2016
Annual activity report
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The International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO) is owned and governed by its international Members, which at the end of 2016 were numbered at 29. We are a not-for-profit organisation that works on behalf of healthcare systems and that provides full support to our global Members and licensees, ensuring that our combined resources achieve significant shared benefits that resonate around the world.

We own, administer and develop SNOMED CT, a commercial product that enables us to establish semantically accurate clinical terminologies for consistent use across all health systems, services and products worldwide.

We strive to improve the health of humankind and are constantly seeking to determine global standards for health terms. We believe that the global healthcare community must safely, accurately and effectively exchange health information to help patients everywhere.

In January 2017, SNOMED International was made the trading name of the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation, a private company limited by guarantee.

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SNOMED CT® was originally created by the College of American Pathologists.
A Message from the CEO: Don Sweete

As CEO of IHTSDO I am pleased to present the 2016 Annual Activity Report and would like to extend my thanks to the organisation’s Management Board, Management Team and staff for their invaluable support. The 2016 year was an active year filled with professional accomplishment and achievement for the organisation.

2016 marked the physical move of the organisation to the United Kingdom, as well as hosting the inaugural April Business Meetings for the SNOMED CT community. The momentum of April’s successful meetings continued over the summer months and into the October Business Meeting and SNOMED CT Expo 2016 in Wellington, New Zealand. Filled with value added meetings, speakers, exhibitors and networking opportunities, our events were an exemplary demonstration of all facets of the organisation working collaboratively as a team.

The organisation itself is moving forward to meet increasing demands in all areas, and continues to maintain a consistent full time staff complement. We have launched new internal work in the areas of clinical engagement, SNOMED CT quality assurance and the development of the first ever product strategy.

The Technical Services Team has been working on the completion of the Authoring tool, and has migrated both Sweden and Denmark to our cloud Managed Service. I am hopeful that this Service may be offered to other Members to help support and reduce costs.

Our Content Development and Mapping Teams have embraced the new project management system put in place and have focused their efforts to progress delivery on long standing projects in the areas of drugs, substances, anatomy and observables, as well as a number of smaller projects. The organisation is also seeing record numbers in both change requests to content, customer requests for support, and in the education area where we continue to develop course content for access by our Members so that they may better meet the demands for online education.

Over the past year, IHTSDO also moved forward with communications and marketing work to prepare for the launch of SNOMED International, effective January 2017, as well as planning to showcase the positive achievements of both the organisation and our Members. To continue to balance our core business with opportunities for innovation, the organisation seeded plans to move into the emerging markets of Genomics, Big Data, Mobile and Consumer Health, with a view to educate senior leaders in those sectors as to the value and key role to be played by SNOMED CT.
A Message from the CEO

On the fiscal front, the Finance and Corporate Services Team has worked diligently to put in place business processes throughout the finance, risk and metrics areas, including the aggressive use of past surplus funds to move projects forward quickly in all areas of the organisation. These efforts have enabled us to scale service delivery to meet the majority of our Members’ demands.

A balanced 2017 budget was tabled at the October Business Meeting in Wellington and reflected our efforts to continue to identify cost reductions throughout the organisation to ensure we maintain a balanced financial position for 2017 and beyond. While posing potential challenges in meeting all demands placed on the new organisation, I feel this approach provides both sustainability and flexibility for measured 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, in addition to forging new working relationships with the WHO. In October, we also signed a collaboration agreement with the American Medical Association that will allow both organisations to work together to provide better options for clinicians to work in the digital age. Further, in order to continue serving our community the organisation delivered SNOMED CT translated starter sets in Chinese, French, German and Japanese, and has launched a Vendor Portal and Forum to support dialogue with private sector parties.

In 2016, IHTSDO welcomed two new Members — Switzerland and Ireland. China, Japan and other Asia Pacific countries are ramping up their interest in SNOMED CT and we look to welcome pilot projects and new Members from this region in 2017. Further, ASSESS CT released their report in December 2016 declaring SNOMED CT as the best available core reference terminology for cross-border, national and regional eHealth deployments in Europe.

Looking to 2017, I see positive opportunities on the horizon but also challenges in relation to meeting demands placed on the organisation, moving into new emerging markets and navigating opportunities with non-English speaking nations. With the continued support of both the General Assembly and the Management Board I believe we are well-positioned to answer the call and continue to deliver innovative, positive results.

Don Sweete
Vision & Strategy

Our Vision

By 2020 clinical terminologies will be used globally, which will result in better health, supported by one language of health.

OUR VISION

BY 2020 CLINICAL TERMINOLOGIES WILL BE USED GLOBALLY, WHICH WILL RESULT IN BETTER HEALTH, SUPPORTED BY ONE LANGUAGE OF HEALTH.

OUR CORE PRINCIPLES

1 | EXPERTS IN HEALTH TERMINOLOGY
2 | SUCCESS THROUGH COLLABORATION
3 | RIGOROUS FOCUS ON QUALITY
4 | CLOSEST TO CUSTOMERS
5 | OPEN AND ACCOUNTABLE

Source: IHTSDO_Strategy_Deck_012016

Continued Refinement of IHTSDO’s Business Approach

With a growing staff complement, Member and affiliate base, IHTSDO is committed to evolving its business processes to keep pace. As a result, the organisation continued its focus on implementing rigorous financial processes and a renewed focus on external and internal communications strategies. With an entirely virtual workforce, IHTSDO has also invested in creating opportunities for interaction among teams and staff, including an all-staff meeting last held in September 2016.
Vision & Strategy

Strategic Direction

The General Assembly approved the 2015 - 2020 Strategic Direction. All lines of business map their annual operational plans to the strategy.

Over the coming year, and guided by the Management Board and General Assembly, the organisation will undertake a review of current strategic directions and accompanying goals to ensure they continue to position IHTSDO for success.

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IHTSDO Strategic Directions were realigned in a Management Board strategy review in January 2017 and are available on the SNOMED International website. Source: IHTSDO_Strategy_Deck_012016
2016 Activities

Education & Product Support

The goal of the Education and Product Support (E&PS) Team is to increase awareness, knowledge and understanding of SNOMED CT, and to improve the ease and effectiveness of SNOMED CT implementation. E&PS develops, maintains and delivers resources that support adoption, implementation, and deployment of SNOMED CT enabled solutions.

Continued high demand for SNOMED CT E-Learning Courses in 2016:

- 480 people completed the Foundation course in 2016, for a total of 1220 completions overall
- 220 people completed the Implementation course, and 120 people completed the Content Development Theory course
- 280 90-minute interactive E-Learning webinars delivered
- Almost 4000 users now registered on the E-Learning Server

Other highlights:

- Machine Readable Concept Model alpha published and beta prepared
- New features added to the Expression Constraint Language
- Initial terminology binding approach developed for SNOMED CT in HL7 FHIR
- Technical documentation migrated to Confluence platform enabling easier maintenance and feedback
- E-Learning Foundation Course opened for self enrolment with immediate start
- Five 90 minute tutorials delivered during the SNOMED CT Expo in Wellington

The SNOMED CT E-Learning Server

The SNOMED CT E-Learning Server (http://snomed.org/elearning) provides online courses with presentations, assessments and other materials designed to enable users to learn more about SNOMED CT. A range of open access material is available. However the more advanced courses require prior completion of the Foundation course.
2016 Activities

Events & Conferences

Each business area contributes to the success of the April and October Business Meetings and the annual SNOMED CT Expo.

- 360 delegates from 23 countries were in attendance at the SNOMED CT Expo 2016 in Wellington, New Zealand. Due to an impressively collaborative relationship with our Kiwi hosts, there were many ‘firsts’ at this event, including provision of a conference app, plus the addition of the ‘SNApp’ hackathon to the proceedings

- More than 50 members of the external SNOMED CT community participated in Expo 2016, including keynote and session speakers, and 11 poster presentations

- Daniel Karlsson received the 2016 Award of Excellence and Guillermo Reynoso the Lifetime Achievement Award, both presented at the Gala Dinner during the October 2016 Business Meeting in Wellington

- IHTSDO made its debut in the new UK headquarters, marking the move with a successful April 2016 Business Meeting held in central London

SNApp Hackathon

This new addition to the SNOMED CT Expo attracted participation from 30 developers split into 5 multi-disciplinary teams, including clinicians, software developers and medical students.
Membership

As at December 31, 2016, IHTSDO had a complement of 29 Members globally.

- 2016 new Members include Switzerland and Ireland

Customer & Stakeholder Relations Management

The Customer & Stakeholder Relations Management (CSRM) Team regards management of Member priorities, issues and opportunities as its primary focus and carries this out by committing executive resources in the Americas, Europe, Middle East and Africa, and Asia Pacific global regions. CSRM activities also pursue business development opportunities with new Members, affiliate and global licensees, as well as its prominent regard for the organisation’s vendor relationships.
2016 Activities

Customer & Stakeholder Relations Management (con’t)

• SNOMED CT Expo 2016 was successfully delivered, showcasing a range of innovations including the launch of the inaugural SNApp Hackathon.
• Education and promotional presentations were successfully delivered at key regional health IT events around the globe.
• Translation of a SNOMED CT subset of commonly used concepts was completed in Chinese, Japanese, French and German.
• The IHTSDO Product and Service Offering and Catalogue was developed.
• A clinical engagement strategy was developed and implementation underway, supported by 3 regional clinical engagement leads.
• Global license agreements were executed with 2 large vendors.
• Switzerland and Ireland joined as Members, with Norway slated to join in early 2017.
• European Project, ASSESS CT, submitted their final recommendations stating that SNOMED CT is the best available core reference terminology for cross border, national and regional eHealth deployments in Europe.

Collaboration

• New collaboration agreement with HL7 International has focused on use of SNOMED CT in HL7 International products, with an emphasis on SNOMED CT and FHIR binding.
• Ongoing work with GS1 to develop use cases and principles/guidance for linking SNOMED CT and Global Trade Item Numbers (GTINs).
• Maintenance and updating linkages between ICNP and SNOMED CT to support nursing diagnoses and nursing interventions.
• Underwent maintenance and updating of SNOMED CT refset for GP/FPs and map to ICPC-2 in collaboration with WONCA.
• Continued work to ensure linkage with WHO classifications, including ICD-10, ICD-O, and soon to be released ICD-11 MMS.

Vendor Engagement

Vendor Portal and Marketplace

• Marketplace created – 14 vendors initially registered, with larger vendors planned for registration in 2017.
• Education and other resources available

The Vendor Liaison Forum collaboratively crafted Terms of Reference and maintained quarterly meetings including participation from 11 vendors.
2016 Activities

Content & Delivery

SNOMED CT is a complex product used in various software environments around the world, and the packaging, quality assurance and on-time delivery represent a challenging task. During 2016, further content and delivery improvements were made to the quality assurance automations, as well as producing the release from the IHTSDO Authoring Platform.

- Implementation for KPI's for selected Pattern corrections resulting in a better control process of continuous quality management
- Implementation of a SNOMED CT ICD-10 Map Quality Assurance Project Tracker resulting in better management of quality issues of published maps with KPI targets
- Implementation of new status reporting as well as updated roadmap for all initiatives providing clear visibility on progress
- Implementation of new service level agreements for the management of customer requests
- Introduction of the new Content Request System (CRS) for content requests
- 7,602 new concepts created, not including changes to existing content
- Drug content cleanup of 17,000 for delivery of 6,000 remodeled concepts for Alpha release
- Anatomy SEP-9K descriptions inactivations and 3.6K new descriptions.
- Delivery of 1200 concepts to support ICD-11 MMS
- Development for supporting update ICD-10 refset in map tool which includes ICD-O version 1.
- 1200 new concepts added in 2016 for Orphanet (July 2016 and Jan 2017 release)
- The ICD-10 maps underwent a major update to the latest and current version which is ICD-10
- Over 14000 LOINC Terms linked to equivalent SNOMED CT post-coordinated expressions and over 4200 LOINC Parts mapped to SNOMED CT concepts.
- Publication of LOINC - SNOMED CT Alpha release (Technology preview) version 3, using updated modelling approach
- After publication of the LOINC - SNOMED CT Alpha release (version 3), additional 2400 LOINC parts were mapped to SNOMED CT concepts
- Modeled ~150 observable entity concepts using Observable entity model (vital signs content)
2016 Activities

Technical Services

The Technical Services Team works hard to keep the lights on for the organisation, and provide services and tools that work towards the release of high quality products and the adoption of SNOMED CT globally. In 2016 several major projects were completed whilst supporting the day-to-day technical operations of the organisation:

- Roll out and continued the improvements of the IHTSDO Authoring Platform to enable more efficient authoring and improved quality assurance, including the first steps into template based authoring.
- Developed and deployed the integrated SNOMED CT Content Request Service to replace SIRS as the service for stakeholders to request new SNOMED CT content.
- Refreshed and relaunched the Managed Service to provide the same online platform used by IHTSDO for Members to manage and release local SNOMED CT content.

Release Delivery

Two SNOMED CT International Releases, two Spanish Releases, Danish and Swedish extension releases were successfully carried out in 2016.
2016 Activities

Governance

IHTSDO is a membership organisation, and our Members represent countries or other approved territories. More specifically, our Members are national government agencies or other bodies that the national government in question has deemed suitable and whose responsibilities and authority include appropriately establishing, monitoring, promoting or regulating concept-based systems of clinical terminology for that territory or country.

In April 2016, IHTSDO’s General Assembly commissioned a review of the organisation’s governance structure. The resulting recommendations from the review included:

• The Board is proposed to have seven independent directors (a reduction from 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 will serve three-year instead of two-year terms
• The Management Board Chair will serve a three year term (previously the term had been for two years).

Management Board and General Assembly members approved the recommendations in Fall 2016 in Wellington, NZ, with any governance changes to take root in 2017.
2016 Activities

Kate Ebrill, Australian Digital Health Agency, Australia
Arabella D’Havé, Directorate General of Healthcare, Dept. Data Management, Belgium
Dennis Giokas, Canada Health Infoway, Canada
Alejandro Mauro, Chile
Libor Seidl, Ministry of Health Czech Republic/KSRZIS, Czech Republic
Karen Marie Lyng, National eHealth Authority, Denmark
Mari Asser, Estonian eHealth Foundation, Estonia
Vicky Fung, Hospital Authority, Hong Kong
Gudrun Audur Hardardottir, Ministry of Health, Iceland
Sunil Sharma, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, India
Kevin Conlon, Department of Health/eHealth, Ireland
Boaz Lev, Ministry of Health, Israel
Normantas Ducinskas, IT Division of the Ministry of Health, Lithuania
Md Khadzir Sheikh Ahmad, Malaysia
Hugo Agius, Muscat, Malta

Lies van Gennip, National IT Institute for Healthcare (Nictiz) (VICE-CHAIR), Netherlands
Stewart Jessamine, New Zealand Ministry of Health (CHAIR), New Zealand
Marcin Wegrzyniak, Poland
Henrique Martins, Portugal
Low Cheng Ooi, Singapore
Pavol Rieger, National Information Health Center, Slovak Republic
Mate Beštek, Division of eHealth, Ministry of Health, Rep. Slovenia
Arturo Romero Gutiérrez, Ministry of Health, Social Affairs and Equality, Spain
Henrik Moberg, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Sweden
Adrian Schmid, Switzerland
Sally Greenway, United Kingdom
Betsy Humphreys, National Library of Medicine, United States
Pablo Orefice, AGESIC Desarrollando El Uruguay Digital, Uruguay

*General Assembly*

*A number of General Assembly representatives were not present at the taking of this picture.
2016 Activities

Management Board

Ian Arrowsmith, National Health Service UK (not pictured)
John van Beek, Cerberus
David Bunker, MTIM, GAICD, FACHI, CHIA. Queensland Genomics Health Alliance, Australia
Kathy Farndon, NHS England
Jamie Ferguson, Kaiser Permanente (CHAIR)
Doug Fridsma, AMIA
Duncan McNeil, PumpCo
Manuel Pérez Vallina, SACYL (Castilla y León Region Healthcare Authority)
Jeremy Thorp, National Health Service UK
Andrew M. Wiesenthal, MD, SM, Deloitte Consulting
Julian Zelingher, MD, MSc, MPH, Clalit Health Service
2016 Activities

Chair — Ian Arrowsmith
Co-Chair (Netherlands) — Pim Volkert
Australia — Dion McMurtrie, Matt Cordell
Belgium — Arabella D’Havé, Ingrid Mertens
Canada — Andrea MacLean, Linda Parisien
Chile — Alejandra Lozano
Czech Republic — Libor Seidl
Denmark — Camilla Wiberg Danielsen, Palle Gerry Petersen
Estonia — Egle Sepajoe, Krista Kärt
Hong Kong — Vicky Fung
Iceland — Gudrun Audur Hardardottir
India — Gaur Sunder
Israel — Yael Applbaum
Lithuania — Kristina Aputyte, Martynas Bieliauskas
Malaysia — Ismat Mohd Sulaiman
Malta — Hugo Agius-Muscat
New Zealand — Alastair Kenworthy, Tracy Thompson
Poland — Grzegorz Bliźniuk, Katarzyna Kowalczyk
Portugal — Carla Marques Pereira, Leandro Luis
Republic of Slovenia — Alen Vreko
Singapore — Cheong Yu Chye, Adele Lee
Slovak Republic — Patrícia Khandlová
Spain — Arturo Romero Gutiérrez, Gonzalo Marco Cuenca
Sweden — Erika Ericsson, Lotti Barlow
Switzerland — Johannes Gnaegi, Reinhold Sojer
United Kingdom — Angie Quinn, Elaine Wooler
United States — Suzy Roy, Vivian Auld
Uruguay — Fernando Portilla, Pablo Orefice

Member Forum representatives as at December 31, 2016
2016 Activities

2016 Advisory Groups & Chairs

Content Managers — Cathy Richardson & Lesley MacNeil
E-Learning — David Markwell
Modeling — Robert Turnbull
SNOMED CT Editorial — Jim Case
Software Development — Rory Davidson
Terminology Release — Robert Turnbull
Tooling User — Rory Davidson

2016 Special Interest Groups & Chairs

Anesthesia — Patrick McCormick
Dentistry — Mark Jurkovich
Implementation — Amy Sheide
International Family Practice/General Practice — Ray Simkus
International Pathology & Laboratory Medicine (IPaLM) — W. Scott Campbell
Mapping — Hazel Brear
Nursing — Zac Whitewood-Moores

Advisory & Special Interest Group Chairs as at December 31, 2016
2016 Financial Report
Entity Origin
IHTSDO Denmark

IHTSDO Income Statement
January 1 - December 31, 2016 | USD
--- | ---
Membership Fees  | $9,532,779  | $9,454,062
Voluntary Contribution Fees  | $337,571  | $400,000
Affiliate Licenses  | $292,860  | $328,562
Other Income  | $169,424  | $134,377

Income  | $10,332,634  | $10,317,001
--- | ---

Staff expenses  | $-5,107,578  | $-5,496,662
Office and facilities  | $-518,270  | $-658,582
Travel expenses  | $-1,233,599  | $-967,796
Other costs  | $-1,546,605  | $-1,252,005
Third party expenditures  | $-3,259,297  | $-3,234,611
Amortization, SNOMED CT IP  | $-780,000  | $-780,000

Expenditures  | $-12,445,349  | $-12,389,656
--- | ---

Profit/loss before financial income & expenses  | $-2,112,715  | $-2,072,655
Financial income/expenses, net  | $-82,241  | $-18,490
Profit/loss before tax  | $-2,194,956  | $-2,091,145

Tax on profit/loss for the year  | 0  | 0
Profit/loss for the year  | $2,194,956  | $-2,091,145

Distribution of profit
Distributed to IHTSDO, UK  | $3,889,193  | 0
Retained earnings  | $-6,094,149  | $-2,091,145
Profit/loss for the year  | $-2,194,956  | $-2,091,145
SNOMED International
Income Statement

International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation trading as SNOMED International

Statement of Comprehensive Income
January 1 - December 31, 2016 | USD

Surplus on ordinary activities before taxation
–

Taxation
–

Surplus for the financial period
–
IHTSDO Opening Plenary

“Welcome to the UK!”

London, United Kingdom
15th April 2016