HL7 Names Three New Advisory Committee Members

ANN ARBOR, Mich.—July 5, 2006 — The HL7 Board of Directors has named three new members to serve on its Advisory Committee: Mitch Hansen, Vice President for Enterprise Systems and Services at Quest Diagnostics; Nicholas Hilger, Senior Vice President, Strategic Development at UnitedHealthcare; and Andrew Updegrove, Co-founder and Partner, Gesmer Updegrove LLP.

“These three gentlemen bring a wealth of diverse and unique experience to our Advisory Committee,” said Chuck Meyer, Chair of HL7. “Expanding the Committee to include the diagnostic, health maintenance organization, and legal perspectives represented by Mr. Hansen, Mr. Hilger, and Mr. Updegrove can only serve to further HL7’s objective of becoming ever more responsive to the national and international initiatives now underway and the needs of health IT vendors and users, healthcare providers, and healthcare consumers.”

Mitch Hansen leads a diverse group of IT professionals at Quest Diagnostics. His teams are responsible for client connectivity, enterprise application integration, billing operating systems, sales and marketing systems, and web and document services. Mitch has worked in healthcare information systems for over 20 years, beginning in hospital systems management consulting, before entering the clinical laboratory and diagnostics industry. He was named a 2006 Premier 100 IT Leader by Computerworld magazine, which also selected and honored the EDI project as one of its twelve “Best in Class – 2006” efforts.

“During this time of rapid change in healthcare and information technology, connectivity and interoperability are strategic focus areas for all healthcare service providers and technologists,” said Hansen. “It is a privilege to join the HL7 Advisory Committee and contribute to the work of the HL7 organization in establishing and refining standards, to improve our ability to exchange information and in the ultimate interest of better patient care.”

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As the Senior Vice President, Strategic Development at UnitedHealthcare, Nicholas Hilger’s responsibilities involve the development of expanded business relationships among health systems, the physician community, national provider constituencies, and healthcare industry companies. Prior to joining UnitedHealthcare, Mr. Hilger spent over 20 years in hospital system leadership, holding senior positions in health systems including CEO of HealthOne in Colorado, CEO of HealthEast in Minnesota, and CEO of HCA’s Chicago Division.

“During my thirty years in the healthcare industry, I’ve observed and supported the advancement of information technology as a tool to simplify the healthcare experience for the consumer and provide effective management information for health systems, physicians, and managed care organizations,” said Hilger. “HL7 has been and will continue to be the all-important standard-bearer for this effort. I am honored to help advise the organization, and hope that my experiences from the provider and managed care sectors will provide strategic value to the HL7 team.”

Andrew Updegrove has been structuring and representing technology consortia since 1988 and is the co-founder and partner of the Boston law firm of Gesmer Updegrove LLP. He has worked with over 75 consortia, accredited standards development organizations and open source consortia. He has also been a member of the United States Standards Strategy Revision Committee, received the President’s Award for Journalism from ANSI in 2005, and currently serves on the Boards of Directors of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the Free Standards Group.

“I’m delighted to be joining the Advisory Committee of HL7,” said Updegrove. “I’ve spent the last 18 years working with scores of standard setting organizations, and appreciate how essential standards are to virtually every aspect of our modern, interconnected world. But few areas of IT standardization are as important as those that enable us all to enjoy better health care.”

About HL7
Founded in 1987, Health Level Seven, Inc. (www.HL7.org) is a not-for-profit, ANSI-accredited standards developing organization dedicated to providing a comprehensive framework and related standards for the exchange, integration, sharing, and retrieval of electronic health information that supports clinical practice and the management, delivery and evaluation of health services. HL7’s more than 2,400 members represent approximately 500 corporate members, including 90 percent of the largest information systems vendors serving healthcare.

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HL7’s endeavors are sponsored, in part, by the support of its benefactors: Accenture; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); Duke Clinical Research Institute (DCRI); Eclipsys Corporation; Eli Lilly & Company; Epic Systems Corporation; the Food and Drug Administration; GE Healthcare Integrated IT Solutions; Guidant Corporation; IBM; Intel Corporation; InterSystems Corporation; Kaiser Permanente; McKesson Provider Technologies; Microsoft Corporation; Misys Healthcare Systems; NHS Connecting for Health in the UK; The National IT Institute for Healthcare in the Netherlands (NICTIZ National Healthcare); Novartis; Oracle Corporation; Partners HealthCare System, Inc.; Pfizer, Inc.; Philips Medical Systems; QuadraMed Corporation; Quest Diagnostics Inc.; Science Applications International Corporation; Siemens Medical Solutions Health Services; Solucient, LLC.; St. Jude Medical; the U.S. Department of Defense, Military Health System; the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Wyeth Pharmaceuticals.

International affiliates have also been established in 26 countries throughout the globe including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey and the United Kingdom, and Uruguay.

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