



Interchange

News from the Inforoute Standards Collaborative and Solution Architecture Group

Inforoute Standards Collaborative gets 2012 strategy approval



Welcome to the Spring 2008 edition of *Interchange*. It's a big issue again and the number of articles reflects the high level of activity going on in the standards and architecture mandates this winter.

For the *Inforoute* Standards Collaborative (SC), the most

notable event was that its 2012 Strategy was approved by *Inforoute's* Board of Directors at its meeting in December. In addition, the Board also approved the portfolio of standards to be supported and the funding for the 2008/09 fiscal year. Funding options from 2009 to 2012 are to be defined and developed during the next 12 months. The Board also confirmed the SC's status as a service within *Inforoute* for the duration of *Inforoute's* mandate, subject to appropriate funding.

For the SC this is indeed great news. When the SC was set up in 2006, it was housed at *Inforoute* on an interim basis pending a review in 18 months. As the SC's activities have ramped up significantly since then, the confirmation of the SC's status within *Inforoute* bodes well for continued development and support of the common standards necessary to achieve the interoperable pan-Canadian electronic health record (iEHR) and other e-health solutions, such as those needed for Patient Access to Quality Care.

Current standards in scope for the SC include SNOMED CT®; National e-Claims Standard (NeCST); Client Registry Standard; Provider Registry Standard; Diagnostic Imaging Standard; Drug Standard; and the Laboratory Standard. The SC plans to expand its portfolio consistent with *Inforoute's* EHR agenda to include Service Delivery Location Messages; Physician Office System Requirements; Public Health Surveillance; iEHR Clinical Messaging and Canadian Bilingual Lab Terminology.

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In addition to *Inforoute*-developed standards, the SC will continue to support other standards initiatives such as the Partnership, HL7 (Health Level Seven) Canada, DICOM (Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine), ISO/TC 215 (International Standards Organization Technical Committee 215), LOINC® (Logical Observation Identifiers, Names and Codes) and SNOMED CT® (Systematized Nomenclature of MEDicine Clinical Terms).

Services currently offered by the SC include Client Services and SDO Relations, Development Support, Implementation Support, Conformance, Maintenance, Education and Training, Standards Collaborative Governance, and Standards Uptake and Evaluation. We proposed to the board, and they concurred, that we maintain our current level of service in these areas.

On a more personal note, I am pleased to announce that I have been appointed to a two-year term as a director on the Health Level 7 (HL7) International Board. This is a great honour and I look forward to working with the other board members over the next two years as we work to shape the

strategic direction of HL7, which is critical to the interoperability and standardization that is fundamental to the success of the iEHR. (*Please see HL7 Board report, page 7*)

I'd also like to draw your attention to the upcoming Partnership Conference in Toronto, April 7-9. Mark your calendars and plan to be there. (*Please see page 3*)

I hope you enjoy reading this latest issue of *Interchange*, and as always, I invite you to submit articles or ideas for items to our editor (*Please see page 12*). Now, read on.

Dennis Giokas
Chief Technology Officer
Canada Health Infoway

Dennis Giokas joins HL7 International Board

Canada Health Infoway's (*Infoway*) Chief Technology Officer, Dennis Giokas, was recently appointed to the Health Level 7 (HL7) International board.

Giokas' appointment will help Canada shape the strategic direction of HL7, which is critical to the interoperability and standardization that is fundamental to the success of the interoperable electronic health record (iEHR).

"Canada is a strong contributor to the global acceleration of electronic health records and we look forward to their continued collaboration, and to leveraging their strengths and experience," said HL7 Board Chair Dr. Ed Hammond.

Infoway uses HL7 in defining the interoperability standards that are used in every clinical domain and demographic registry *Infoway* invests in. Thus they are critical to the 245 *Infoway*-funded electronic health projects currently underway across Canada. The appointment of Mr. Giokas will ensure the needs of Canadian patients, clinicians and vendors are well represented on the international stage.

Mr. Giokas brings with him more than 27 years of experience in information management and information technology. In his existing role at *Infoway*, he focuses his efforts on the business and technical solution architecture and the health IT standards that underpin the deployment of electronic health records (EHRs) across the country. Mr. Giokas has held executive positions at Sapient Corporation and has also worked in senior positions at Digital Equipment Corporation. He previously served as a board director of Canada's health informatics association, COACH, and is currently on the Board of Stewards for Open Health Tools Inc.

— *Canada Health Infoway news release*

SC Governance spring elections underway

The Standards Collaborative (SC) is pleased to announce that the SC Governance Spring 2008 elections are now in progress. Elected positions are open to individuals who are SC members and those whose associations or organizations are members of the SC.

Elected members on the SC Governance committees and Standards Collaborative Working Groups (SCWGs) are engaged in the process of establishing and influencing the development of existing pan-Canadian standards and the addition of new standards to the national framework. The committees and SCWGs are an excellent place for SC members to apply their expertise to perform a valued and important task. We are looking for people who are interested in making a positive contribution to the development of the iEHR and we encourage you to put your name forward for an elected position.

There are a total of 14 SCWG positions that need to be filled. They include positions on the newly launched SCWG #9— Terminology Representations & Services. This election will be the first for the SCWG. The SCWGs provide recommendations on the adoption and use of standards and to review and vote on the content of health information standards throughout the standards lifecycle. The representative position for the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO) is also open for election.

The Spring 2008 SC election timeline is as follows:

- **Feb. 15–Mar. 14, 2008:** Nomination period for members to submit candidate submission forms
- **Mar. 14, 2008:** Deadline for members to submit a candidate submission form
- **Mar. 19–Apr. 2, 2008:** Electronic voting period
- **Apr. 3–4, 2008:** Announcement of election results and orientation of elected members
- **Apr. 7–9, 2008:** Partnership Conference in Toronto

Elected candidates will assume leadership at the conference.

If you are interested in putting your name forward for election, or if you would like additional information regarding the election process or any of the positions, contact the SC Infodesk at: standards@infoway-inforoute.ca or Toll Free: 1-877-595-3417.

— *Contributed by Bryna Smith, PM/Education & Training Lead, Infoway Standards Collaborative*

Standards Collaborative Membership Report

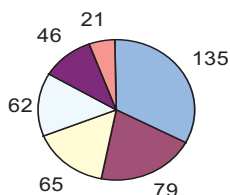
While still a young year, 2008 has witnessed the achievement of some significant milestones for the *Infoway* Standards Collaborative (SC) membership. The mid-January results were impressive showing membership up in all four categories (*see diagram below*) and now exceeding 400. These two achievements are an important indication of the growing value of the SC and a positive sign as the SC prepares for its new membership year.

The SC anticipates that the new year will be even more successful, with member enrolment continuing to advance across all categories. Plans are underway for the 2008-2009 membership campaign and we look forward to engaging our members and continuing to provide the high quality, valuable services that they have come to expect. Members can look forward to a number of enhancements and improvements in SC services and benefits. In particular, the SC member web pages are currently undergoing major construction. The focus will be on improving content as well as facilitating the ease of information access. More standards and related information will be readily available to members, and the SC Working Group (SCWG) engagements will continue to evolve and mature.

We look forward to welcoming back all of the SC's 400-plus members for the 2008-2009 membership year and we also extend an invitation to those who have not yet joined to do so and begin enjoying the membership benefits. Please contact us with questions or comments at the SC Infodesk: standards@infoway-inforoute.ca.

— June Seepersad, Standards Coordinator, Infoway Standards Collaborative

Member Representation by Category
408 Members



- Vendors/Consultants/Private Insurers
- FPT Ministries / Agencies
- Service Deliverers, Provincial & Regional Networks, Private Insurers
- Professional Colleges / Associations, Not-for-Profit Organizations & Academic Institutions
- Individuals
- Students

Mark your calendars. Join us April 7-9, 2008, for Standards: Show, Share & Celebrate Success Spring 2008 Partnership Conference

The *Infoway* Spring 2008 Partnership Conference will take place at the Marriott Toronto Downtown Eaton Centre Hotel. The Partnership will be hosting a series of presentations about local, regional and pan-Canadian architecture and standards-based projects at, or going into, implementation. It will also host the SC Welcome Reception and InfoFair, highlighting the latest innovations in architecture, standards-based products and services from the private and public sectors.

The event will include:

- SC Working Group Meetings and Deliberations
- SDO Constituency Meetings
- Welcome Reception and InfoFair

Following the conference, the SC will host their Education Summit from April 10-11, 2008, at the same venue. Introductory and advanced tutorials on HL7 V2 and V3, SNOMED CT® and LOINC® will be available on a track basis.

The detailed preliminary programs for both the Partnership Conference and the Education Summit tutorials as well as the conference registration information are now available.

Don't miss this opportunity to network and learn with the leaders in the health information standards community.

Hotel reservations are now being accepted; take advantage of the special conference rates available only until March 18, 2008. (Rooms begin at \$180 per night plus applicable taxes). Reservations can be made via one of two easy options:

1. On-line reservations can be made at: <http://marriott.com/yyzec?groupCode=chichia&app=resvlink>
Please enter the following promotional code: **chichia**
2. By phone: 1-800-905-0667 and quote "Canada Health Info" when booking your reservation

Please visit the Partnership web page at http://sl.infoway-inforoute.ca/content/dispPage.asp?cw_page=partner_e for more information about this exciting event in the world of health informatics standards.

Should you wish to contact us, please call, toll-free, at 1-877-595-3417 or write to standards@infoway-inforoute.ca.

— Linda Monico, Partnership coordinator, Infoway Standards Collaborative.

Standards Collaborative Updates

The following are updates from the SC service sectors

Conformance Services at work supporting Investment Projects

The past six months have seen a substantial uptake of the Standards Collaborative's suite of "quick-hit" conformance tooling, supported by an expert resource team providing education, training and implementation assistance to jurisdictional investment projects from coast to coast. This Investment Project Testing Support initiative is designed to provide immediate assistance to a growing number of "early participant" jurisdictions around conformance test authoring and test execution, while at the same time providing a mechanism to harvest and share artefacts (such as business rules, test data, test cases) amongst jurisdictions to significantly ease the burden of preparing and executing conformance testing.

Led by Saskatchewan's Drug Information System (DIS) project, now significantly into the process of using the tooling with over 50 business rules and 100 test cases defined, the "early participant group" has expanded to include British Columbia and Newfoundland-Labrador, each of whom has begun the process, beginning with an intensive training workshop and assessment exercise. Four additional jurisdictions are in preliminary stages of orientation and scoping to use the services.

"I am extremely pleased at the pace at which projects have come on board to use our Testing Support Services," said Standards Director Helen Stevens Love. "In addition to providing tangible benefit to our early participants, our learnings from this initiative will help us shape a sustainable national service to support the vendor conformance and certification of EHR, public health and electronic medical records (EMR) solutions." A parallel project, examining strategic direction and an analysis of options for comprehensive Conformance Services, is currently underway, with recommendations expected by the Summer of 2008.

— *Michael Nusbaum, Engagement Lead, Conformance Services, Infoway Standards Collaborative*

Developing the Product Release Management White Paper

The development of a Product Release Management White Paper is underway. The White Paper will provide a comprehensive framework for pan-Canadian messaging and nomenclature standards product release management that is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Standards Collaborative, and supports the maintenance requirements of

stakeholders. The White Paper will define key processes, identify supporting tooling for product release management, and provide recommendations for future actions.

This project was launched in response to feedback from the SC membership during Maintenance Release 2007. It will address identified issues such as backwards compatibility, frequency of major releases, hot fixes, and managing multiple releases.

The project has recently been renamed Product Release Management (PRM) to encompass additional capabilities beyond releases, such as requirements management and configuration management.

A collaborative approach is being used to develop the PRM White Paper. Various stakeholder groups will be included throughout the process to ensure all involved will be able to champion the outcome.

At the centre of the White Paper development is a focus group. This group will include representatives from the Standards Collaborative Coordinating Committee (SCCC), Technical Sub-Committee (TSC), vendor groups, jurisdictions and other interested experts. Their objective is to ensure White Paper development is meeting the expectations of the larger stakeholder community. They will provide, among other things, early input into the scope of the White Paper, product release management expertise, and recommendations for a sustainable process.

A peer review group will be established to confirm and evaluate the content, and submit suggestions for consideration. This group of experts from various perspectives is an integral part of the White Paper development.

The basic timeframe is as follows:

- **February 26, 2008**—The first of five focus group meetings
- **April 7–9, 2008**—Partnership Conference presentation will include a status update and a review of deliverables
- **May 2008**—Peer review process
- **July 21, 2008**—Final approval by SCCC

Following approval by the SCCC, the PRM White Paper will be made available to all stakeholders.

For more information about the Standards Maintenance Services or to participate in the PRM White Paper peer review, please contact the SC InfoDesk: standards@infoway-inforoute.ca.

—*Contributed by Bryna Smith, PM/Education & Training Lead, Infoway Standards Collaborative*

News from the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organization (IHTSDO)

Domestic Release of the January 2008 International Edition of SNOMED CT ... and Browsers to Boot

Infoway's Standards Collaborative (SC), the home for SNOMED CT® in Canada, continues to support the new terminology mandate with the domestic release of the January 2008 core international release of the standard. In addition to the latest SNOMED CT® concepts, relationships and descriptions, the January 2008 release also provides an updated User Guide (translated into French) as well as Technical Implementation and Reference Guides (French versions are planned for later this year). Finally, the release includes a number of supplementary documents and other components, such as subsets, a canonical table guide, namespace identifier guide and a developer toolkit.

The SNOMED CT® Content files are provided as tab-delimited flat files which can be imported into any database or other software application. Infoway has worked with Apelon and the CIC Ltd. (Clinical Information Consultancy) to make available their respective browsers, Mycroft® and CliniClue®. This release, along with previous 2006 and 2007 releases of the standard, are available at no cost to SC members in good standing.

—Contributed by Zied Kallel, General Standards Analyst, Infoway Standards Collaborative

IHTSDO Workplan for 2008-2009 now available

IHTSDO has recently published its Workplan for 2008. The Workplan focuses on evolving and maturing the leadership and governance of the organization; development, maintenance and distribution of the SNOMED CT® standard and supporting documents; improving the quality of SNOMED CT® through enhanced modeling and implementation of a quality framework; enhancing and/or creating the tooling and technology platform for IHTSDO to better support release management, editing, modeling etc.; exploring opportunities for liaison with other Standards Development Organizations; and development and implementation of a comprehensive communications plan. The Workplan is available on the IHTSDO's website for further consideration at:

http://www.ihtsdo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/DK_uploads/IHTSDO_2008-Work-Plan.pdf.

—Contributed by Zied Kallel, General Standards Analyst, Infoway Standards Collaborative

Dr. Jennifer Zelmer to address Partnership Conference.

Dr. Jennifer Zelmer, who was recently appointed as the inaugural chief executive officer for the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organization (IHTSDO), has accepted an invitation to deliver the keynote address to the upcoming Standards Collaborative Spring 2008 Partnership Conference in Toronto April 7-9. Dr. Zelmer is well known to Partnership members due to her former role as vice-president for research and analysis at the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI).

A graduate of the health informatics program at the University of Victoria, Dr. Zelmer completed her doctoral work at McMaster University, focusing on the economic burden of chronic illnesses. Having worked with a variety of health, academic, and governmental organizations in Canada, Australia, Denmark, and India prior to joining CIHI, Dr. Zelmer will provide welcome leadership, experience and expertise to IHTSDO.

— Contributed by Dr. Kathryn J. Hannah, HECS, Inc., Professor (ADJ), Department of Community Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of Calgary, and Grant Gillis, Director, Standards, Infoway Standards Collaborative

LOINC® and IHTSDO working together

LOINC® (Logical Observation Identifiers, Names and Codes) and the IHTSDO® have agreed to work together toward the common purpose of harmonization between the two terminologies to avoid unnecessary duplication and promote progress toward interoperable electronic health records. Following a recent meeting, Kent Spackman, IHTSDO's chief terminologist, and Stan Huff, Regenstrief & LOINC®, developed a series of technical options for that harmonization. These options were recently made available to member country representatives and two meetings were held to provide direction and determine a preferred option that would be acceptable to member countries prior to the next scheduled SNOMED CT® - LOINC® harmonization meeting. In January, the Standards Collaborative (SC) hosted a conference call to provide further context, explanation and an opportunity to clarify the information currently available as well as to gather feedback about this proposal. The SC will keep its members informed about developments in this area.

—Contributed by Zied Kallel, General Standards Analyst, Infoway Standards Collaborative

IHTSDO Working Group Meetings

For those interested in the proceedings of the last IHTSDO Autumn 2007 Governance and Working Group Meetings in Copenhagen, a synopsis is posted at the IHTSDO Constituency Forum which can be accessed using this link: <http://forums.infoway-inforoute.ca/webx:293@212.a6e5ajtdebK.492@.eee2180>.

(Please, be advised that you will be prompted to sign in with your *Infoway* Passport). In preparation for the upcoming Spring 2008 Governance and Working Group Meetings (April 20 - 24) in Chicago, the Standards Collaborative's IHTSDO constituency will be communicating with members-at-large and convening a meeting to take place in conjunction with the upcoming Spring 2008 Partnership Conference in Toronto. Watch for further announcements from the Standards Collaborative.

— *Contributed by Dr. Kathryn J. Hannah, HECS, Inc., Professor (ADJ), Department of Community Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of Calgary*

SNOMED CT®: French Translation underway

In January 2008, *Infoway* approved the start for translating the SNOMED CT® standard into French for use in Canada. The goal of the first phase is to translate up to 120,000 SNOMED CT® concepts to meet the priorities of *Infoway*-funded projects in jurisdictions requiring French terminology. These priorities have been identified and will continue to be identified by the Translation Priority Committee which has brought to the project the needs and plans of various implementation projects underway in jurisdictions. Active since August 2007, the Committee will meet on a quarterly basis throughout 2008 to update priorities.

Following an extensive Request For Proposal (RFP) process, two vendors have been selected to provide translation services and a software platform to manage and accelerate translation work. Recruitment is now underway for members of the Translation Acceptance pan-Canadian Standards Group. The team is expected to begin translation this spring after an extensive training session on SNOMED CT® and the software platform.

A Translation Policy and Guidelines Committee has been activated to ensure quality translation work. This committee benefits from the participation of the Office québécois de la langue française which has built extensive translation experience over the last 40 years, as evidenced by their publicly available *Grand Dictionnaire Terminologique* on the web. The Danish and the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation's (IHTSDO) experiences with translation issues are also serving as input to the committee's work.

More details can be obtained through the newly created web forum dedicated to the project, accessible in the forum area of *Infoway's* website at <http://knowledge.infoway-inforoute.ca/en/forums>.

For more information, contact the *Infoway* Standards Collaborative at standards@infoway-inforoute.ca.

— *Contributed by Andre Boudreau, Project Manager, Infoway Standards Collaborative*

HL7 News

HL7 Board Report

The newly structured HL7 Board includes three new CEO-appointed directors and one of them is Dennis Giokas, Chief Technology Officer for Canada Health Infoway. (See story page 2). Dennis joined the board at its recent San Antonio meeting along with Michael van Campen, HL7 head of delegation, who was named an affiliate director last fall. Both Michael and Dennis will hold their positions for two years.

As part of the Board restructuring, HL7 has also strengthened and clarified roles for some of the Board support committees, enabling the HL7 Board to be more strategic and less tactical in its deliberations.

Please look to this forum for periodic updates on Board activities. One of the more interesting initiatives is the HL7 Road Map, which attempts to lay out the business plan for the organization for the upcoming years. Watch for further updates.

HL7 Working Group meeting, Vancouver, Sept. 13-19, 2008

This is a reminder that HL7 Canada will play host to HL7's 22nd Annual plenary in Vancouver, British Columbia, at the Sheraton Wall Centre, September 13-19, 2008. Over 400 delegates are expected and I would love to have many familiar and new Canadian faces at this session. Please mark your calendars and I look forward to welcoming you in Vancouver in September.

Contact us

If you have any issues and/or comments on HL7 internationally or locally, please feel free to contact the HL7 Canada Constituency at:

HL7_Constituency@forums.infoway-inforoute.ca or through the Standards Infodesk (standards@infoway-inforoute.ca). We can also be contacted by telephone at 416-595-3417 (Toll-free:1-877-595-3417). We're excited to have such strong support for HL7 in Canada.

— *Contributed by Michael van Campen, HL7 Canada Head of Delegation*

Working Group Meeting – San Antonio, Texas

Canadian involvement in HL7 activities has been strong both domestically and internationally. On the International front, Canada once again had a sizeable delegation of 25 people at the HL7 Working Group Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, January 13-18. The delegation included representatives from

jurisdictions, vendors, and academic institutions, as well as *Infoway* project representatives and the HL7 Canada Secretariat. The delegation team participated in various meetings in several domain Work Groups such as Patient Care, Lab, and Pharmacy as well technical Work Groups such as Infrastructure and Implementation.

Significant progress has been made for various pan-Canadian standards projects. Please see below for various updates:

- iEHR (under the Patient Care scope) primary topics/artifacts are at Draft for Comment status. Short-term goals of iEHR include: obtaining normative ballot status at the implementable level (PUT/Record, GET, LIST Measured/Coded Observation), although current review and balloting activities have been limited to the Domain Message Information Model (DMIM) level (i.e., Common Observation). Within the next two to three ballot cycles, all iEHR materials are anticipated to have successfully moved through the “Draft for Comment” status, and be on their way to normative status (under the Patient Care Work Group).
- Lab (under Laboratory & Order/Observation scope) obtained agreement from Lab SIG that a “pattern” Reference Message Information Model (RMIM) approach is most appropriate for Microbiology results. Specimen DMIM and RMIM modeling changes were also completed, which now align with Canadian requirements for Non-Human Lab.
- Registries (under Patient Administration “PA” scope) obtained approval from the PA Working Group to add a proposed new attribute `QualifiedEntity.name` attribute to all applicable Provider Registry RMIMs. Going forward, there will be further derivation of the Provider and Client Registry messages from the new registries DMIM.
- For CeRx (under Pharmacy and Order/Observation scope), significant time was allocated to discussion of the ISO/CEN/HL7 Nomenclatures for Medicinal Products work. The Pharmacy Working Group has also identified a significant amount of work required in the vocabulary area, including “Administrations for Medicinal Substances.” The Pharmacy Working Group has also been confirmed as the owners of the Medication DMIM. As a result, Pharmacy-led DMIM harmonization work begun in the San Antonio meeting will continue in earnest at the next HL7 WGM in Phoenix with harmonization sessions planned (either individual or joint) with Patient Safety (ICSR); Structured Product Labeling; Public Health Emergency Response (PHER) with the Immunization DMIM (now accepted as a “child” of the Medication DMIM), as well as Clinical Statement.

Message from CHITTA VP

As the new Vice-President of Standards and Interoperability with the Canadian Healthcare Information Technology Trade Association (CHITTA), I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and our organization. CHITTA is comprised of 108 companies and organizations that have a common interest in working together in a pre-competitive manner to increase the size of the Canadian healthcare information and communications technology (ICT) market.

The strategy of “growing the pie” will result in a larger marketplace with all the consumer benefits of increased competition, such as improved product functionality and quality as well as an increased range of products and services at varying price points. However, these consumer benefits are just the facilitators for ensuring that all stakeholders in the Canadian health care system have the best information to manage the healthcare of Canadians and our health care system.

CHITTA recognizes that health information standards play an integral role in increasing the size of the Canadian Healthcare ICT market. Within CHITTA, the Standards and Interoperability Committee is responsible for the standards agenda. The Committee has identified three priority areas for 2007/08:

1. Collaboration with Canada Health Infoway.
2. Increased member participation in national and international standards.
3. Advocacy and education related to standards.

The committee, which is in the midst of strategic and operational planning for 2008/09, will build on the objectives previously set for those three priority areas. Highlights of the 2008/09 standards strategy will be shared with the Standards Collaborative in future editions of *Interchange*.

Finally, we want to hear from you. Whether you are interested in the activities of our committees, have an opinion on a market trend or opportunity, or just want to learn more about CHITTA as an association, please do not hesitate to contact me at: gtong@itac.ca or visit our website at www.chitta.ca.

— Contributed by Gavin Tong, Vice-President, Standards, CHITTA



- PHS's (under the Public Health Emergency Response "PHER" scope) immunization and case outbreak management standards are used as foundation at the HL7 Inc. level. It is being continuously monitored to ensure ballot reconciliation comment dispositions don't adversely impact Canadian standards. The Clinical Statement ballot is also being continuously monitored to ensure ballot reconciliation comment dispositions don't adversely impact Canadian standards.
- Orders and Observation Working Group is the foundation for some of the work included in Lab, and CeRx. Outcomes of Dynamic Modeling are monitored to ensure pan-Canadian standards are documented the same way as equivalent documents at the HL7 Inc. Universal (UV) level. Common topics including observation, patient safety, and PHER outcomes also continued to be monitored against Canadian requirements and models.
- The Tooling Committee hosted a demonstration of the new Instance Editor (led by Lloyd McKenzie) and the new Miff-Diff tool. Upon availability, the new Miff-Diff tool will be used to support quality assurance of pan-Canadian standards releases.
- Terminology also made progress at the WGM. The existing Vocabulary Binding document will continue to be enhanced. This document has, and will continue to provide, good guidance for the pan-Canadian terminology implementation guide and related vocabulary spreadsheets (particularly when work begins for its modification/alignment). It also provides clarity with binding rules and the use of such data as original text.

— *Contributed by Wendy Huang, Standards Analyst, Infoway Standards Collaborative*

HL7 Architecture Review Board Update - Renewed Focus and Mandate

The affect of the earlier appointment of John Quinn as the new Chief Technical Officer for HL7 Inc. was very apparent at the winter 2008 HL7 Working Group Meeting. As part of his review of the organization, John has charged the Architecture Review Board (ARB) with owning the resolution of some underlying architectural and technology issues in the crafting, versioning, balloting, and publishing of HL7 messaging specifications. To do this, the ARB is stepping back a bit from what has been a bit of a break/fix role to focusing (at least for now) more on the Architecture definition side of their role. John has charged the ARB with the responsibility to ensure that all parts of the organization are well served by a coherent underlying architecture that effectively supports the Technical Committees, HL7 members, affiliates, and implementers.

As part of this renewed focus, the ARB has invited Canada and *Infoway* to participate in the ARB and, as of January 2008, I am now a working member of the HL7 ARB team. This is very consistent with, and complimentary to, other work that is underway within *Infoway* in the areas of tooling for HL7 messaging, as well as our participation in the Open Health Tools organization and the HL7 Health Services Specification Project.

As one of the HL7 affiliate countries that is moving forward with the HL7 v3 agenda, Canada's ongoing experiences in implementing HL7 for the EHR natively, or in a services metaphor, should contribute to both the requirements the HL7 ARB needs to meet, as well as helping solve the requirements with supportive tools.

The scope and work plan for the HL7 ARB is still evolving, with the expectation that at the Spring Working Group Meeting, we will have finalized the scope and strategy, and begin to action some of this work. We are also working on a communication plan for ensuring that all of the HL7 Committees will be aware of where we are going, and understand our respective roles. Stay tuned, there will be another update in the next edition of *Interchange*.

— *Contributed by Ron G. Parker, Group Director, EHRS Architecture - Canada Health Infoway*

HL7 Canada Constituency Forum

The HL7 Canada Constituency Forum was launched in December 2007 to support the ongoing international and domestic activities HL7. The forum contains all domestic meeting material, as well as international material, such as the HL7 Inc. Policy and Procedure, link to HL7 ballots – domestic and international, reports and meeting material, as required. It also will contain all HL7 Canada-related documentation for the SC, and will work in partnership with the SCWG forums to facilitate SC member input to HL7 ballot items. While the HL7 Canada Constituency forum will be the central repository for HL7-related files, as the SCWGs are the primary vehicle for the development of domestic responses to HL7 ballot items, the SCWG forums will contain links to the HL7 Canada Constituency forum information and all SCWG replies will be posted to the related SCWG forums. These will be available on this forum for all HL7 Canada Constituency members' access. The HL7 Canada Constituency forum will be publicly available, except for the folder containing HL7 Copyright Protected Materials. Access to this folder is restricted to SC members only, and requires an *Infoway* Passport (username and password) for access.

If you have any questions regarding the forum or for the HL7 Canada Constituency, please contact the Constituency listserve at: HL7_Constituency@forums.infoway-inforoute.ca or the

SC InfoDesk at: standards@infoway-inforoute.ca.

— *Contributed by Wendy Huang, Standards Analyst, Infoway Standards Collaborative*

SOA in Health Care Conference

The SOA (Service-Oriented Architecture) Consortium, HL7 and the object Management Group (OMG) are pleased to announce the conference “SOA in Health Care: Realizing Quality of Care, Business Value, and Delivery on IT's Promise” will take place April 15-17 in Chicago. Focused on the intersection between service-oriented architecture (the technology industry's latest “silver bullet”) and health care quality, the conference features real-world experiences and attendees will benefit from the lessons learned and challenges faced in these implementations. The workshop intentionally integrates the themes of SOA and health quality, and is targeted primarily to a health-IT savvy audience. This event is focused on health care's challenges and SOA's role in meeting them.

This workshop features a three track program and the participation of key players in the health IT space, including many of the vendors/consultants currently engaged in delivery of EHR solutions across Canada.

Dennis Giokas, CTO of *Infoway*, will be presenting in the session: Case Studies: Impact of SOA Initiatives on Business-IT Alignment and Business Agility and Ron Parker, *Infoway's* Group Director, EHRS Architecture, will be moderating the panel: Achieving Value in Healthcare SOA Across Organizations, Geographies and Implementations. There is a very impressive list of speakers, with substantive topics and opportunities for discussion. For more information on the

conference and how to register, go to the following site: <http://www.omg.org/news/meetings/HC-WS/>.

— *Contributed by Ron G. Parker, Group Director, EHRS Architecture - Canada Health Infoway*

Successful HL7 V2.5 Certified Specialists

We are pleased to announce the following recent successful candidates in obtaining the HL7 V2.5 certification:

- Farzaneh (Dana) Ashrafi
- Rod A. MacDonald

For more information on HL7 certification testing, please visit the HL7 Certification website at:

http://sl.infowayinforoute.ca/content/DispPage.asp?cw_page=in fostand hl7can certification e or contact us at standards@infowayinforoute.ca.

—*Contributed by Wendy Huang, Standards Analyst, Infoway Standards Collaborative*

DICOM Update

The DICOM Standards Committee exists to create and maintain international standards for communication of biomedical diagnostic and therapeutic information in disciplines that use digital images and associated data. The goals of DICOM are to achieve compatibility and to improve workflow efficiency between imaging systems and other information systems in healthcare environments worldwide. Those interested in imaging (DICOM) standards and who wish to participate in the work of DICOM, including ballots of the standard, are urged to contact Grant Gillis at Canada Health Infoway (ggillis@infoway-inforoute.ca).

DICOM 2008 Now Available

The 2008 version of the DICOM Standard is now available on the DICOM Web Page and FTP site at: <ftp://medical.nema.org/medical/dicom/2008/>.

DICOM Standards in Development

Copies of DICOM documents at ballot or comment are provided to SC members so all will be apprised of anticipated extensions to the standard. The capabilities defined by this proposed addition to the standard must not be used in commercial products until the documents have reached their final, approved form. The following ballots are now open:

- Request for Comments on Draft DICOM Supplement 126 (Colon Computer-Aided Detection SR SOP Class)

A copy of the supplement may be obtained from DICOM's public ftp site at:

<ftp://medical.nema.org/medical/dicom/Supps/>.

Look for “Sup126_pc.doc” or “Sup126_pc.pdf.” All comments should be received by March 17, 2008.

Contact Information Infoway Standards Collaborative

For any information or questions about the Standards Collaborative, including HL7 Canada, Partnership and ISO, please use the following phone numbers:

Toll-free calls: 1-877-595-3417

Local calls in Toronto: 416-595-3417

Or send an e-mail to any of the following addresses:

standards@infoway-inforoute.ca
HL7Canada@infoway-inforoute.ca
Partnership@infoway-inforoute.ca
ISO@infoway-inforoute.ca

- **Request for Comments on Draft DICOM Supplement 133 (Color Palette Storage, Query and Retrieval)**

A copy of the supplement may be obtained from DICOM's public ftp site at:

<ftp://medical.nema.org/medical/dicom/Supps/>.

Look for "Sup133_pc.doc" or "Sup133_pc.pdf." All comments should be received by March 17, 2008.

- **Ballot for draft Supplement 122 (Specimen Module and Revised Pathology SOP classes)**

A copy of the proposed supplement may be obtained from DICOM's public ftp site at:

<ftp://medical.nema.org/medical/dicom/supps>.

The file name is Sup122_lb.doc or Sup122_lb.pdf. All comments should be received by March 19, 2008.

- **Ballot for Proposed DICOM Correction Package 45**

The ballot package (in both MS Word and PDF format) is available at:

<ftp://medical.nema.org/medical/dicom/cp> or at

<http://medical.nema.org/dicom/cp>.

It contains the following elements:

- **809 Preserve SOP Instance UID when Concatenation is used**

- 818 Correction for TID 10002
- 819 Frame Type attribute missing in Enhanced XA/XRF
- 821 Presentation State Graphic Bounding Box Condition Incomplete
- 822 Clarify the Usage of the Real-World Value Description Attributes
- 823 Pseudo Color and Blending SPs Forbid Wrong Presentation LUT
- 824 Clarify That Only a Single Value for Patient ID Is Valid for C-MOVE and C-GET
- 825 Mixed Breed Description
- 826 Extend Responsible Person Roles
- 827 Level 2 Storage SCP May Discard Empty Type 3 Attributes
- 828 Meta Header Attributes Illegal in Query Identifier and Response
- 829 Operator Name at RT Series Level
- 830 Ultrasound Modes
- 831 Pharmacologic Stress Protocols
- 834 Coercion of UIDs Breaks References

Each proposal specifies the type of correction, the rationale for the correction, the sections of the DICOM Standard that will be changed, and the correction wording.

As with any DICOM ballot, any consideration for a negative vote should be accompanied by comments on the particular paragraph or area with which you take exception. However, you may make a comment even if you are in support of a particular Correction Item. DICOM will address all objections and comments. If you do make comments, please identify the specific Correction Item to which your comments apply.

You may return your review to Grant Gillis no later than March 19, 2008. Please note: Only officially designated voting representatives of DICOM Standards Committee members (or their alternates) are permitted to cast ballots. On your behalf, Canada Health Infoway's Standards Collaborative is a member of the DICOM Standards Committee.

— *Contributed by Grant Gillis, Standards Director, Infoway Standards Collaborative*

CAC/ISO/TC215 –Health Informatics

Committee Responsibilities move to *Infoway Standards Collaborative*

Infoway is pleased to announce it has concluded an agreement with the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) to transfer the management of the Canadian Advisory Committee (CAC) to ISO/TC215 –Health Informatics from the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) to *Infoway's* Standards Collaborative (SC), enhancing the SC's role as the integrating structure for health information standards work in Canada.

In finalizing this transfer of responsibilities, the agreement specifies the details of the management of the CAC. *Infoway's* Standards Collaborative will now directly support the CAC with balloting, meeting participation and membership activity.

The CSA Health Informatics Technical Committee (CSA/TC Z295) will continue to be responsible for submitting recommendations for National Standards of Canada (NSCs) in the health informatics domain in accordance with CSA's accredited processes and procedures. Domestically, when considering ISO/TC 215 standards, the SC Strategic Committee (SCSC) will operate as the CSA/TC Z295 Committee with input from the SC Coordinating Committee (SCCC) and relevant SC Working Groups (SCWGs). In this manner, the SCSC will recommend the proposed adoptions of ISO/TC215 published standards, to initiate the CSA national adoption process.

The SCC will continue to accredit CAC members' participation in ISO/TC215, as well review and approve CSA proposals for the adoption/adaptation of published ISO standards as National Standards of Canada. For more information please contact the *Infoway* Standards

Collaborative Infodesk at standards@infoway-inforoute.ca.

— *Contributed by Andrea Ciemy, Standards Analyst, Infoway Standards Collaborative*

Welcome and Farewells

It is our pleasure to welcome Nicki Islic back to the work of the Canadian Advisory Committee (CAC) and to ISO TC215, albeit in her new role as Project Manager, Health Care and Community Safety, with the Canadian Standards



Nancy Bestic

Association (CSA). Nicki will be working specifically with our Standards Collaborative Steering Committee on National Standards of Canada, those being the published ISO standards that are collectively determined as a



Nicki Islic

priority and necessary for adoption or adaption. Also working in a senior role at the CSA, is the new Program Manager for the Healthcare and Community Safety Program, Nancy Bestic. Welcome Nancy. Keep an eye out for Nicki and Nancy at the upcoming Partnership Meetings in April.

Concurrent with these changes is the opportunity to bid Cathryn Cortissoz a very warm farewell from our health care and ISO/TC215 community. Cathryn has been working as Committee Secretary and Project Manager for the CAC for over six years, and has been a tireless and committed

coordinator of our international balloting, our CAC committee and executive meetings and various other key tasks all in support of Canadian health informatics standards. Thank you Cathryn and we wish you the very best as you continue your contributions to standards in other fields.

Please note, the coordination of balloting, CAC committee work and other key tasks, other than the domestic National Standards of Canada work, now rests with the very able and talented Andrea Ciemy. Andrea is no stranger to our work, from her Secretary duties with ISO/TC215/WG1 –Data structure, and her work with the *Infoway Standards Collaborative*. Welcome Andrea to your new duties.

— *Contributed by Don Newsham, Infoway Standards Collaborative ISO Constituency Chair and Canadian Advisory Committee to ISO/TC215 Chair.*

ISO/TC215 –Health Informatics Activity Update

ISO/TC215 has had a busy and productive winter to date, and will continue this momentum into the spring with several important meetings and upcoming initiatives planned.


The ISO/TC215 leadership held a strategy meeting, in conjunction with the Standards Development Organization Joint Initiative Council meeting, in Orlando, Florida, on February 23, 2008, to discuss business plans, work programs, key liaisons and future directions. The results of this meeting will be proposed as resolutions to the ISO/TC215 Plenary Meeting, in Göteborg, Sweden, May 30 – June 2, 2008.

This year's Plenary Meeting provides an opportunity for ISO/TC215 to hold joint meetings with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN), TC251 – Health Informatics and to further collaborate on shared work items, such as the 13606 series of standards, Electronic Health Record Communication.

ISO 13606 is a five-part standard and will be a major focus of discussion under the WG1 –Data Structure agenda, with joint discussions slated for with WG4 –Security, WG8 –Business Requirements for Electronic Health Records and CEN/TC251.

The following is a summary of the ISO 13606 standards series and the development stage of each its parts:

- **Part 1:** Reference Model passed the Final Draft International Standard (FDIS) ballot in January 2008 and is currently being prepared for publication.
- **Part 2:** Archetype Interchange Specification has passed the Draft International Standard (DIS) ballot.



Interchange

Interchange is an e-publication of the *Infoway Standards Collaborative* and the Solution Architecture Group. In addition to news about *Infoway*-developed standards, this newsletter also includes updates on HL7 and HL7 Canada, Partnership for Health Information Standards, Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine (DICOM) and ISO/TC 215 which are part of the *Infoway Standards Collaborative*. We welcome submissions on standards and architecture-related topics of general interest to the health informatics standards community.

To comment, submit or suggest a news item or appointment, please e-mail Dennis Giokas at archinfo@infoway-inforoute.ca.

To subscribe to the e-distribution list, please visit our website at <http://www.infoway-inforoute.ca> and click on the Subscription button on the home page.

- **Part 3:** Reference Archetypes and Term Lists are currently undergoing DIS balloting.
- **Part 4:** Security has passed the New Work Item Proposal ballot and the Draft Technical Specification (DTS) is now being developed. An update on this activity will be provided by WG4, as this part falls under WG4's remit.
- **Part 5:** Interface Specification is being developed under the Vienna Agreement, with strong collaboration between ISO/TC215/WG1 and CEN/TC251, and with CEN/TC251 leading this effort. The document is anticipated to be balloted at the DIS stage before spring.

There has been broad acceptance of the 13606 standards series within the European standards community and the documents are very mature in their development. The domestic significance is that these standards represent how clinical concepts are rendered beyond anything that has been developed in Canada. The challenge domestically is with the applicability of 13606 to the EHR, which the planned development of implementation guides should address. The discussions in Göteborg are expected to be most productive in furthering the development of all of these important documents.

In conjunction with the ISO/TC215 Plenary Meeting, the fourth Global Health Information Technology Summit is slated to take place on May 29, 2008. This latest summit will focus on Consumer Health. Experts from around the world will be taking part in the Summit and will be providing their input and feedback on this key perspective.

The next ISO/TC215 Joint Working Group Meetings are scheduled to take place in Istanbul, Turkey, in October, 2008. Final meeting dates are to be confirmed. For more information on ISO/TC215 meetings, contact the *Infoway* Standards Collaborative Infodesk at standards@infoway-inforoute.ca.

— *Andrea Ciemy, Standards Analyst, Infoway Standards Collaborative*

C-HOBIC Project Update

In 2007, the Canadian Nurses' Association signed a historic contract with Canada Health Infoway to launch a multi-province project — the Canadian Health Outcomes for Better Information and Care Project (C-HOBIC Project) — aimed at collecting information on evidenced-based, nursing-sensitive, patient outcomes. (*Interchange*, Summer 2007, pages 10-11) *Infoway* committed \$750,000 to this \$2.8 million project being supported by three participating provinces: Ontario, Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan. This project builds on ground-breaking work by Pringle, Nagle, Doran, and others in the Health Outcomes for Better Information

and Care (HOBIC) project in Ontario. The project is standardizing clinical nursing terminology for capturing, analyzing and reporting nursing sensitive outcomes for inclusion in the pan-Canadian health record.

The C-HOBIC terminology mapping process commenced with identifying clinical concepts reflecting nursing-sensitive outcomes from the original HOBIC Project, which were then mapped to the International Classification for Nursing Practice (ICNP® Version 1.0 <http://www.icn.ch/icnp.htm>), the standardized clinical terminology adopted by the Canadian Nurses Association. When potential mappings of terms were identified, term comparability was evaluated on the basis of conceptual and semantic equivalency. Where both conceptual and semantic equivalencies were identified, a C-HOBIC mapping link was created. Where either multiple semantic or conceptual equivalencies were identified, alternate C-HOBIC mapping links were identified for future discussion and validation.

The initial mapping results were presented at a forum, held in Toronto in September 2007. This forum hosted C-HOBIC partners, nurse educators and researchers, nursing informatics experts, and nurses from government ministries, policy institutions and practice environments, as well as two international ICNP® experts. Mapping results were reviewed and validated or revised. Additionally, mapping challenges (such as limitations in ICNP® or obtaining consensus on measurement scales of the HOBIC concepts, such as a standardized scale for pressure ulcers) and alternate mapping options were evaluated and adopted.

At the conclusion of the mapping process, 58 HOBIC concepts were matched and validated as C-HOBIC terms at the forum, 13 HOBIC concepts were partially mapped and required a new term for completion as C-HOBIC terms, and 24 new C-HOBIC terms were identified as suggestions for inclusion in ICNP®. The complete report will be available shortly on the C-HOBIC website. For more information please visit the website at <http://www.cna-aiic.ca/c-hobic/>.

For more information on the HOBIC project, see http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/project/nursing/nursing_mn.html.

—*Contributed by Margaret Ann Kennedy, RN, PhD, Kennedy Health Informatics, Inc.; Kathryn Hannah, RN, PhD, C-HOBIC Executive Project Leader; and Peggy White, RN, MN C-HOBIC National Director.*