national extension. This includes updating the concept model, documenting the editorial guidelines for modeling and terming of concepts, updating existing content to conform to the new editorial guidelines, and harmonization with existing international standards such as IDMP (Identification of Medicinal Products). The Project Group has reviewed and commented on two iterations of the proposed model and editorial guidelines thus far, with work to continue through 2017.



At the same time, the Substance Redesign project is progressing and planning for implementation of the planned changes is underway.

Changes to both hierarchies will span multiple SNOMED CT releases, beginning with the July 2017 Release. Testing is underway, and specific details regarding upcoming changes will be provided in the near future.

Preparations for the April 2017 Business Meeting in London are underway. While there will not be a session dedicated to the Drug Project, updates on the progress of the Drug Concept Model project will be provided in several sessions during the meeting, including the Member Forum, Editorial Advisory Group, Modeling Advisory Group, and Content Managers Advisory Group

Celebrating 10 Years of IHTSDO

By Yohani Daruis, Corporate Services Manager

Ten years ago, in March 2007, the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO) saw the coming together of nine countries: Australia, Canada, Denmark, Lithuania, Sweden, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. These countries shared the common belief that SNOMED CT was the way forward to standardize healthcare terminology globally for the betterment of humankind.

With strong commitment to this belief and continued persistence, these nine countries with the help of the Community of Practice and IHTSDO staff members, steadily worked at refining SNOMED CT to perfection. Word of this powerful terminology called SNOMED CT spread throughout the globe, and evidence of the great work achieved met the ears and eyes of healthcare providers internationally.

Ten years later, we come together to celebrate the fruits of our collective labor with 30 Member countries and affiliates in 75 different countries, and millions of lives enhanced. In April 2017, we will stand together as a family with the same sense of love for SNOMED CT. We will proudly celebrate a decade of accomplishment for IHTSDO, and mark the next phase of this organization's evolution as SNOMED International. In our continued efforts to enhance the quality of lives regardless of color, ethnicity, age or religion, we will come together to celebrate the true meaning of SNOMED CT!



Above is a reminder of the original logo for IHTSDO!

April 2017 Business Meeting: Registration Now Open

By Fleur McBriar, Events & Business Support

The Corporate Services Team would like to advise that registration for the forthcoming SNOMED International April 2017 Business Meeting is now open.

Please click the link below to register your attendance at the conference in London, UK:

<http://www.cvent.com/d/95qkbn/4W>

This Business Meeting is shaping up to be a very memorable one, for as mentioned above we will be celebrating the 10th Anniversary of IHTSDO. Professor Keith McNeil (Chief Clinical Information Officer at NHS England) has been secured as the keynote speaker at the opening plenary on Monday 24th, which should provide a great insight into his future vision for SNOMED CT, both within the UK and also globally. There will also be a special drinks reception to celebrate this historic anniversary.

The full confirmed schedule for the event is available to download here: <http://bit.ly/2n8YdIt>



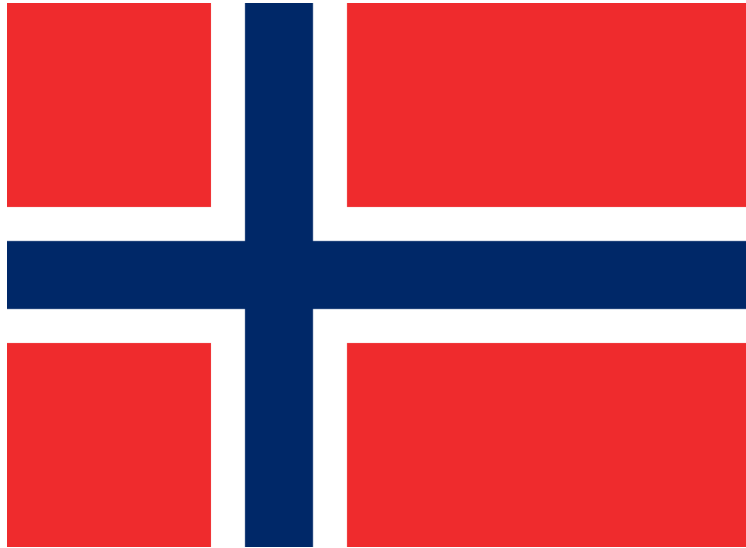
The link above also contains useful advice about booking your hotel accommodation. Please note that due to the London Marathon we are in the unusual situation of having our Sunday sessions in a different area of London to the weekday

meetings.

The meetings on Sunday 23rd are being held at the [Novotel Paddington](#). This hotel is right near Paddington station, so is a very easy transfer for those arriving via Heathrow. For the weekday meetings (24th-26th) we will return to the [Amba Hotel in Charing Cross](#).

Please contact us by email at events@snomed.org if you have any questions. - we hope to see you in London!

Norway joins SNOMED International as our 30th Member



The Direktoratet for e-helse (Norwegian Directorate of ehealth) and SNOMED International are pleased to announce that Norway joined as SNOMED International's thirtieth Member, as of January 1, 2017.

Direktoratet for e-helse (Norwegian Directorate of ehealth) is a subordinate institution of the Ministry of Health and Care Services and is leading the implementation of SNOMED CT in Norway. The decision to join SNOMED International was taken following a thorough analysis of how the Norwegian health sector could potentially benefit from implementing SNOMED CT as a terminology in selected areas. This resulted in SNOMED CT being evaluated as the most promising standard clinical terminology to best cover clinical documentation needs. Norway will initially explore SNOMED CT further to gain more competence and learn more about how SNOMED CT can support the future vision of healthcare in Norway, while at the same time provide pilot access to stakeholders with immediate needs within dentistry and terminology areas like anatomic location. SNOMED CT will also be evaluated as a reference terminology for health registries in Norway.

"We are very pleased to join SNOMED International and look forward to strengthen our knowledge and cooperation between Norway and SNOMED International in order to support our healthcare in the best possible way" said the Norwegian Directorate of eHealth's CEO Christine Bergland. "Our expectations regarding the effect of implementing SNOMED CT are high, beginning with the EHR within dentistry."

"We have had several countries join in the last few months and are very pleased to welcome Norway as a Member," said SNOMED International CEO Don Sweete. "It is an exciting time for the organization with the new trading name, several major projects launching imminently and work continuing under collaboration agreements. As a Member, Norway adds to our organizational strength and will also benefit from all of this activity."

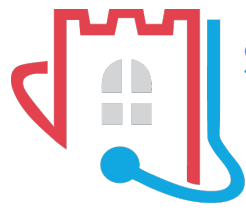
The addition of Norway has grown SNOMED International's Membership to 30 countries and territories across five continents. As SNOMED International's newest Member, Norway will be able to manage and use SNOMED CT and other related products within the country, participate on the General Assembly and more.

For more information about e-health and SNOMED CT's use in Norway please visit ehelse.no.

For licensing enquiring in Norway please visit: <https://mlds.ihtsdotools.org/no>

About Direktoratet for e-helse:

The Norwegian Directorate of eHealth is a subordinate institution of the Ministry of Health and Care Services and has two principal responsibilities: the first is national steering and coordination of eHealth through close cooperation with regional health authorities, local authorities, technical organizations, and other interested parties and the second is to develop and administrate digital solutions that will improve and simplify our health and care sector.



Share your Expertise! Call for Papers Now Open

By Kelly Kuru, Executive Lead, Communications

Expo 2017 brings the world's greatest thinkers together to discuss the global language of healthcare: SNOMED CT. This year's programme focuses the conversation on your experiences, achievements and enhancements of SNOMED CT.

Submit your paper and poster ideas on the following themes today!

- **SNOMED in Action**
Your practical, first-hand experiences using SNOMED CT in clinical solutions
- **Enhancing Clinical Practice using SNOMED CT**
The clinical achievements that have been made possible with SNOMED CT

- **Leveraging SNOMED CT**
Your developments and enhancements of the SNOMED CT product

Read more about the Expo's themes and review submission guidelines.

Submissions Close Friday 5th May 2017 (21:00 UTC)

If you require assistance please contact us by email at snomedctexpo@snomed.org

SNOMED CT Expo 2017 is located in the heart of Europe. Bratislava, Slovakia follows successful events in New Zealand, Sydney, Stockholm, Washington DC, Amsterdam and Montevideo. Conference delegates include local and international leading experts, as well as those who are newer to the SNOMED CT community and health terminology.

First Keynote Speaker Announced!

We are proud to begin announcing the SNOMED CT Expo 2017 keynote and panel speakers, starting with our James Read Memorial Lecturer: **Dr Jeremy Theal, MD FRCPC.**

Dr Theal is the Chief Medical Information Officer and a staff Gastroenterologist at North York General Hospital (NYGH) in Toronto, Canada. Dr Theal is the physician lead for the eCare hospital information system enhancement project at NYGH, which has won six national awards for innovation, quality and safety of patient care since 2010, and enabled NYGH to reach Stage 6 on the HIMSS Analytics EMRAM in 2011. eCare also won the prestigious HIMSS Nicolas E. Davies Enterprise Award of Excellence in 2016, the pinnacle award in healthcare IT for substantially improving patient outcomes and value.

Dr Theal and his team became the first in Canada to integrate regularly-updated evidence into physician order entry workflow. Subsequently, Dr Theal conducted outcomes research demonstrating a reduction in inpatient mortality because of using this system. To share this success with others, Dr Theal conceived the Canadian CPOE Toolkit, which was funded by Canada Health Infoway to provide a



nationwide resource free of cost to Canadian hospitals. With over 55 member organizations to date, it shares a 400+ page guidebook and a growing multi-contributor library of over 1,500 evidence-based order sets to reduce implementation cost and improve quality of CPOE (Computerized Provider Order Entry) systems across the country.

As a recognized expert in the design and implementation of advanced hospital information systems to improve patient care, Dr Theal has given invited presentations to clinicians, administrators and policy makers in 11 different countries. He has also served as an advisor to more than 80 hospitals, as well as several public health authorities and private companies in Canada and internationally. He is the physician lead of the newly formed provincial Hospital Information System Adoption and Benefits Team in Ontario, Canada. In 2015 he was the recipient of the Minister's Medal Honouring Excellence in Health Quality and Safety, and in 2010 he received the national COACH Community-Based Physician Leader/Innovator of the Year award. Dr Theal holds an MD from the University of Toronto,

Olympic Healthcare Interoperability Initiative @ Tokyo 2020 Games

By Kelly Kuru, Executive Lead, Communications



Leading healthcare terminology, worldwide



Tokyo Olympics presents an opportunity to advance interoperability with help from SNOMED International and HIMSS

A new HIMSS initiative, with support from SNOMED International, is working to showcase electronic health recording sharing at the 2020 games. The Olympic Healthcare Interoperability Initiative (OHI) is an effort to bring the most advanced health-record sharing standards to the medical services that will be provided at the Tokyo 2020 games.

Every two years, people from around the world converge on a community to compete in the summer and winter Olympic Games. The mission of the OHI is to advance the seamless exchange and

use of health information, using established international standards, to support an integrated medical services infrastructure at each Olympic Games site.

The OHI network connects pre-Games person-specific healthcare information with information generated at Games time by Olympic and Host City service providers. The OHI proposes to work with the Olympics medical services team in delivering a fully interoperable infrastructure that would make it possible for athletes' records to be accessible on site based on recognized international standards.

A HIMSS-led initiative, SNOMED is a supporting partner along with a number of other international standards organizations. At present, OHI is currently in talks with the International Olympic Committee to garner support and gain approval for the plan.

Follow [@Snomedct](#) to keep up to date on OHI developments for Tokyo 2020.

SNOMED International at AeHINm, Myanmar

By Liara Tutina, Customer Relations Executive Asia/Pac

In March, SNOMED International participated in the Digital Health Conference in the Asia-Pacific and 5th Asia eHealth Information Network (AeHIN) that was held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. AeHIN was created by the World Health Organization to assist countries with their national eHealth development. AeHIN membership includes over 950 people from more than 25 countries in South and South East Asia. We work in collaboration with the AeHIN to promote use of international standards towards achieving regional eHealth interoperability.

This year's AeHIN event gathered over 320 participants from Asia and Pacific including the Minister of Health of Myanmar, Minister of Health of Sri Lanka, the Undersecretary of Health of the Philippines and other senior officers from Ministries of Health, Ministries of ICT, government health insurance agencies, academic, and non-government sectors. SNOMED International took active part in the event and delivered a presentation on SNOMED CT at

the Terminology Standards workshop. AeHIN conference showcased a range of achievements in eHealth innovation achieved by a number of countries in the region. Overall, the event has demonstrated a positive trend towards health digitalisation in the region and growing interest amongst Asia and Pacific countries in adoption of innovative and cost effective eHealth solutions supported by international clinical standards.



Global Collaboration between GS1 and SNOMED International

Participation sought to review and test draft Principles for linking SNOMED CT and GTINs

By Jane Millar, Collaboration Lead

Updates to the Collaboration Agreement between SNOMED International and GS1 in April 2016 focused on work to ensure the organizations' health information standards are complementary and can work together in health systems globally. A key focus has been to develop Principles for linking SNOMED CT and GTINs at the national level. An expert group, with representatives from 4 jurisdictions (Australia, Canada, New Zealand and UK) have pooled their practical experience to contribute to the drafting of Principles for use by those implementing such a linkage.

The linkage from clinical EHRs to supply chain IT requires cautious steps to ensure high quality, timeliness and patient safety. The expert group has delivered Principles with the objective of raising

awareness to future implementers of the important steps and responsibilities to be defined ahead of any implementation. The Principles have to be used in conjunction with Use Cases which illustrate how, on the ground, implementations have been developed.

The draft Principles and Use Cases have been validated by the SNOMED International / GS1 Global Office Steering Group, and are now posted for public use. It is agreed that the draft Principles should be reviewed and tested by implementers, who in turn are invited to

provide feedback within the next 12 months. Any significant feedback will generate updates to the draft Principles immediately; otherwise there will be a new version in April 2018. The documents are available from the [GS1 Partnerships Page](#) on the SNOMED International Website. The time and contribution of subject matter experts from both organizations and participating jurisdictions has been much valued and their ongoing support is crucial for successful collaboration in this work.



SNOMED International Release Validation Framework: Now Open-Source

By Andrew Atkinson, Release Manager

The SNOMED International Release Validation Framework (RVF) is now open-source and openly available and accessible for use. The RVF is an extremely useful tool for validating SNOMED CT RF2 packages – SNOMED International is open-sourcing the RVF in order to allow people to extend it as they require for their own purposes. Non-standard packages (such as translated content), therefore, will need additional assertions adding by the user in order to validate all scenarios.

Please see the following Github repository [here](#) for the Readme file, which provides details of what prerequisites you will require to have installed, and instructions on how to create and configure a local instance of the RVF.

Once installed, you can access full instructions for using the RVF API, which will be available in local Swagger documentation:

<http://localhost:8080/api/v1/api-doc.html>

If you have any problems installing the RVF using the Readme file, or if you would like to contribute any local improvements that you have made, please contact us at info@snomed.org.

Delivering

SNOMED CT

The global language of healthcare

Making Connections @ HIMSS17

By Kelly Kuru, Executive Lead, Communications

Big Data, EHRs, Clinical Engagement and Precision Medicine. These were the themes that dominated this year's HIMSS conference, held Feb 19-23 in Orlando, Florida. HIMSS is the largest health informatics conference held globally and it posed an excellent opportunity for the SNOMED International team to connect with stakeholders and grow awareness and understanding of the organization and SNOMED CT.

Participating under the new SNOMED International banner, the organization was a first-time exhibitor on the trade show floor. A strong booth presence enabled the team to promote SNOMED CT and contribute to the conversation with booth presentations delivered by Peter Hendler, Rory Davidson, Jamie Ferguson, David Markwell, Jane Millar, and SNOMED CT implementer, David Rocha. As part of the formal program, David Markwell furthered the knowledge of delegates with his conference presentation entitled, 'Enabling



Advanced EHR Analytics with Clinical Terminology.'

On the Member and vendor engagement front, over 15 industry meetings were scheduled with existing and prospective Members, affiliates and partners to discuss potential opportunities and partnerships.

Collaborative discussions took place with the AMA, HL7, and IBM Watson Health, and the team was able to leverage discussions to learn more about the reach and scale of SNOMED CT implementations.

HIMSS17 also served as the mechanism with which to launch our support of the Olympic Healthcare Interoperability Initiative underway for the Tokyo 2020 games. Promoting this, along with our regular updates on conference activities yielded

a strong social media presence with ~53K impressions from our 62 tweets. Overall, HIMSS17 was an excellent showing for SNOMED International that was fueled by a dedicated team effort.

Planning for HIMSS18 in Las Vegas has already begun. March 5-9, 2018... Save the Date!

Changes in the Education & Product Support Team

By David Markwell, Head of Education

I am pleased to announce that from April 1st, 2017, Linda Bird will take over the leadership of the Education & Product Support Team. It has been a privilege to build and lead this team over the past few years but now is an ideal time for this change to take effect. Linda has been a key player in the successful outcomes achieved by the E-Learning program as well as taking forward many valuable initiatives.

From my perspective, I have great confidence knowing that Linda is willing to take on this role allowing me to step back a little. That being said, stepping back does not mean walking away and for the foreseeable future, I will continue to play a full time role supporting Linda, the team and SNOMED International. My enthusiasm for SNOMED CT is

undimmed and I plan to continue contributing to its success.

For additional or questions, please contact myself (dma@snomed.org) or Linda (lbi@snomed.org.)



New Staff Members at SNOMED International

Kelly Kuru

Kelly Kuru joins SNOMED International in February 2017 as Executive Lead for Communications, after spending the last 10 years with Canada Health Infoway ("Infoway").



During her time at Infoway, Kelly has been responsible for digital health strategy development, vendor liaison through Infoway's national certification service, and most recently, played a leadership role in driving strategic communications and stakeholder engagement in pursuit of the organization's clinical interoperability and standards program.

Kelly thrives on communicating organizational vision, priorities and successes with meaning and impact for stakeholders and influencers and is eager to contribute these skills to the SNOMED International community.

Sonja Ulrich

Sonja Ulrich joins SNOMED International in April 2017 as a QA Analyst after 10 years at B2i Healthcare, where she held quality assurance and business analyst roles in finance and healthcare.

Since first meeting the community of practice at the 2011 Sydney conference, she believes that quality tooling, training and support are key to SNOMED CT's widespread adoption. She has a technical



education background with particular emphasis on SNOMED CT tooling, developed SNOMED tutorials at B2i, taught an introductory workshop at the Washington Showcase, and also held a lectureship at the University of Würzburg, Germany.

Over the past 18 months, she worked with the Technical Services Team on the Authoring and Managed Services projects, and with the Content Team to ease transition to the new toolset.

Chris Haresnape

Chris Haresnape joins us in April. His role, as Finance Manager, will be to support Kuldip. Chris is a qualified Chartered Accountant (UK) having trained with BDO Stoy Hayward and has a BSc in Management Science from Warwick University. He has had many years experience of managing the finance function for SME companies in the printing & IT industries, with experience of buying and selling companies, implementing significant cost reduction programmes and capital investment projects.



For the last three years he has led the finance function for an IT reseller that was ranked in The Sunday Times Tech Track 100 league table for two consecutive years and has experience in HR, payroll, pension and taxation areas as well as statutory accounts production. He will be a welcome addition to the SNOMED International Family.

Get Social with SNOMED International

By Kelly Kuru, Executive Lead, Communications

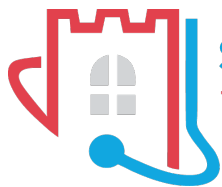
The entire world is on social media. And even if it's not quite the entire world, it seems pretty close. In this new communication era, social media is an invaluable tool and asset, and an approach that organizations need to adopt to be part of the conversation, stay current and maintain relationships.

Connecting with our stakeholders on social media, and using social networks to show appreciation for members and partners, fosters word of mouth within a community, whether that community is as local as a 10-mile radius or as vast as the Internet enables, which we know is the case for our globally situated organization.

Over the coming months you can expect to see the profile of SNOMED International grow on social media. Please join us as we work to share the SNOMED CT story with across and beyond our community.



Follow us on Twitter [@Snomedct](https://twitter.com/Snomedct)



SNOMED CT Expo 2017
Bratislava | October 19-20

Promote & Stay Up to Date on our
SNOMED CT Expo 2017 [#SCTExpo17](https://twitter.com/SCTExpo17)



Join the [SNOMED CT LinkedIn Group](#)



This quarterly publication provides news and features from SNOMED International. If you have comments on the editorial content, then please contact the editor, Fleur McBriar, at fmc@snomed.org