



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
OF HEALTH LEVEL SEVEN®
INTERNATIONAL

JANUARY 2015

NEWS

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The Transatlantic Exchange of Electronic Health Records

**Live Demo: Trillium Bridge Tests the
Transatlantic Interoperability Bridge**

**Are There Business
Opportunities?**

**SemanticHealthNet...
Breaking Down the
Tower of Babel in
Medicine**

Plus...

FHIR Clinician Connecathon

**How the HL7 Website
Got Its New Look**

And More!



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HL7 News

is the official publication of

Health Level Seven International

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Update from Headquarters



By Mark McDougall,
HL7 Executive Director

HL7 Awards Program and the Invaluable Co-Chairs

At each HL7 working group meeting I am honored to recognize so many incredibly talented individuals and organizations for their dedication and service to HL7. Since it is the co-chairs of our over 50 work groups that do so much of HL7's standards development work, I often refer to the co-chairs as the backbone of HL7. For the complete list of co-chairs who provide so much invaluable support to HL7, please refer to page 30.

HL7 Fellowship Award

The HL7 Fellowship award was presented to three individuals during HL7's 28th Annual Plenary and Working Group Meeting in Chicago, IL.

The award was established to recognize HL7 members with at least 15 years of active membership as well as outstanding service, commitment and contributions to HL7.

HL7 is honored to recognize the 2014 recipients of the HL7 Fellowship Award for their incredible service to HL7:

- Michio Kimura, MD, PhD
- Douglas Pratt
- Niilo Saranummi



The 2015 HL7 Fellows pictured with HL7 Chair Dr. Stan Huff and CEO Dr. Charles Jaffe. From left to right: Stan Huff, MD; Michio Kimura, MD, PhD; Doug Pratt, Juha Mykkanen, PhD on behalf of Niilo Saranummi Photo credit: Kai Heitmann

Volunteers of the Year Awards

It is amazing to realize that we are already in the 18th year of recognizing incredible efforts by our dedicated volunteers via our W. Edward Hammond, PhD HL7 Volunteer of the Year Awards. While there are certainly dozens of individuals who merit this recognition each year, the Awards Committee is challenged to limit the annual award to only a few. This year's recipients have contributed hundreds of hours—if not thousands—and have certainly served HL7 extremely well for many years. HL7 is pleased to recognize this year's recipients of the W. Ed Hammond HL7 Volunteer of the Year Awards.

- Lorraine Constable, principal, Constable Consulting Inc.; HL7 Canada
- Melva Peters, president, Jenaker Consulting; consultant, Gordon Point Informatics; chair, HL7 Canada

Please see the article on page 7 to read more about the impressive contributions that these dedicated volunteers have made to HL7.

28th Annual Plenary Meeting

HL7's 28th Annual Plenary and Working Group Meeting convened September 14-19, 2014 at the Chicago Hilton Hotel on the popular Michigan Avenue in Chicago, Illinois.

We were pleased to have the talents of Fred Bazzoli onsite to cover our plenary meeting. As the Senior Director of Communications for the College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME), Fred provided a valuable perspective when it comes to IT. Below is an excerpt from Fred's coverage of the HL7 plenary meeting:

"Healthcare, as it exists today, can no longer avoid the effects of change. Despite the size of the industry and its many components, it must change and change quickly.

Through the impact of technology, economics, societal pressure, business and other factors, each segment in the industry is under pressure to improve performance, reduce costs, increase efficiency and better serve patients and their families. The calls for improvement present major systemic challenges, but those making demands of the industry will no longer accept the status quo.

These were the major messages emphasized in HL7's 28th Annual Plenary Meeting on September 15 in Chicago. Speakers at the event approached the need for change in different ways, but attendees at the event were challenged by the variety of forces that are bringing pressure to bear on the industry.

To achieve improvement, the healthcare industry needs more collaboration and coordination, and these trends point to the need for more effective exchange of information, pointing to the need for adoption of standards for exchanging data, such as initiatives currently being supported by HL7."



Packed room for the 28th Annual Plenary session. Photo credit: Kai Heitmann

Fred highlighted several HL7 keynote presentations with insight on:

- Creating a learning healthcare system
- Challenges in using EHR data
- Standards needed to support new care settings
- The ethical imperative to achieve interoperability

To read the full executive summary on the plenary as well as the payer summit, please visit Issues and Policy Statements section in the HL7 Newsroom on the HL7 website.

In addition to our 28th Plenary meeting, we also hosted our regular working group meeting with over 50 groups meeting and 30 tutorials.

Meeting Sponsors

I am also pleased to recognize these organizations that sponsored key components of our 28th Annual Plenary and Working Group Meeting.

The additional sponsorship provided by these organizations contributes significantly to HL7's meeting budget and is much appreciated.



HL7 CEO Dr. Charles Jaffe with the 28th Annual Plenary & Working Group Meeting Sponsors. Photo credit: Kai Heitmann

- Accenture
- AEGIS
- Beeler Consulting, LLC
- Furore
- Gordon Point Informatics
- Hi3 Solutions
- Intelligent Medical Objects
- iNTERFACEWARE
- JP Systems
- Orion Health

Board Election Results

The new year of 2015 will bring new members to the HL7 Board of Directors. As recently announced, the election results for 2015 Board positions are as follows:



CHAIR-ELECT

Douglas Fridsma, MD, PhD



SECRETARY

W. Edward Hammond, PhD



DIRECTOR

Hans Buitendijk



DIRECTOR

James Case, DVM, PhD



AFFILIATE DIRECTOR

Frank Oemig, PhD

Benefactor and Gold Members



We are pleased to recognize the valuable support provided by HL7 benefactors, gold members and supporter members, whose representatives are pictured here. I would like to extend a special thank you to our 2014 HL7 benefactors and gold members. Please see pages 24-25 for a full listing of organizations.

Organizational Member Firms

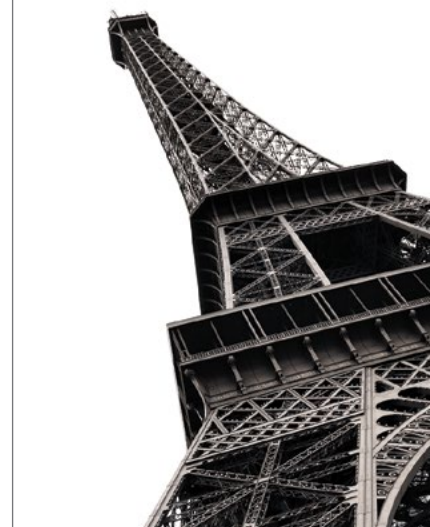
HL7 is very proud of the impressive list of HL7 organizational member companies as listed on pages 25 through 28. We sincerely appreciate their ongoing support of HL7 via their organizational membership dues.

In Closing

At the time of writing, the holiday season is upon us. I wish to close with a heartfelt thank you to all of you who have supported HL7 throughout the years. On behalf of the HL7 staff, we extend to you and your loved ones our best wishes for good health, much happiness, and lots of smiles this holiday season, for 2015 and beyond.

Paris WGM

I look forward to seeing many of you in Paris, France for our May 10-15, 2015 HL7 Working Group Meeting. Not only will the meeting be productive, but we will also have the opportunity to visit one of world's most beautiful cities. Please plan to join us. See page 22 for more information on the Paris WGM.



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Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/HealthLevel7>

News from the PMO and Project Services Work Group

Updated Project Scope Statement Template for 2015

The HL7 Project Management Office and the Project Services Work Group released the 2015 version of the Project Scope Statement (PSS) template; a result of their annual update to the template. As usual, our goal is to streamline and simplify the template so that it's easier to use by HL7 members and provides the most useful data to the membership.

Changes include:

- Merging the FHIR® PSS with the general PSS (and thus eliminating the separate FHIR PSS)
- Adding approval dates for Co-Sponsor Work Group, US Realm Task Force, FMG (FHIR Management Group)
- Modifying the Project Risk section to match TSC risk characteristics as outlined in the Risk Assessment Task Force Interim Report along with adding the ability to identify security risks
- Adding sections for
 - Describing external schedules and calendars that drive the project's target dates
 - Identifying the standard's "common name" (e.g. C-CDA, LRI, eDOS)
 - Indicating external vocabularies
 - Lineage for "Release 2" projects (or higher)



By Dave Hamill,
Director, HL7 Project
Management Office



Rick Haddorff, Co-Chair
Project Services Work
Group



Freida Hall, Co-Chair
Project Services Work
Group



Newly Certified HL7 Specialists

Congratulations to the following people
who recently passed the HL7 Certification Exam

Certified HL7 Version 2.x Chapter 2 Control Specialist**AUGUST 2014**

Karla Mills

SEPTEMBER 2014

Kirana Kumara B M

Seuli Maji

Kumaran A

Jeffrey Karp

Paul Spadafora

Amina Shaikh

Ritika Jain

Rajesh Sahu

Hari Tarun

Nitin Gupta

Rohit G

Puneetha Hegde

Soni Shahi

Vijay Panchal

Rishu Ranjan

Ashwani Kumar Sharma

OCTOBER 2014

Damanjeet Singh

Siva Kumar Nadella

Seshagiri Rao Vissa

Premila Vadasseri

Francisco Javier Pedrero Vaquero

Francisco José Carrasco Tena

Antonio Olivares Báez

Sergio Aguilar Pérez

Ismael Vargas Pina

Víctor Manuel Durán Barrantes

Esther Olivares Moya

Manuel Hans Uber

Verónica Jiménez Lázaro

Certified HL7 CDA Specialist**AUGUST 2014**

Ionut Tudor

SEPTEMBER 2014

Oyvind Aassve

Ted Walker

Shashank Shekhar

Raja K

OCTOBER 2014

Ismael Vargas Pina

Víctor Manuel Durán

Barrantes

Esther Olivares Moya

Verónica Jiménez Lázaro

Ernesto Barranco Navarro

Manuel Hans Uber

Certified HL7 Version 3 RIM Specialist**AUGUST 2014**

Lochana Padmanabhan

SEPTEMBER 2014

Shaibya Bhagat

Somila Tripathy

Manjunatha R

Ashok Balaraju

Bhimesh Deshpande



Member Spotlight on Thomson Kuhn

Thomson Kuhn joined the HL7 community as a member in 2001. Since that time he has been actively involved in several HL7 work groups, including Clinical Decision Support, Clinical Quality Information, Electronic Health Records, and Structured Documents. He has also served as a member of the following Board appointed committees: Awards, Nominations and Policy Advisory. In 2007, Thom received the W. Edward Hammond HL7 Volunteer of the Year Award. He is also actively engaged in other health IT industry organizations such as AMIA, ANSI, AHRQ, ANSI, eHI and the ONC's Standards & Interoperability Framework.

Thom has worked as a senior systems analyst for the American College of Physicians (ACP) since 1989. Over the past 25 years, he has designed, built and managed the technical architecture for the College publishing operations. In addition, he designed the production and product architecture for the clinical decision support service. He is currently responsible for health IT policy and standards at ACP, where he develops and coordinates the College positions and policies regarding health, including position papers, comment letters, testimony and presentations (http://www.acponline.org/advocacy/where_we_stand/health_information_technology/). Thom received his undergraduate degree in history from the University of Pennsylvania



Long-time HL7 Member Thomas Kuhn, in Tuscany (top) and with his grandchildren (right).

and his graduate degree in communications from Temple University. He has always worked in the non-profit sector and has a passion for health IT policy. Thom's primary interest is in addressing new emerging models of healthcare delivery that extend beyond the traditional encounter or admission experience. He notes that these new models cannot succeed without effective health IT. Thom loves living in Northern Virginia, near Washington, DC. However, he's not a fan of the traffic. He grew up in Philadelphia and remains a diehard Eagles fan. Thom has two adult children – a



daughter and son – as well as four grandchildren. Fishing on the Shenandoah streams and riding his Harley Road King motorcycle are his favorite activities and an ideal day would include both. He also enjoys traveling, especially for fine art and architecture. Finally, he is an avid supporter of several progressive political causes. ■

The 2014 W. Ed Hammond Volunteer of the Year Awards



By Andrea Ribick,
HL7 Director of
Communications

HL7 honored two members with the 18th annual W. Edward Hammond, PhD Volunteer of the Year Award. Established in 1997, the award is named after Dr. Ed Hammond, one of HL7's most active volunteers and a founding member as well as past Board chair. The award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to HL7's success.

The 2014 recipients include:

Lorraine Constable, principal, Constable Consulting Inc.; HL7 Canada

Melva Peters, president, Jenaker Consulting; consultant, Gordon Point Informatics; Chair, HL7 Canada

About the Recipients

Lorraine Constable has been a member of HL7 since 2007. Her organizational and architecture skills have made her a leader and primary content contributor in a wide range of HL7 work groups. Lorraine currently serves as a co-chair for the Electronic Services and Tools and Orders and Observations (O&O) Work Groups. She was also one of the founding members of the Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR®) Management Group and currently participates on the FHIR Governance Board as well as contributing content for the O&O, Patient Care and Financial Management Work Groups. Constable also helps lead the HL7 Architecture Review Board, where she serves as vice-chair. Her active contributions include the HL7 SAIF Architecture program, the Technical Steering Committee and work groups ranging from Application Implementation and Design to Patient Care.

Melva Peters has been involved in HL7 since 2008. Since that time, she has actively participated in a number of work groups. She is the current chair of the HL7 Canada affiliate and co-chairs the Pharmacy and Education Work Groups. In addition, Ms. Peters co-chairs the Domain Experts Steering Division of the Technical Steering Committee, is an affiliate representative to the Membership Committee and is a member of the International Council. Finally, as a tutor for the online HL7 Fundamentals course, she provides excellent feedback and guidance to students. These volunteer efforts reflect an ongoing outstanding commitment to Health Level Seven International and to the training of members and future generations of leaders. ■



*Dr. Hammond congratulates
2014 Volunteer of the Year Award
recipients Lorraine Constable and
Melva Peters*



SAVE THE DATE FOR HIMSS15

April 12-16, 2016 | Chicago, IL

Join us in the HL7 Booth (#3836) at the HIMSS15 Exhibit

HL7 will once again offer a variety of education sessions covering HL7 standards such as FHIR and current industry topics such as the Argonaut Project and Meaningful Use. Visit our booth to learn more about how HL7 and HL7 standards contribute to meaningful use and are helping change the face of healthcare IT.



Live Demo: Provider-Mediated Exchange of Patient Summaries Trillium Bridge Tests the Transatlantic Interoperability Bridge



By Catherine Chronaki,
Secretary General,
HL7 Foundation; Coordinator,
Trillium Bridge Project

On October 22, at the State House of Massachusetts in Boston, during the 5th EU-US eHealth Marketplace and Conference, Trillium Bridge—a project co-funded by the European Commission to support the activities of the EU/US MoU Roadmap on eHealth/HIT cooperation—presented a live demonstration of provider-mediated exchange of patient summaries between the European Union (EU) and the United States (US). This demonstration proved the technical feasibility of the exchange.

Over the past 14 months, Trillium Bridge compared EU patient summaries as implemented in the epSOS project involving 26 member states that formed the basis for the EU patient summary guidelines with the US Meaningful Use II, Continuity of Care Document that serves as the basis for the Blue Button initiative. Over the past 14 months, Trillium Bridge compared EU patient summaries as implemented in the epSOS project. This effort involved 26 member states and

resulted in the development of EU patient summary guidelines using US Meaningful Use Stage 2, the Continuity of Care Document (CCD®) and Blue Button as input. Both the EU and US clinical document specification are based on the same standard, HL7 Clinical Document Architecture (CDA®) Release 2. Despite nontrivial differences and gaps in the clinical sections, elements, and value sets, it is possible to transform significant parts of one specification to the other.

The significant effort of Trillium Bridge is expected to decrease standards development costs and accelerate convergence toward global standards. Following an extensive mapping exercise, the committee identified allergies, problems and medications as the basis of an international patient summary specification. The core data elements of this specification





are essential to emergency or unplanned care and thus support citizens' right to health data and safety regardless of their location.

Gnomon Informatics SA, supported by iUZ and the OpenNCP community, worked with the Kaiser Permanent eHealth Exchange team to create a proof of concept reference implementation of the Trillium Bridge gateway as part of their eHealthPass™ project that is able to exchange clinical patient summaries with the Healthway. The Trillium Bridge gateway was used to search and retrieve the patient summary of a United States citizen in CCD format who was enrolled in a Kaiser Permanente health plan.

The scenario was as follows: Martha, a cancer survivor from San Diego, had an accident during a trip to Italy and was taken to the hospital. Trillium Bridge project manager Giorgio Cangioli played the role of the Italian Doctor, and queried for Martha's patient summary in Italian, retrieved the HL7 CCD document, and then transformed it to Italian. The transformation changed the structures and transcoded the terms to the coding systems used in the EU. Giorgio then authored a note for Martha's physician

back in the United States. Zachary Gillen, interoperability director at Kaiser Permanente, reviewed the information together with Martha once she was back home.

Zachary, in his role of as a Kaiser Permanente physician, demonstrated that the same functionality can be available for Paolo Cerutti, a European citizen visiting the United States. Paolo suffers from chronic hypertension and lost his new medication while traveling to San Francisco and could not explain the symptoms he was experiencing. Zachary successfully retrieved Paolo's patient summary in CCD format and identified his medication.

Next, Ana Estelrich delved into the details of the demonstration and reviewed the process of syntactically transforming the

The demonstration showed that with effective transatlantic collaboration, the EU and the US can set the pace and tone for global standards development and eHealth innovation.

structure of allergies, medication, and problems, while semantically mapping the value sets. This work is being coordinated by Phast in France and the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. Using Phast's STS Service, they are creating the Trillium Bridge Transformer software which can transform patient summaries from the EU to the US specifications and vice versa. Currently, the STS Service is available at http://extension.phast.fr/STS_UI and offers 22 coding sets. 22 out of 65 value sets in HL7 CCD are mapped the epSOS patient summary counterparts, while 26 value sets out of 46

in the epSOS patient summary specification are mapped into the corresponding ones in HL7 CCD. Ana stressed that this is the starting point. Files and notes have been exchanged with the US Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT that undertook a similar work of more limited scope. In retrospect, a rigorous quality assurance process engaging subject matter experts needs to happen in order to create widely accepted interoperability assets. However, since mapping is never perfect, the original code is always sent for safety reasons. The translated and transcoded Trillium document bears the indication that it has undergone a transformation and the original document is always available in its entirety.

Catherine Chronaki reflected on this transatlantic collaborative effort, noting that it is a game changer as it offers the groundwork for follow-up initiatives. The experience gained and lessons learned will inform the work of IHE profiles XCPD and XCA and will be continued in pursuit of end-end integration for HIMSS 2015 in April 2015. It is also expected to inform the efforts underway toward an international patient summary specification under the auspices of HL7, ISO, and CEN.

The demonstration showed that with effective transatlantic collaboration, the EU and the US can set the pace and tone for global standards development and eHealth innovation. It also highlighted that technical feasibility is frequently the easiest part of the puzzle; establishing trust and addressing legal, compliance and governance questions is usually a greater challenge. ■

Joint Trillium Bridge – Sustains Breakfast Workshop

Are There Business Opportunities in the Transatlantic Exchange of Electronic Health Records by Providers and Patients?



By Catherine Chronaki,
Secretary General,
HL7 Foundation; Coordinator,
Trillium Bridge Project



On Wednesday, October 22 at the Massachusetts State House in Boston, two projects supported by the European Commission, Sustains (www.sustainsproject.eu) and Trillium Bridge (www.trilliumbridge.eu) addressed four outstanding panelists with the key question of the 5th EU-US eHealth Marketplace: “Are there business opportunities in the transatlantic exchange of electronic health records by providers and patients?”



The Sustains project, presented by Ain Aaviksoo, chair of the National eHealth Task

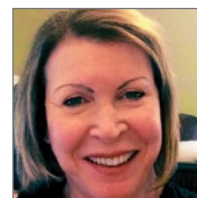
Force in Estonia, aims to increase citizens’ access to their electronic health records in 11 European regions. The project has achieved significant results in patient empowerment, quality of care, efficiency and economy throughout Europe and in Estonia, and is interested in an expanded set of patient empowering capabilities that stem across the Atlantic. While final analysis of the project results are underway, the preliminary results indicate that a critical mass of patients are eager to

embrace the opportunities that free and secure exchange of their health data can deliver. Countries with well-developed e-health solutions for patient empowerment and systems efficiency improvement are actively seeking opportunities for real-world exchange use cases between countries and continents.

The Trillium Bridge project, presented by Catherine Chronaki, General Secretary of the HL7 Foundation in Belgium, is carrying out a feasibility study of transatlantic EHR exchange by patients and providers along the following dimensions: standards, incentives, innovative business models, security and privacy, clinical research, education, cross-vendor integration. Building on the infrastructure of the epSOS project, the EU patient summary specification and the Meaningful Use Stage 2, Continuity of Care Document, Trillium Bridge has demonstrated the technical feasibility of patient- and provider-mediated exchange of patient summaries across the Atlantic.

The panelists identified different facets of the business opportunities question and offered

the perspectives from a variety of viewpoints, including industry, provider, standards, consumer, and government. Panelists also suggested actions and enabling factors for business engagement that can offer citizens access to their electronic health records in a form that is fit for use anywhere in the world.



Elaine Blechman, PhD, professor of psychology at the University of Colorado at Boulder and CEO

of Prosocial Applications, stressed that older and chronically ill travelers want and need their many healthcare providers to be fully informed about their health status. Gradual increments in EMR interoperability are likely over the next decade, yet are of no immediate value to complex patients who must expend energy, time and money as messengers of health data between all their providers. Complex patients are at a known risk for medical mistakes and suboptimal care if even one of their providers is insufficiently or incorrectly informed about their health status. Based on years of

input from complex patients, dedicated caregivers and professionals, Blechman's team has developed the standards-based SmartPHR iPhone app to ease the messenger burden of complex patients and their justifiable worries about privacy. From her perspective, patient-mediated transatlantic health information exchange must leverage currently available mobile app technology rather than wait for universal inter-provider interoperability.

Her expectation is that providers will not be able to exchange patient information between the US and EU for at least another 10 years, which leaves patients alone in solving their health information exchange problems. For Blechman, there are accelerators in the innovations promoted by Apple iOS8 and other smartphone vendors, which confirm the profitability of consumer-driven transatlantic health information exchange without any attention to interoperability and standards, something that her company Prosocial invests in with the SmartPHR suite of apps.



Marcello Melgara from the region of Lombardy in Italy reflected on European Commission

funded research which aims at raising awareness of safer and cheaper care as a citizen's right and as a legal and economic duty of states by widening the eHealth market for ICT companies, creating new opportunities for eHealth/healthcare service providers, supporting business/leisure/clinical "tourism", and advancing the eHealth "cultures".



He added that there are times he feels countries, regions, and clinicians are not ready, as the market has not reached the critical mass level and eHealth implementations do not interoperate. His expectation is that patients will break the glass in the exchange of health records as awareness assembles critical mass, while providers will start exchanging data as wider business opportunities emerge. Melgara suggested direction for future EU-US activities was to consciously move away from Algebraic Interoperability i.e. the matching of codes and templates, to human interoperability, i.e. the matching of minds. One way to realize that would be to make conscious joint efforts on semantics and workforce.



Dr. Alexander Berler of Gnomon Informatics SA, presented the numbers behind

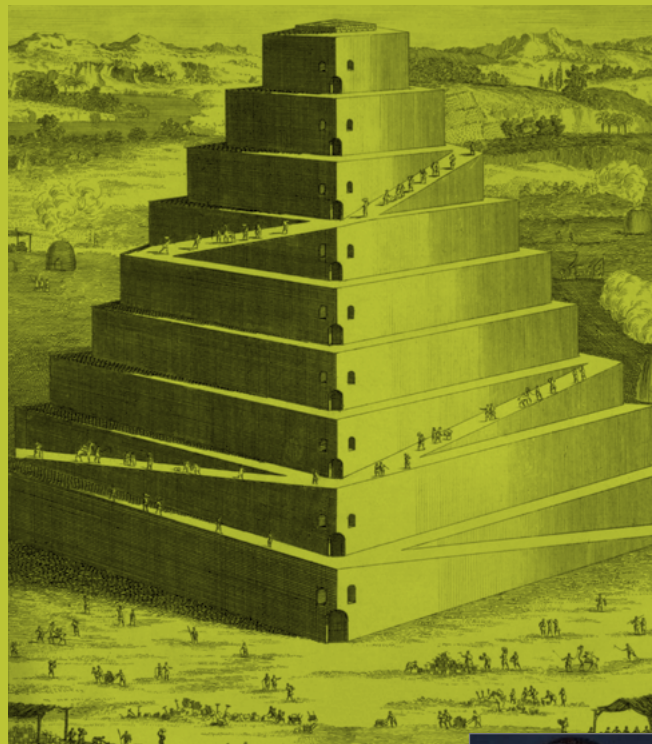
emerging business models that technology such as that of the Trillium Bridge gateway potentially supports. He argued that patient summaries make sense for a number of business cases

including medical tourism; disease management; clinical second opinion; telemedicine and mobile health; chronic care; and clinical trial management. Patient summaries also affect a wide range of stakeholders including tour operators; tourism providers; insurance institutions; patient communities; governments; healthcare provider; workflow providers; and the mobile health, telecare, and pharmaceutical industries. Patient summary exchange is just the beginning of a new era of healthcare information exchange; other health data can be exchanged by using the same approach and standards.

According to Berler, medical tourism covers a wide range of patients, including every day tourists that face an emergency or unplanned health event, elective medical tourism, and expatriates including the military and chronic disease patients that wish to keep on traveling. Gnomon Informatics, foreseeing the new market ahead and believing the patient access and empowerment are critical, plans to create an interoperable "healthcare e-passport" service called eHealthPass™. This new service will support

Imagine you have your medical record posted in a safe place in the cloud.

You can read it in words you can understand, anytime you want. You can take it with you on any trip abroad, for doctors to read it in any language, in any country you choose to travel. Your general practitioner and your specialists can access it, as well as any emergency doctor admitting you, unconscious from an accident or a medical crisis.



SemanticHealthNet (SHN)

Breaking Down the Tower of Babel in Medicine



By Professor Robert Vander Stichele, MD, PhD, Ramit, Heymans Institute of Pharmacology, University of Ghent, Belgium

Europe is building the infrastructure to achieve these objectives. Governments are building electronic highways of medical information, called eHEALTH platforms. This allows medical information to circulate freely but protected between private practices, hospitals, nursing homes, as well as between healthcare workers, policy makers, health insurers, and researchers.

Building highways, however, does not mean that the traffic will be safe. In order to let the information seamlessly flow from one system to the other, something called “semantic interoperability” needs to be achieved. “Interoperability” means the ability to work together smoothly while “semantic” means that we should understand each other when we exchange information and collaborate. It is not easy to ensure that the receiver correctly understands what the sender has conveyed. We must first overcome

hurdles, like different languages, medical cultures, systems, information structures (HL7, openEHR, EN 13606), ways to express information, and ways to classify information.

To solve these soft aspects of medical information exchange, the European Union has gathered 17 top institutes and more than 50 experts in a Network of Excellence for Semantic Interoperability. The short name is SemanticHealthNet (SHN). During this three year project (2012-2015), recommendations, proof of concepts and practical assets are produced to support every aspect of this endeavor.

During the 2nd European e-Cardiology and eHealth Congress on October 29-31, 2014, the progress of SHN and its link to the Trillium Bridge project was presented to a wider audience of cardiologists, interested in eHEALTH, with a focus on prevention and rehabilitation.

The presentations focused on the concrete example (use case) of the care for patients with heart failure. A heart failure specialist medically assesses a patient with suspected heart failure, records the findings in the medical hospital file, and confirms the diagnosis to the general practitioner in an outpatient letter. The information is also sent to the international register of heart failure patients, set up by the scientific association to check the quality of care in Europe. The general practitioner integrates the information in his electronic health record to ensure that the information is available to other doctors in case of emergency, here or abroad. Achieving this involves several steps which require the full engagement of the scientists from

Continued from page 11

Joint Trillium Bridge – Sustains Breakfast Workshop

Are There Business Opportunities in the Transatlantic Exchange of Electronic Health Records by Providers and Patients?

patient consent and informed consent mechanisms which are prerequisites for formal exchange of data. It is based on the effective reuse of well established and known standards (HL7, CDA®, IHE) to solve the interoperability equation. The Trillium Bridge Gateway, which is powered by eHealthPass™, is a first step toward future transatlantic services that are open to all patients in need.



Jamie Ferguson,
vice president of
health policy at
Kaiser
Permanente,
likened business

opportunity to citizen value, and discussed the case of a veteran suffering from an allergy that the

Kaiser Permanente EHR was able to flag for the health professional on duty. He then moved on to barriers, highlighting content standards (i.e. EU versus US patient summary), privacy policies and trust frameworks, clinician training and workflow integration. Ferguson recognized powerful accelerators in the international standards collaboration with an international patient summary standard put forward by HL7, ISO and CEN, and the cooperative semantic modeling of SNOMED, CIMI, ISO. He also pointed out continuing opportunities for privacy policy coordination and integration of patient and provider modalities. Ferguson noted that with the rapid growth in US eHealth exchange networks

reaching over 100 million Americans today, a robust market for products and services used for interconnectivity, security, and identity is emerging. He closed his presentation by asserting that expansion of current solutions is the best path toward future interoperability using new standards and methods.

In conclusion, EU and US citizens, even those with chronic disease, may soon feel confident and safe with their healthcare when crossing the Atlantic on business or leisure. It appears that at this early stage, the patient will take the lead in creating the initial products and services in the domain, especially those that are in need for quality healthcare information. ■

this medical discipline and the clinicians working in the field. They must cooperate with experts such as linguists, terminologists, knowledge engineers, ontologists, and health informaticians. They collect and harvest the words and phrases that doctors and patients use in daily conversations in the different languages, and choose the important concepts necessary for communication. These concepts must then be linked to internationally accepted nomenclatures and classifications (terminologies). Agreements must be made about the building blocks of medical records and their organization into clinical models. Terminology must be bound to these building blocks.

More information on Semantic Healthnet:

- Dipak Kalra
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- Trillium Bridge with Catherine Chronaki
euoffice@HL7.org
- European e-Cardiology and eHealth Congress
www.e-cardiohealth.org

This will only work to satisfaction if the new semantic technologies to publish and query information in the next generation of the internet (web 2.0 or semantic web) employ clinical models in the right way.

How do we engage the clinicians? How do we make the different information experts work together? How do we make the international organizations for

standardization and profiling work together? How do we stimulate the industry of medical software to adopt novel approaches? How do we assure the availability of open-source, high-quality semantic resources? How do we test whether the systems work properly together? How do we build sustainable business models to pay for all these goodies? It is the task of the SHN Network of Excellence to pave the way, work out the vision, and ensure that investments in this longstanding effort are directed in the right way. SHN is creating a permanent institute with the aspiration to guide the efforts in semantic interoperability in the coming decade. ■

New WGM Feature for Clinicians

HL7 FHIR® Clinician Connectathon

The first ever HL7 FHIR® Clinician Connectathon was held on the last day of the September 2014 HL7 28th Annual Plenary and Working Group Meeting in Chicago. The great success of this inaugural event ensures that this will be a regular feature of future HL7 working group meetings.

Traditional connectathons are based on connecting two systems to each other for purposes of interoperable data exchange. The HL7 FHIR Clinician Connectathon was about connecting clinicians to HL7 FHIR developers and implementers (we will call them FHIRicians). The goal was to provide insight for both groups about the needs around HL7 FHIR resources and profiles for clinical data and the effectiveness and completeness of current HL7 FHIR resources in this area.

The September Clinician Connectathon was based on use cases and storyboards created specifically for the connectathon by the HL7 Patient Care Work Group. Three use cases – an acute care episode, a chronic care scenario, and an allergy and intolerance episode – were the basis of these storyboards. The storyboards represented data from a patient story in much the way it would come in actual clinical situations with data coming from patient history, provider observations, and laboratory and diagnostic studies. The data came in unstructured form and the intent was for clinicians from different professional domains to enter this data based



Participants hard at work during the inaugural HL7 FHIR Clinician's Connectathon.

on their judgment of what was important to capture. Analysis and discussion afterward focused on the success and limitations of existing resources and value sets to capture pertinent data. This approach was taken in contrast to using HL7 FHIR resources to access clinical data that had been previously captured in order to expose possible gaps in HL7 FHIR resources to represent clinical data elements that might be considered of essential importance by clinicians. Or, to state it another way, it was the subtle but profound difference between “Was the data captured important?” and “Was the important data captured?” The difference being whether important clinical data

was not captured and the changes necessary in FHIR resources to ensure it is in the future.

Another important and fundamental goal of this first-ever event type was to develop and test the processes and workflows of this type of connectathon to guide development of future such events. The unstructured data integrated into the user stories allowed the community to “reverse engineer” clinical models for the data to be captured. Detailed clinical models are an important element in building application programming interfaces (API) for healthcare data and this informal approach allowed a flexible and efficient means of communication between clinicians and FHIRicians



By Russell Leftwich, MD, Co-Chair,
HL7 Patient Care Work Group and
Chief Medical Officer, Tennessee Office
of eHealth Initiatives

Board Convenes Exploratory Group

Including Implementers within HL7

Founded in 1987, Health Level Seven International (HL7) 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.

Our 28-years of success are the direct result of the hard work of thousands of volunteer domain experts who have committed their time and expertise to the products and services we offer. As we look toward the next 28 years, in order to grow significantly in numbers and areas of expertise, it's important that we also grow our community of members.

HL7 is committed to maintaining support and resources for our current members and efforts to recruit and develop our core membership, including new member benefits, stake-holder focused summits and policy conferences will continue to be a priority for the organization.

However, as we travel down the path toward increased interoperability, it is apparent that we need to include implementers in this journey. The market for implementers has the potential to not only increase the number of members, but will also provide invaluable expertise in the implementation of HL7 standards.

Implementers play a key role in the successful adoption of standards. Moreover, there are far more implementers than there are standards developers. In order to ensure the ongoing success of our standards development work, it is necessary that we also ensure their successful implementation.

Who is an implementer?

In defining the scope this project, implementers are the primary consumers of the standards. They are the programmers and analysts who interpret the HL7 standards and incorporate them into systems. While implementers are likely to be software developers, they may also be the integrators using HL7 standards for data exchange, end users and the beneficiaries of the standards.



By Grant Wood, on behalf of the HL7 Implementers Project Team

Implementation Board Project Team

During the HL7 August board meeting, the board identified a small group to develop a scope of work and make a recommendation on the best way to include implementers into the broader HL7 community.

Subsequently, this group is convening a representative sub-group to provide input and feedback that includes: those working with implementers at the executive level, active implementers, software developer/vendors, consultants, providers and those who are involved in testing.

Currently, the group is considering a distinct membership offering and benefits for implementers.

If you would like to get involved in this initiative, please contact Grant Wood at grant.wood@imail.org. ■

Continued from page 14

for planning future development of HL7 FHIR resources and profiles. As issues were pointed out, the FHIRicians were able to make coding changes on the fly!

The connectathon was an opportunity for clinicians to better understand the relationship of HL7 FHIR resources and profiles

to clinical domain models as well as the relationship of value sets in HL7 FHIR resources to clinical data. For FHIRicians, it was an opportunity to better understand the clinical models and the requirements for clinicians for interoperability between systems, including their own

disparate systems within a facility or institution. For both groups, it was an opportunity to evolve an effective means to develop and improve HL7 FHIR resources using clinician connectathons. ■

CHIME and HL7 Collaboration

HL7 and CHIME: Working Together to Address Challenges to Achieving Interoperability

As part of a partnership to advance interoperability in healthcare, the College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME) and HL7 are continuing to work together to promote a standardized approach for exchanging healthcare information.

All segments of the healthcare industry are facing growing pressure to deliver improved results, and to do that, the industry needs more collaboration and coordination. Current trends point to the need for a more effective exchange of information. CHIME and HL7 are working together to highlight the importance of developing and adopting standards to achieve interoperability.



interoperability is more than just the exchange of data as it directly impacts patients' lives. At the inaugural HL7 Payer Summit, Aetna, Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, Cigna, Delta Dental Plans Association, Humana and other industry stakeholders were in attendance to discuss the impact of standards on data exchange with payers.

"We're taking part in collaboration with every segment of the healthcare industry," said Charles Jaffe, MD, PhD, CEO of HL7 International. He added, "Our standards can provide the payer community with the much needed link to clinical information. We believe this will enable the transformation of healthcare from pay-for-service to pay-for-quality."

Provider CIOs need to take notice of payer insistence of standards-based systems and incorporate those preferences into their IT planning.

Key highlights of the HL7 Payer Summit included:

- Payer and provider roles are converging as the industry moves toward a more integrated health-care system.
- Payers should be able to integrate clinical and financial data to analyze how care practices affect patient outcomes.
- As more payers shift to offering value-based reimbursement to providers, payers must be able to measure the value and integrate care in such a way that it meets the needs of employers and their employee populations.
- The federal government continues to support interoperability by expanding the value of the portfolio of standards to support ACOs, payment reform, value-based purchasing and other administrative priorities.
- An overview of HL7 FHIR, a new-generation framework that accelerates the implementation and use of standards. HL7 FHIR will enable payers and other industry participants to write apps that that help them get the information they need. ■

Executive Summaries Online

HL7 Plenary Meeting

www.HL7.org/permalink?28thPlenaryExecSummary

HL7 Payer Summit

www.HL7.org/permalink?PayerSummitExecSummary

Various models of interoperability, and the necessity of extending the concept throughout the healthcare industry, were key topics at recent HL7 meetings in Chicago, which CHIME sponsored.

"CHIME is pleased to work with HL7 to promote a standardized approach to interoperable data exchange," said CHIME President and CEO Russell P. Branzell, FCHIME, CHCIO. "Supporting events such as HL7's plenary meeting and payer summit highlight the critical work being done to overcome interoperability barriers and that standards-based technologies lead to improved safety, quality and efficiency of patient care."

Key highlights of the HL7 28th Annual Plenary meeting:

- The potential benefits of a learning health system must be achieved for the industry to make important gains in effective treatment.
- Standards initiatives, particularly HL7's Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR®), have the potential to address many of the concerns brought out in reports by JASON and other groups that have voiced concerns over interoperability.
- Because the technology now is in widespread use to improve the health of patients, optimizing information exchange becomes an ethical issue; achieving

13 Industry Leaders Join HL7 Advisory Council

HL7 Announces New Advisory Council Members

On November 5, HL7 announced that its Board of Directors named the following individuals to serve a two-year renewable term on the HL7 Advisory Council:

- Dixie Baker, PhD, MS, senior partner, Martin, Blanck & Associates, LLC
- Paul Biondich, director, global health informatics program, Regenstrief Institute
- Jennifer Covich Bordenick, chief executive officer, eHealth Initiative
- Susan Dentzer, senior health policy advisor, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- John Halamka, MD, MS, chief information officer, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and co-chair, Health HIT Standards Committee
- David McCallie, Jr., MD, vice president of medical informatics, Cerner Corporation
- Blackford Middleton, MD, MPH, MSc, FACMI, professor of biomedical informatics and medicine, Vanderbilt University Medical Center and chair, American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA)
- J. Marc Overhage, MD, PhD, chief medical informatics officer, Siemens Healthcare
- Christopher Ross, MBA, chief information officer, Mayo Clinic
- Mark Segal, PhD, vice president of government and industry affairs, GE Healthcare IT
- Micky Tripathi, chief executive officer and president, Massachusetts eHealth Collaborative
- Andrew Wiesenthal, MD, director of healthcare practice, Deloitte Consulting, LLP
- Mariann Yeager, chief executive officer, Healthway

These individuals joined the following incumbent HL7 Advisory Council members, including: Russell Branzell, FCHIME, CHCIO, president and CEO of the College of Healthcare Information Executives (CHIME); Carl Dvorak, president, Epic; Andrew Roddam, vice president and global head of epidemiology at GlaxoSmithKline (GSK); Mary Ann Slack, director, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, U.S. Food and Drug Administration;

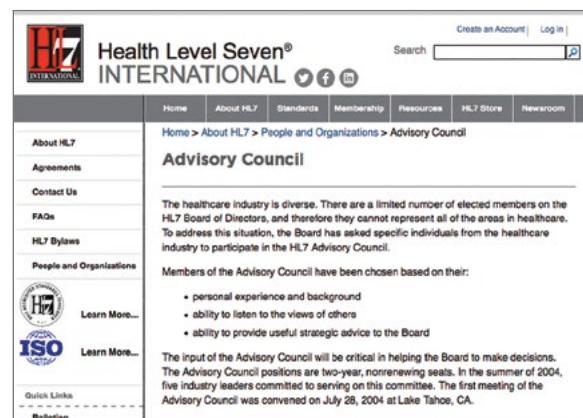
Don Sweete, CEO of the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organization (IHTSDO), John Tooker, MD, MBA, chief executive officer emeritus, American College of Physicians; and Jeremy Thorp, director of business architecture, Health and Social care Information Center.

“These leaders represent a broad spectrum of global stakeholders who are committed to advancing health through information technology. We are delighted to welcome them to the HL7 Advisory Council,” said Charles Jaffe, MD, PhD, CEO of HL7. “Their strategic expertise and diverse experience will contribute greatly to HL7’s goal of improving the quality of care and reducing costs by overcoming the barriers to interoperability.”

In recent years, HL7’s Advisory Council was instrumental in the organization’s decision to license its standards and implementation guides free of charge as well as the development of programs and services to address the needs of those who implement HL7 standards. The Advisory Council’s current focus is on addressing the recommendations from the ONC’s draft Interoperability Roadmap and the JASON Task Force, including the acceleration of the HL7 Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR®) standard.



By Andrea Ribick,
HL7 Director of
Communications



Biographies of the HL7 Advisory Council members are available at: <http://www.hl7.org/Special/committees/advisory>. ■



By Laura Mitter,
HL7 Web Developer

A Step-by-Step Review of the Redesign Process

How the HL7 Website Got Its New Look

In September of 2014 you might have noticed that the HL7.org homepage looked a bit different. One of the HL7 Key Initiatives for 2014 was to improve the homepage appearance and navigation. Any site redesign, and particularly homepage redesigns, can have cascading effects across a website and across a user base. A small change that might only impact 10% of all users across a heavily trafficked site like HL7.org can end up affecting 1,000 users a day. If that change is made without being properly researched, then the end result to the changes might be 1,000 frustrated and unhappy users.

The Site Redesign Process

It's a pretty good rule of thumb to generally avoid making thousands of people angry, so I stick to an elaborate process to ensure the changes I make are appropriate, well researched, and necessary. The process includes extensive information gathering, creating prototypes, and reviewing and testing those prototypes.

All this happens before the first mockups of what the new page will even look like and before the first edits are made to the webpage.

Step 1: Gather Information

Even though information gathering occurs throughout the process, the largest amount of research is completed in the first steps. The changes that were made to the homepage were based on the following research:

1. User interviews

- Several interviews and surveys were performed over the year. The feedback from those users contained both positive and negative aspects of the site.
- Additional feedback was collected as the homepage redesign process continued, which allowed changes to be made as the process continued and ensured the changes were not created in a vacuum.
- Staff feedback about the site's functionality and any frequent and trending comments they might have received from the users.

2. Google and Web Trends analytics of site usage over the past two years

- Analysis of Google Analytics and Web Trends allowed certain patterns to arise. Links on the homepage that were accessed with a frequency of less than 0.10% of the time were removed. The primary user goals (About, Standards, Balloting, Work Groups, OIDs, and Membership) were given high priority.
- The user feedback was compared to site analytics to see if the suggested changes were valid.
For example: It was recommended that HL7 remove one of the tabs from the top

navigation and deemed the tab to be without merit. This particular tab was accessed by over 2,000 users a month and is one of our heaviest trafficked sections of the site. Analytics did not confirm this feedback to be a valid, so that particular change was not made.

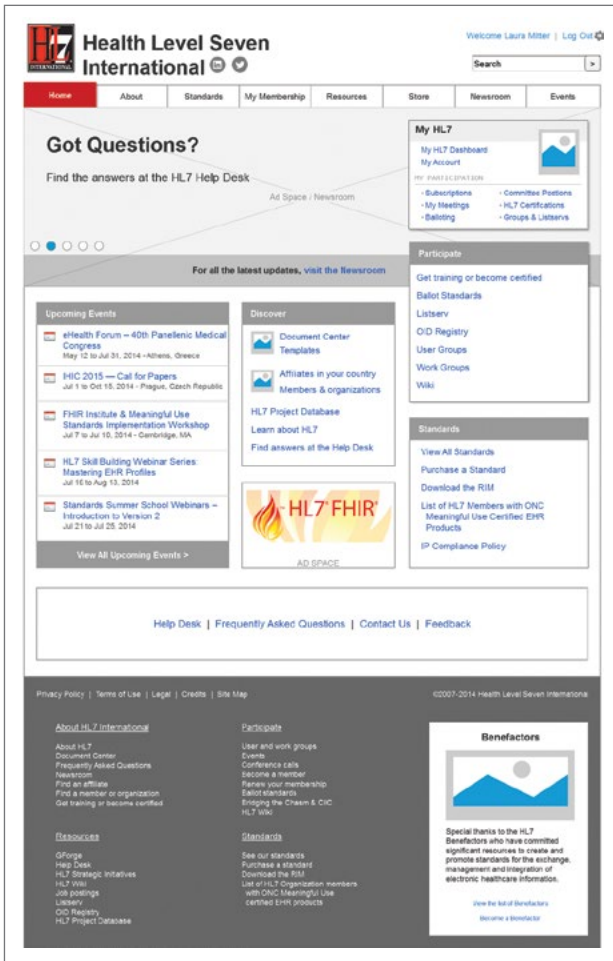
3. Competitive Analysis

It's always a good idea to keep an eye on what any competitors or partners are doing to their websites. Since the competitors and partners are likely to share the same user base, it's helpful to make a consistent language and element placing is used. If users are familiar with finding login information in the upper right corner, it's best to keep login information where it's commonly found.

After the external research was completed, a site flowchart was created to review the current flow and design of the navigation as it existed before any changes were made to the site. A full Site Analysis was also performed to keep track of any inconsistencies, usability issues, and accessibility concerns.

Some of the major elements I wanted to tackle included:

- Increase the font size throughout the site to improve readability and allow users to find what they're looking for more easily



Example of the site wireframe created for the HL7.org homepage redesign.

- Keeping high priority items in the same location on the homepage where users typically accessed them
- Soften up the color to reduce eyestrain
- Increase the use of whitespace
- Use more graphics in the site to break up elements on a page
- Improve the navigation

Some of these changes are currently ongoing and will be implemented as time permits. Other changes impacted elements on the homepage and would also need to be applied to almost all pages across the site.

Step 2: Prototype

After all the above data was gathered, wireframes were developed with the proposed changes. A wireframe is a quick way to lay out elements of a website. Things can be moved around quickly and any issues with a layout can be discovered before building the page. The wireframes are developed in tangent with the new site flow chart.

Step 3: Review & Test

After the wireframe was completed, a functioning prototype of the wireframe was shared with key stakeholders, staff, and invested work groups to make sure the prototype was on the right path. Any feedback received was noted and proposed changes were discussed, reviewed, and implemented.

At the same time as the wireframe review process was under development, the marketing and communications team were hard at work designing a new HL7 Brand Style Guide. We wanted these new design guidelines to be reflected in the design of the new HL7 homepage. Mockups of the new site home and navigation were created using the new brand primary and secondary colors as well as a new custom font. The mockups were then shared and any feedback was integrated if necessary.

An Analysis of the Current Site Performance

The site feedback and critiques we have received since deployment of the new design has been exceedingly positive. In a comparison of the current period versus the previous period, Google Analytics also shows an uptick of sessions (11% increase), new users (13%), and pageviews (8%). In another comparison of the current year versus the previous year, Google Analytics also shows an 8% increase in the number of sessions, a 11% increase in the number of users, and a 4% increase in the number of pageviews. In both comparisons, both the number of pages per session and the average session duration have decreased, which shows that users are able to find what they need and finish their task on HL7.org more quickly and with a fewer amount of clicks.

A Tale of Things to Come

As the year progresses, you might notice additional changes to the HL7.org website. My list of changes is constantly evolving as new developments and priorities are made; however there are a few specific things you can look forward to in the coming months:

- An update to the look and feel of the OID Registry
- Improving the functionality of the FAQ
- Updating the design and functionality of the top navigation
- Improving the Education Portal site organization and archives
- Updating the HL7 Flash Tour
- Redesigning the secondary landing pages ■



Part 4: HL7 Version 1

The Early History of HL7

HL7 was founded in March 1987. The early HL7 specifications were largely based on the StatLAN protocol which in turn was largely based on a 1979 protocol defined by Don Simborg at USCF.

(For more information on this, please read part 1 of the series from the January 2014 edition of the HL7 News).

The Founding of the HL7 Organization

At the initial two-day HL7 meeting in March 1987 it was decided to develop a draft standard. HL7 Version 1 (V1) was only used for a proof of concept implementation and served to define the content and structure of the standard.

You can see a scanned copy of the V1 standard at: <http://bit.ly/1v2VwJ0>.

The HL7 working group has met three or four times a year since the initial HL7 meeting to develop and review this specification. Three two-day working group meetings were held in May, June and September to develop the draft standard. They had an attendance of 7-15 people. The Version 1.0 draft standard covered the overall structure of the interfaces, ADT, order entry, and display oriented queries. This draft was presented at a plenary meeting of the overall group in Tyson's Corner, VA on October 8, 1987.

The aim was to create a standard as soon as possible. This is one of the goals explicitly mentioned in the HL7 V1.0 standard: "A primary interest of the working group is to employ the standard as soon as possible. To facilitate

this, there is no short-term goal to seek accreditation by a national or international standards organization. After the standard has passed through its initial development stage, such accreditation might be most desirable once relative consensus among users and vendors and early operational experience is attained."

In October 1987, the highest priorities to standardize were selected being:

- overall transmission control structure (documented in Chapter 2)
- admission, discharge, and transfer (Chapter 3)
- order entry (Chapter 4)
- query (Chapter 5)
- patient accounts (Chapter 6)

Although the patient accounting system was recognized as important, the time frame did not allow it to be addressed in the first draft.

According to Don Simborg, "A small group, headed by Wes Rishel agreed to write Version 1 of HL7. The group consisted mainly of

the original STATLAN

customers (e.g. Jim Gabler, Bill Lachenauer,

et. al.) and

original STATLAN vendors (e.g. John Quinn, Chris White, et. al.). There were about a dozen in total."

Members of the working group listed in the HL7 V1 specification are: Sam Schultz (chairman), Ivo Abraham, Lynda Allen, Kenneth Clarke, Jim Gabler, Mike Glickman, Jay Gore, Ed Hammond, David Kingdon, Clem McDonald, Wes Rishel (the main creator of HL7 V1), John Quinn (who provided technical leadership jointly with Wes), Don Simborg, B.G. Thompson, and Chris White.

The goals of the standard were that it "should be built upon the experience of existing production protocols. It should not, however, favor the proprietary interests of specific companies to the detriment of other users of the standard."

HL7 V1 was effectively based on three sources:

- The StatLAN protocol as defined by Simborg Systems, based on the UCSF specification. This was the main source of functional content (see *part 1 of this series*).
- The Enterprise protocol as defined by Enterprise Systems, based on the X12 specification.

```

Query with Display-Oriented Response
Query for all lab results on patient #12233. The query is
made at 11:00 a.m., 9/11/87. The Query anticipates an
immediate display-oriented response.

MHI^SYSG2^SYSG2PW^SYSG2^19870911^1181^QY^MSGJ478^P^19860215 <cr>
QD^19870911^1181^D^I^4387^***28^L^**12233^RES^ALL<cr>
MT^111^XOR<cr>

The response to the above query might look like the following:

MHI^SYSG2^SYSG2PW^SYSG2^19870911^1181^RD^MSGJ122^P^19860215 <cr>
MA^AA^MSGJ488<cr>
QD^19870911^1181^D^I^4387^***28^L^**CONTPOINT^88776^12233^RES^ALL<cr>
DD^RESULTS FOR PATIENT#12233 SMITH, JOHN H. 09/11/87<cr>
DD^SPECIMEN#H05 COLLECTED 09/11/87 8788<cr>
DD<cr>
DD^ELECTROLYTES<cr>
DD* SODIUM 140 [135-148] MEQ/L STAT<cr>
DD* POTASSIUM 4.0 [3.5-5.0] MEQ/L STAT<cr>
DD* CHLORIDE 89 [95-111] MEQ/L STAT<cr>
DD* CO2 20 [20-30] MEQ/L STAT<cr>
DD^LB<cr>
DD^CBC<cr>
DD* HEMOGLOBIN [13.5-18.0] <cr>
DD* HEMATOCRIT 45 [40-54] <cr>
DD* RED CELL COUNT 5.0 [4.6-6.2] M/H3<cr>
DD* MCHC 32 [32-36] G/DL<cr>
DD* MCH 28 [26-32] PG<cr>
DD* MCV 85 [81-101] FL<cr>
DD* WHITE CELL CNT 7.5 [5.0-10.0] K/H3<cr>
DD^LB<cr>
DD^SPECIMEN#B24 COLLECTED 9/10/87 8788<cr>
DD<cr>

```

Lab results query and display-oriented response.

- The ongoing ASTM E31.11 work – syntax and some data types (*see part 2 of this series*). HL7 V1.0 did not have any functional content from the E31.11 (E1238) draft specification; harmonization with E31 would take place about a year later.

Enterprise Systems and Simborg were very influential, since they represented protocols that were being used in practice and had been validated by experience. Enterprise provided much of the X12 framework and the experience with batch transmissions. Simborg's influence was related to specific hospital-wide transaction sets and the protocol for online exchange. The syntax of HL7 V1 was similar to ASTM E31.11, but it was also similar to X12 – and other public and proprietary data syntaxes from three HL7 members (Simborg Systems, Enterprise, Compucare) who offered their intellectual property to the common effort.

“After the initial HL7 meeting, I had invited Tom Pirelli, the CEO of Enterprise Systems, to join the group,” recalls Don Simborg. “Enterprise was a vendor of hospital departmental systems such as Materials Supply and Surgical Suite and had also developed a proprietary protocol mainly for wide area communications (Enterprise's main focus was communicating between a hospital and various materials suppliers). Dave Carlson from Enterprise was a member of the Version 1 group. Enterprise also agreed to put its protocol in the public domain and hence, Version 1 was based mainly on the STATlan protocol (which

had its start as the UCSF protocol) and some Enterprise protocol.”

Simborg also noted, “Tom Pirelli, like the other departmental vendors, had an interest – he was the most important vendor-CEO that helped promote the early HL7. So it was Tom Pirelli and myself who were the two vendor companies that worked hard (politically) to get other people involved.”

ANSI X12 is a uniform standard for inter-industry electronic interchange of business transactions. The structure of the X12 standard is similar to that of ASTM standards. The HL7 standard is closely modeled on the ANSI X12 Business Data Interchange standard. There are some differences that distinguish the HL7 standard from an ANSI X12 standard. The ANSI X12 standards apply primarily to batch transmission of data among systems. The HL7 standard differs from ANSI X12 in that it accommodates online exchange of individual transactions and LAN interfacing.

The standards work of a joint ACR-NEMA working committee (that was working on a precursor of DICOM, known as ACR-NEMA 300, which was published in 1985) was also known to HL7 at the time. The standard didn't have an impact on the functional content of HL7 V1.

```

Admit a Patient - Trigger Event 01
MH*\*SYS01*SHD01*PH*SYS08*SYS08PH19870821*1409*ADT*MSG005*P*19-
870801*N<cc>
AT*01*19870821*1401<cc>
PID*PATID1234*BLGN04567<cc>
PT1*JONES\WILLIAM\III*H*19500204*C*P*M*FATHER*JONES\WILLIAM-
\A\JR*4155551212*413545122134<cc>
PT2*1*1W\3002\1*19870821*1401**DR912**SURG**ICD01***AD<cc>
ADR*12 W MAIN STREET*GREENSBORO*NC*99012<cc>
MT*271*X04<cc>

```

Patient William A. Jones, III was admitted on August 21, 1987 at 2:01 p.m. by doctor DR919 for surgery SURG. He was given Room 3002, bed 1 in department 1W. The admitting diagnosis code was IC01. Because this was a new admit, the event date and time are the same as the admit date and time.

The message was sent from /stem SYS01 to system SYS08 on the same date as the admission took place but eight minutes after the admit. The standard version date of the sending system is August 1, 19876. No Acknowledgment was requested.

ADT Message Structure as defined in v1. The curly/square braces notation was introduced in HL7v2.0 as a means to define the abstract message structure and was copied from X12.

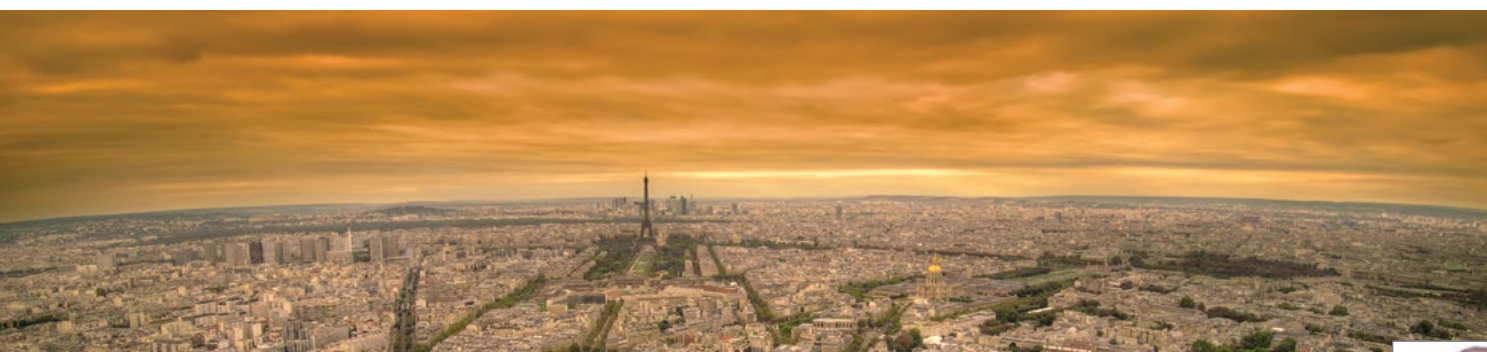
Currently, there is a single ADT Message defined, with the message type "ADT". Its segments are:

MH	Message Header.	Required.	(See Control Structure for format.)	Maximum of one per Message.
AT	ADT event type.	Required.		Maximum of one per patient.
PID	Patient ID Information.	Required.		Maximum of one per patient.
PT1	Patient Demographic Information.	Optional.		Maximum of one per patient.
PT2	Patient Visit Data.	Optional.		Maximum of one per patient.
ADR	Patient Address.	Optional.		Maximum of one per patient.
CLN	Clinical Information (Defined in the Order Entry Message.)	Optional.		Maximum of one per patient.
MT	Message Trailer.	Required.		

Example ADT message. Note the handwritten correction to "PID" by the reviewer; the segment name had changed during the HL7 V1 development process.

HL7 Version 1 was authored within the March-August 1987 timeframe – something that was only possible because of a high level of re-use of existing protocols (notably StatLAN and Enterprise), as well as the effort by Wes Rishel, John Quinn and the other volunteers. ■

This is the fourth part of a series of articles about the early history of HL7. This article is an abridged version of a creative commons article available at <http://bit.ly/1e7KScz> – you are referred to the full article for references. See <http://bit.ly/1njzICA> for video interviews related to these series. Please let us know should you have additional information about the early history of HL7.



Get Ready for the Paris Working Group Meeting A Question and Answer Session with HL7 France Chair Nicolas Canu

HL7: Please introduce yourself. What is your job? How long have you been involved with HL7? What motivates you to stay involved?

Canu: I am an independent informatics consultant, and I work for Phast. Phast is an association of French hospital pharmacists. I am in charge of R&D. At Phast, we are developing Standard Terminology Service (STS), which is an HL7 CTS2 implementation.

In 2001, I was elected chair of the HL7 work group of AFNOR, which the French equivalent of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). A few years later, this led to consensus for creating the HL7 French affiliate as a branch of an already existing organization called HPRIM.

I was then elected chair of HL7 France. I also contributed to the formation of a unique organization encompassing the activities of HL7 France and IHE France. That organization is called Interop'Santé and I am a member of the board.

Currently, I am working on a services oriented architecture (SOA) for large scale health information systems, beginning with terminology services.

HL7: What is the state of interoperability in France (and more broadly the EU)?

Canu: Interop'Santé is a strong organization in France. The main objectives of it are to establish a coherent standardization strategy for health information systems; adapt international norms and standards; contribute to the development of new

standards and integration profiles; and facilitate the implementation of norms, standards and integration profiles. All of the French vendors are Interop'Santé members. In addition, there are users, including the government agency in charge of health IT known as ASIP Santé.

The Pharmacists "Order" has led a successful project, DP ("Dossier Pharmaceutique"), a pharmaceutical record. More than 99 % of French pharmacies are connected to DP. There is also a great deal of interest in working with HL7's newest standard, Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR®).

To support global interoperability, France is participating in the transatlantic project known as the Trillium Bridge. This project extends the European Patient Summaries of epSOS and Meaningful Use Stage 2 in the United States to establish an interoperability bridge to meaningfully exchange patient summaries and electronic health records between the European Union and United States.

HL7: What are the top three challenges standards developers face in France?

Canu: I would say that the top three challenges are dealing with the recent failure of a government project known as the Dossier Médical Personnel (DMP), incorporating FHIR into health IT initiatives, and achieving consensus on terminology resources.

HL7: What is the regulatory environment like in HL7 France?

Update from the Process Improvement Committee

Co-Chair Handbook and DMPs Support Working Groups



By Karen Van Hentenryck, HL7 Associate Executive Director

The Process Improvement Committee (PIC) has been working on several projects in the last year.

The Co-Chair Handbook was updated and published prior to the September Working Group Meeting. This is one of PIC's ongoing three-year projects. All co-chairs and anyone considering running for a co-chair position is encouraged to review this document and provide input. The document itself is available on the website at <http://www.hl7.org/permalink/?CoChairHandbook>

PIC maintains a wiki page for collecting updates to this document. Those wishing to submit corrections/updates should do so directly to the following wiki page: <http://wiki.hl7.org/index.php?title=PIC:COCHAIRS>

PIC also reviewed and distributed updated versions of the Decision Making Practices (DMP) just before the September Working Group Meeting. Each work group is required to operate by a set of DMPs. Each time PIC publishes an updates set of DMPs, the work groups are notified and given two working group meeting to either

adopt the Default DMPs or use the Generic DMPs to document changes specific to their work group. Since the updated DMPs were published prior to the September 2014 Working Group Meeting, all work groups have until the end of the January 2015 Working Group Meeting to do this.

Both the Default and Generic DMPs can be found on the following page: <http://www.hl7.org/participate/decisionmaking.cfm> Once a work group has, by vote, adopted a set of DMPs, they should send those to HQ (Karenvan@HL7.org) for posting to the website. Work groups are reminded that having a currently adopted set of DMPs is a health metric. As with its other ongoing projects, PIC maintains a wiki page where members can suggest corrections/updates to the Defaults DMPs: <http://wiki.hl7.org/index.php?title=PIC:DMP>

The ballot Comment Spreadsheet was updated and pushed out for use during the September ballot cycle. Major changes included updating terminology (e.g. changing technical committee to work group) and instructions. Corrections and suggestions

for improvements to the ballot comments spreadsheet should be submitted to the following wiki page: <http://wiki.hl7.org/index.php?title=PIC:BCSM>

PIC has also spent a fair amount of time considering the best way to provide support to HL7's first-time attendees. After much discussion with the work groups, PIC's recommendations is for each work group to set aside the first 5-10 minutes of its meetings to allow first-time attendees to introduce themselves, express their interests, and to ask if there are experienced members in the room who would be willing to serve as the individual's mentor should they wish to have one. Many of the work groups have reported that they are already taking this approach with good results and those who aren't felt it was worthwhile.

During the next several months, PIC will be working on suggested updates to the whistleblower policy and creating a ballot overview checklist for co-chairs. ■

Canu: The regulatory environment in France is very strong and centralized but I would also characterize it as clumsy. It is very bureaucratic; dealing with the representatives from the French government is difficult, but necessary.

HL7: What are the goals of HL7 France in 2015?

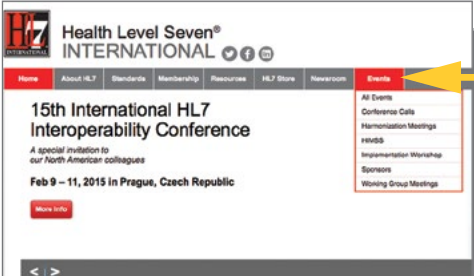
Canu: HL7 France will continue contributing to IHE activities to ensure that HL7 standards

are being properly implemented. We will also begin building shared FHIR assets, such as a French repository for value sets and profiles.

HL7: What do you think HL7 attendees from other countries will like most about Paris and France?

Canu: Europe is great. Paris is attractive. ■

Upcoming International Events

February 9-11, 2015 15th International HL7 Interoperability Conference	ihic2015.hl7cr.eu Prague, Czech Republic	May 27 – 29, 2015 MIE2015	www.mie2015.es Madrid, Spain
April 12 – 16, 2015 HIMSS15	www.himssconference.org Chicago, Illinois	May 31 – June 3, 2015 eHealth 2015 (Canada)	www.e-healthconference.com Toronto, Ontario, Canada
May 10-15, 2015 HL7 May Working Group Meeting	www.hl7.org/events/wgm052015 Paris, France	August 19 – 23, 2015 MEDINFO 2015	www.medinfo2015.org São Paulo, Brazil
May 18 – 20, 2015 Health 2.0 Europe	www.health2con.com/events/conferences/spring-fling-barcelona-2015 Barcelona, Spain	 <p>TIP: You can always find details on HL7 events at www.HL7.org under the “Events” tab.</p>	

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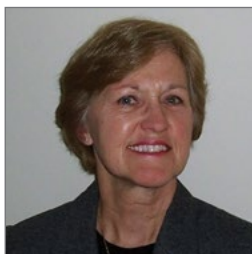
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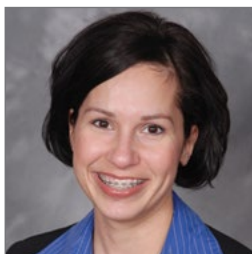
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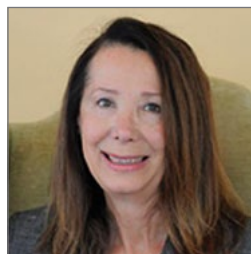
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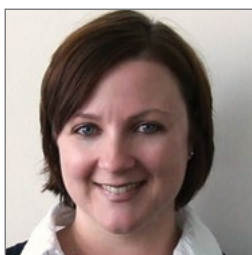
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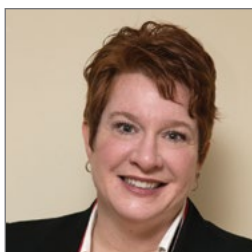
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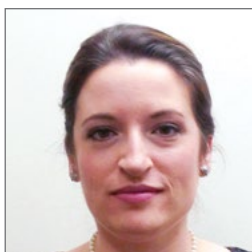
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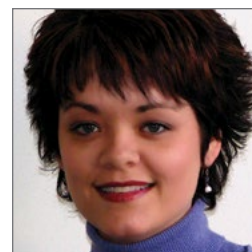
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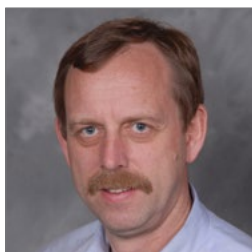


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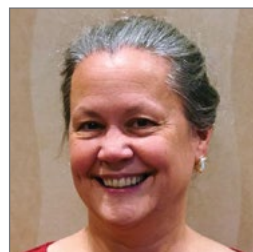
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Gain real-world
HL7 knowledge
TODAY
that you can apply
TOMORROW



HL7[®] FHIR[®]

Institute & Meaningful Use Standards Implementation Workshop

What is the HL7 FHIR[®] Institute?

The HL7 FHIR[®] Institute provides resources and training for the next generation standards framework created by HL7: Fast Health Interoperability Resources or FHIR[®]. The FHIR Institute focuses on making this new standard easier to understand and implement across the healthcare community. Training at the FHIR Institute includes both face-to-face and virtual events and is targeted at software developers, implementers and executives. Learn about FHIR straight from the source at FHIR[®] Institute programs delivered by expert FHIR standard developers.

What is an Implementation Workshop?

An HL7 Implementation Workshop is a three-day interactive hands-ons event focused on HL7-specific topics such as Version 2, Clinical Document Architecture (CDA[®]), Quality Health Reporting Document Architecture (QRDA), and Health Quality Measure Format (HQMF). It includes a combination of exercises and presentations to help attendees learn how to implement HL7 standards.

Why Should I Attend?

This is an invaluable educational opportunity for the healthcare IT community as it strives for greater interoperability among healthcare information systems. Our classes offer a wealth of information designed to benefit a wide range of HL7 users, from beginner to advanced.

Among the benefits of attending are:

- **Efficiency** Concentrated format provides maximum training with minimal time investment
- **Learn Today, Apply Tomorrow** A focused curriculum featuring real-world HL7 knowledge that you can apply immediately
- **Quality Education** High-quality training in a “small classroom” setting promotes more one-on-one learning
- **Superior Instructors** You’ll get HL7 training straight from the source: Our instructors. They are not only HL7 experts; they are the people who help develop the HL7 standards
- **Certification Testing** Become HL7 Certified: HL7 is the sole source for HL7 certification testing, now offering testing on Version 2.7, Clinical Document Architecture, and Version 3 RIM
- **Economical** A more economical alternative for companies who want the benefits of HL7’s on-site training but have fewer employees to train

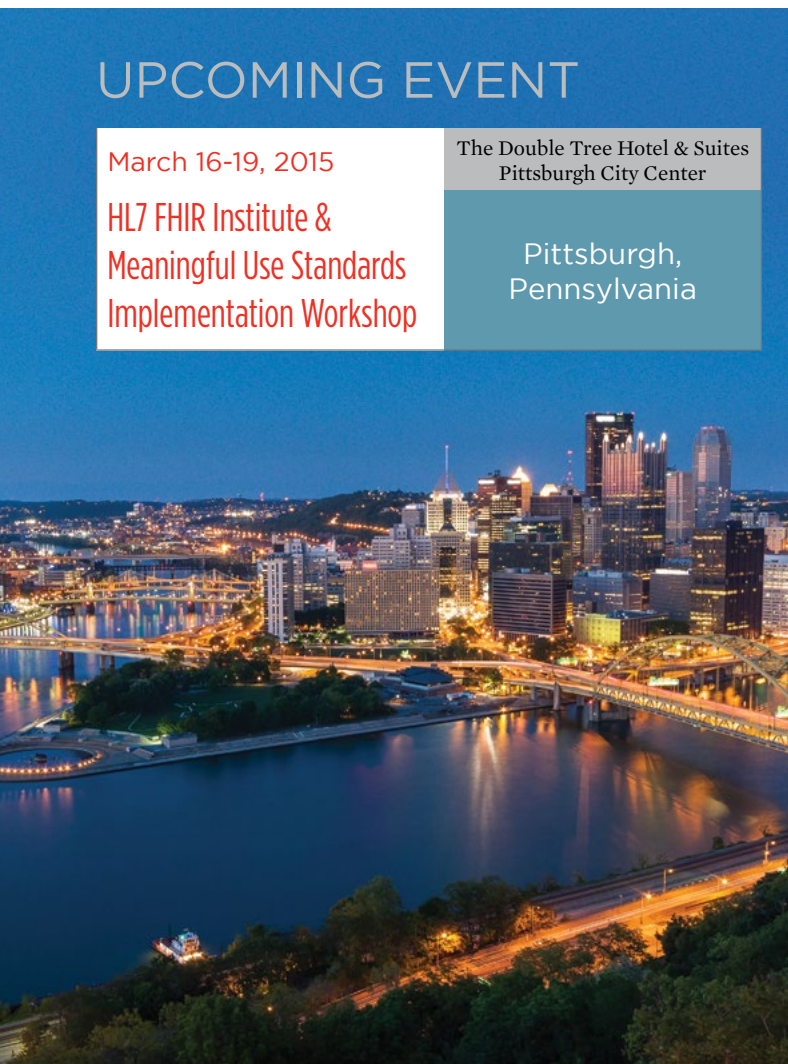
UPCOMING EVENT

March 16-19, 2015

HL7 FHIR Institute &
Meaningful Use Standards
Implementation Workshop

The Double Tree Hotel & Suites
Pittsburgh City Center

Pittsburgh,
Pennsylvania





Upcoming Working Group Meetings



January 18 – 23, 2015
Working Group Meeting

Hyatt Regency on the Riverwalk

San Antonio, Texas



May 10 – 15, 2015
Working Group Meeting

Hyatt Regency Paris –
Charles de Gaulle Hotel

Paris, France



October 4 – 9, 2015
**29th Annual Plenary &
Working Group Meeting**

Sheraton Atlanta Hotel

Atlanta, Georgia



January 10 – 15, 2016
Working Group Meeting

Hyatt Regency Orlando

Orlando, Florida



May 8 – 13, 2016
Working Group Meeting

Le Centre Sheraton

Montreal (Quebec),
Canada



September 18 – 23, 2016
**30th Annual Plenary &
Working Group Meeting**

Hyatt Regency Baltimore

Baltimore, Maryland