HL7 International is Coming to Canada in 2012 (Again!)

Michael Van Campen

By Michael van Campen, Chair, HL7 Canada; Affiliate Director, HL7 International Board of Directors

In keeping with the tradition of hosting annual, non-US working group meetings (WGMs), HL7 Canada and HL7 International will be hosting the May 2012 Working Group Meeting in Vancouver, BC, May 13-18. This follows on the successful meeting in Vancouver in September 2008 where over 500 attendees participated in the working group meetings. The May 2012 WGM will be an excellent opportunity to understand and share Canadian HL7 experiences with the HL7 international community, specifically around HL7 Version 3 and the Clinical Document Architecture (CDA®) in provincial and national implementations — the EHR is active and growing in Canada!

Vancouver is a popular destination, with many international and domestic flights from Asia, Europe and the Americas. For those who attended in 2008, Vancouver has now installed a light rail connection from the Vancouver airport to downtown Vancouver. Also, there are many remnants of the 2010 Winter Olympics for those interested in the facilities. Lastly, May is spring time in Vancouver, with several outdoor activities for those interested in getting close to nature.

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HL7 NEWS

In This Issue...

HL7 Is Coming To Canada, *continued*

Please mark your calendars for this important WGM in Vancouver – we look forward to meeting you in May 2012! If you have suggestions for making this a successful WGM, please feel free to contact Michael van Campen, HL7 Canada Chair (michael.vancampen@gpinformatics.com)

May 13-18, 2012 Working Group Meeting Vancouver, BC

HL7 NEWS

HL7 and IHTSDO
Expand Collaborative Efforts

Health Level Seven® International (HL7®) and the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO®), the leading provider of standardized clinical terminology, have expanded collaborative efforts that began in March 2009 with the signing of an official Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The closer collaboration will foster healthcare information interoperability and lead to improvements in patient safety by further facilitating the use of IHTSDO standards with HL7 standards.

IHTSDO and HL7 are jointly working on a number of key global healthcare information technology standards initiatives, including the following:

Up front coordination will bring significant improvements in global healthcare information interoperability and patient safety

- IHTSDO is making SNOMED CT codes and descriptions freely available for release in HL7 products, under a public good license, in order to improve semantic healthcare interoperability across countries and to improve patient safety. HL7 will use the codes and descriptions to produce a number of SNOMED-enabled products, using universal realm bindings to SNOMED CT where appropriate.
- HL7 is investigating use of the IHTSDO Workbench to maintain its vocabulary. Use of common tooling will improve harmonization, leading to benefits across the two organizations as well as for users of both standards.
- HL7 and IHTSDO are jointly reviewing and streamlining the request submissions process, to enable requests for additions and amendments to SNOMED CT codes to be made more effectively. Improvements are being made in HL7's internal processes and also in IHTSDO's request submission process. The latter should improve submission of requests from all standards development organizations (SDOs).
- IHTSDO has announced its support for the development of Release 2 of the Common Terminology Services standard (CTS2) by HL7 and OMG. This standard will provide a consistent interface into terminologies in EHR environments.

According to HL7 Board Chair Bob Dolin, MD, "Expanding on the coordination and collaborative efforts between HL7 and IHTSDO, these joint initiatives signify a major step toward the construction of globally applicable healthcare interoperability standards that will require far less realm-localization. HL7 is committed to working with IHTSDO and other standards bodies to advance the delivery of safe and effective patient care."

IHTSDO Chief Executive Officer Jan-Eric Slot said, "Making it easier to use HL7 standards with SNOMED CT will facilitate global standards-based healthcare implementations, where it will add the semantic dimension to interoperability." He continued, "The closer working relationship between these two leading organizations will improve the uptake and effectiveness of these jointly developed standards by members of both HL7 and IHTSDO."

<u>25th Annual Plenary Meeting</u>
Celebrating 25 Years of HL7 Improving Health and Healthcare Around the World

Monday, September 12, 2011
Town and Country Resort & Convention Center, San Diego, CA

Bob Dolin, MD

Ed Hammand, PhD

8:30 – 8:45 am   ***Welcoming Comments***
Bob Dolin, MD, Chair, HL7 International Board of Directors

8:45 – 9:05 am   ***Keynote Session 1: 25 Years in Review: The Good, the Bad and Lessons Learned***
W. Ed Hammond, PhD, Past Board Chair and Current Member, HL7 International Board of Directors

9:05 – 9:25 am   ***Keynote Session 2: An International Perspective of HL7's 25 Years***
Richard Alvarez, President and CEO, Canada Health Infoway

Richard Alvarez

9:25 – 9:45 am   ***Keynote Session 3: Beyond Band-Aids: Interoperability in Action***
J. Marc Overhage, MD, PhD, Chief Medical Informatics Officer, Siemens Healthcare

Marc Overhage, MD, PhD

9:45 – 10:15 am   ***Break***

10:15 – 11:45 am   ***Panel Presentation: How HL7 Has Delivered Value and the Value HL7 Has Enabled Through Facilitating Collaboration with Different Stakeholders***
Moderated by *Bob Dolin, MD,* Chair, HL7 International Board Directors

Jamie Ferguson, VP Health IT Strategy and Policy, Kaiser Permanente
Robert Stegwee, PhD, Chair, HL7 The Netherlands
Daniel A.Pollock, MD, Surveillance Branch Chief, Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion, National Center for Emerging Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, Center for Disease Control and Prevention
Robert Kolodner, MD, President, Collaborative Transformations, LLC and Executive VP and Chief Health Informatics Officer, Open Health Tools, Inc.

Jamie Ferguson   *Robert Stegwee, PhD*   *Daniel Pollock, MD*   *Robert Kolodner, MD*

11:45 – 12:15 pm   ***Panel Presentation: Celebrating 25 Years of Stellar Achievement: Views From the Top – Panel Presentation of Former Chairs of the HL7 Board of Directors***
Moderated by *Don Mon, PhD,* Chair-Elect, HL7 International Board of Directors

Don Mon, PhD

12:15 – 12:30 pm   ***Closing Comments and Vision for HL7's Future***
Charles Jaffe, MD, PhD, CEO, Health Level Seven International

Charles Jaffe, MD, PhD

Ambassador Program
HL7 Standards for Electronic Health Record Technology: Meaningful Use and Other US Initiatives

Monday, September 12, 2011 • 1:45 – 5:00 pm
Town and Country Resort & Convention Center, San Diego, CA

The session provides an overview of how HL7 standards are foundational to achieving "Meaningful Use," using certified electronic health record (EHR) technology. It begins with an introduction to the various US national health IT programs and then focuses on quality measurement/reporting and clinical decision support as fundamental to the success of these programs. Key initiatives like clinical document exchange, laboratory reporting, public health surveillance and immunization reporting will be discussed. Finally, a panel of experts present "experiences from the field"— how small, medium and large providers are achieving Meaningful Use objectives and incentives.

Upon Completion of This Program, Attendees Will Know:
- Various US national health IT programs & their inter-relations
- How HL7 is foundational to achieving Meaningful Use
- How HL7 standards are key for providers submitting data to public health agencies for surveillance reporting, laboratory reporting & submission to immunization registries
- Benefits and challenges to providers achieving Meaningful Use objectives & incentives

Keynote Address: *Doug Fridsma, MD, PhD,* Director of the Office of Standards and Interoperability at the Office of the National Coordinator, US Department of Health and Human Services; Member, HL7 Board of Directors

Overview: *Gora Datta,* HL7 Ambassador; Group Chairman/CEO, CAL2CAL Corporation
- Meaningful Use, Accountable Care, ePrescribing, National Health Information Network (NHIN) and Health Information Exchange

Quality Measurement and Clinical Decision Support:
- What are the "Quality Measures"– *Floyd Eisenberg, MD,* Senior Vice President, National Quality Forum
- Technology & HL7 Standards: QRDA/HQMF/QDM/CDS – *Bob Dolin, MD,* HL7 Board Chair and President of Lantana Consulting Group

PM Break

Key Initiatives: presented by *Keith Boone* (HL7 Ambassador and Member of the Board of Directors; Standards Architect, GE Healthcare)) and *Austin Kreisler* (Chair, HL7 Technical Steering Committee; Co-Chair, HL7 Orders & Observations Work Group; HL7 Messaging Specialist, SAIC)
- Clinical Document Exchange, Laboratory Reporting, Surveillance and Meaningful Use Stage 2 Recommendations

Experiences from the Field: Panel Discussion moderated by *Keith Boone,* HL7 Ambassador; HL7 Board Member; Standards Architect, GE Healthcare
Panelists
- Small & Medium Provider Perspective – *Gora Datta*
- Large Provider Perspective – *Martin Entwistle, MD,* Executive Director Center for Health Systems, Palo Alto Medical Foundation
- Large Provider Perspective – *Walter Suarez, MD,* Director of Health IT Strategy, Kaiser Permanente

Doug Fridsma, MD, PhD

Gora Datta

Floyd Eisenberg, MD

Keith Boone

Austin Kreisler

Martin Entwistle, MD

Walter Suarez, MD

Getting Ready to
Celebrate
HL7's 25th Annual Plenary Meeting

Mark McDougall

Time really does fly by. HL7 will be celebrating its 25th Annual Plenary meeting September 12, 2011 at the Town & Country Resort in San Diego, California. The plenary program will cover a wide range of stakeholder perspectives on HL7's value and contributions to our healthcare industry throughout the last 25 years as well as plans for the future. It will include three keynote presentations from Ed Hammond, PhD; Richard Alvarez; and J. Marc Overhage, MD, PhD. A complete program schedule is provided on page 3.

We look forward to celebrating our 25th plenary meeting with our veteran members along with our new members. Please plan to join us for this special milestone. The San Diego Working Group Meeting will also include a special Ambassador Program event. This event will take place following the plenary on Monday afternoon and will cover HL7 Standards for Electronic Health record Technology: Meaningful Use and Other US Initiatives. For more details on this program, please see page 5.

UPDATE FROM HEADQUARTERS

IHIC 2011

2011 marked the first year that the International HL7 Interoperability Conference (IHIC) was held in the US. The meeting was held immediately preceding the May Working Group Meeting in Orlando, FL on May 13-14, 2011. IHIC 2011 featured 16 invited speakers and included presentations on 16 papers representing initiatives underway in 11 countries. I would also like to thank GE Healthcare for their generous sponsorship of the event's networking reception at Jimmy Buffet's Magaritaville. Please see page 14 for Stan Huff's recap of IHIC 2011.

May WGM – Lake Buena Vista

Our May Working Group Meeting held in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, May 15-20, 2011 was another big success. Over 45 HL7 work groups met and attendees took advantage of 29 tutorials that week. The common theme at this WGM was that the meetings were very productive, albeit tiring. We also enjoyed warm weather and a networking reception poolside – surprisingly, no one fell in this time.

May 2011 Working Group Meeting Sponsors

Meeting Sponsors

I am pleased to recognize the following organizations that sponsored key components of our May Working Group Meeting in Orlando, Florida:

- Sparx Systems – Co-Chair Dinner Meeting
- iNTERFACEWARE – Lanyards
- Beeler Consulting – MnM Facilitators' Roundtable Dinner Meeting
- LINKMED – Morning Coffee Break
- GPI – Wednesday PM Cookie Break

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

Organizational Membership Overview

Benefactors and Supporters

We are thrilled to continue to attract impressive numbers of HL7 benefactors and supporters. There are currently 30 benefactors and 13 supporters. These companies are listed on pages 18 and 20. Their support of HL7 is very much needed and sincerely appreciated. A special thank you is extended to those firms that represent our 2011 HL7 benefactors and supporters.

Organizational Member Firms

As listed on pages 20-22, HL7 is very proud to report that the number of HL7 organizational member companies is at an all time high, including 713 companies. We sincerely appreciate their ongoing support of HL7 via their organizational membership dues.

Fridsma Joins HL7 Board

Doug Fridsma, MD, PhD

Doug Fridsma, MD, PhD, director of the Office of Interoperability and Standards, Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), was recently appointed to serve on the HL7 Board of Directors. HL7 CEO Charles Jaffe, MD, PhD, said "More than ever, HL7 recognizes the importance of collaboration with the ONC to further the goal of achieving nationwide standards-based interoperability. HL7 is fortunate to have Dr. Fridsma's participation on its Board of Directors. Not only will this help support the mission of both organizations, we also believe that his experience in healthcare informatics will drive our mutual objective of improved patient care."

"I am looking forward to working with HL7 as a member of the Board of Directors," said Dr. Fridsma. "I believe this will provide an opportunity to strengthen collaboration around shared goals that HL7 and the federal government have to improve patient care through the use of interoperable health information exchange."

20 Year Milestone

On a personal note, I am pleased to report that I will complete 20 years of service with HL7 at the end of September 2011. I started working for HL7 on October 1, 1991. My first nine months working for HL7 included me commuting from Chicago to Ann Arbor each week while my wife Shelly completed her master's degree and her school year of teaching. Since then, we have been blessed with two incredible boys, Jack (17) and Alex (15) who have made us proud in all aspects of life: school, athletics (they kick butt on the basketball court and football field), fun sense of humor and their respectful nature toward others. Yes, we are very proud parents.

It has truly been a pleasure working for and with the HL7 community all of these years. I have been blessed with the rewarding opportunity to work with so many dedicated volunteers who also happen to be brilliant. I sincerely thank all of you who have contributed to HL7 and have made my last 20 years so rewarding.

A thousand thanks to all of you, and best wishes to you and your loved ones for good health and much laughter in your lives. Remember to take time to enjoy each day; as time really does fly by very quickly.

Mark C. McDougall

Joachim Dudeck Award Granted for the First Time

Bernd Blobel, PhD

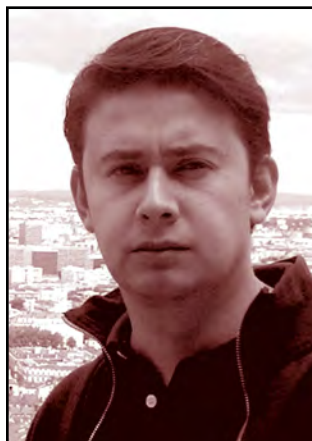By Bernd Blobel, PhD, Chair, HL7 Germany

Joachim Dudeck

The Joachim Dudeck Award was awarded for the first time at the International HL7 Interoperability Conference (IHIC) 2011 in Lake Buena Vista, FL this May. The award will be granted on an annual basis as part of the IHIC event in memory of Joachim Dudeck, who was the founder, longtime president and first honorary member of HL7 Germany as well as the first affiliate director of the HL7 Board of Directors and founder of the International HL7 Interoperability Conference. This award will recognize young scientists who have accomplished extraordinary achievements in the development and implementation of HL7-based interoperability solutions and have promoted the use of HL7 and its harmonization with other standards. This year's recipient of the newly established Joachim Dudeck was Mario E. Cortés from Cali, Colombia and his team. Cortés is a member of the HL7 Colombia affiliate and co-authored the paper "The Unified File Format for HL7 Electronic Documents – DUFF" with Diego M. Lopez and Bernd Blobel.

Mario E. Cortés

HL7 Greece Welcomes New Chair

Dr. Alexander Berler is the newly elected chair of HL7 Greece. He has been a board member of HL7 Greece since 2003 and is involved in a number of other organizations, including: IEEE Computer Society, IEEE EMB Society, ACM, European Society on Engineering in Medicine (ESEM), Healthcare Information Management and Systems Society (HIMSS) and the Project Management Institute. He is also an external affiliated tutor to the National Public Health School. Since 2008, Dr. Berler has participated in epSOS, a project that focuses on establishing cross border smart open healthcare services (patient summary and ePrecription) in Europe. He has published over 10 articles in both national and international peer-reviewed journals and has participated in more than 30 eHealth conferences.

Dr. Berler has a degree in electrical engineering from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, and received a MSc in biomedical engineering and a PhD in medical informatics from a joint program located at the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA). He is currently the director of consulting service departments at Gnomon Informatics SA. He has also worked as a postgraduate research student in biomedical engineering in European funded projects and was a project director in a large healthcare informatics government project at Information Society SA.

Alexander Berler, PhD

Dave Hamill

News from the
PBS Metrics Team

By HL7 International Staff Members Dave Hamill, Director of the Project Management Office; Lynn Laakso, TSC Project Manager; Don Lloyd, PhD, HL7 Director of Technical Publications; and Karen Van Hentenryck, Associate Executive Director

Lynn Laakso

PBS Metrics (Projects, Ballots and Standards) Report

The PBS Metrics Report (http://gforge.hl7.org/gf/project/tsc/frs/?action = FrsReleaseBrowse&frs_package_id = 169) was created to support the HL7 Strategic Initiative to "streamline the HL7 standards development process." It is intended to be a tool to assist work groups with managing ballots in addition to cleaning up projects and old data. By reviewing the report, work groups can identify potential issues before they get out of hand as well as move items through balloting to a final document or standard state.

Don Lloyd, PhD

The Project Management Office (PMO) would like to thank all the work group co-chairs, project facilitators and everyone else that had a hand in cleaning up their 'red infractions' on the inaugural PBS Metrics report issued in May. The PMO will be issuing an updated report again in September.

Karen Van Hentenryck

The PBS Metrics team reviewed everyone's feedback and will continue to provide easier access to the data. Enhancements have been made to the Reports link located on the www.HL7.org work group's pages, the Searchable Project Database as well as the PBS Metrics report itself.

The PBS Metrics Report is easily accessible via the Reports link on your work group's HL7.org page. This link directs you to GForge, where the report resides within the TSC's File area (http://gforge.hl7.org/gf/project/tsc/frs/?action = FrsReleaseBrowse&frs_package_id = 169).

As a reminder, the report reflects eight criteria for each work group:

1. Idle Ballots – Items that haven't balloted in a year, and are still "open" (haven't successfully completed their ballot)
2. No Recon Package – Items that have not had a reconciliation package posted
3. Non-Advancing Ballots – Items that have gone through three or more ballots
4. Expired DSTUs – Expired DSTUs that have not proceeded to normative or some other ballot level
5. Unpublished Ballots – Items that are "finished" (passed by numbers and reconciliation is complete) but unpublished (not in Normative Edition or on HL7 Standards page)
6. Projects in Project Insight that are behind more than 120 Days
7. Projects in Project Insight with an 'Unknown' status
8. Work groups that do not have any 3-Year Plan Items in Project Insight

News from the PMO
and Project Services Work Group

By Dave Hamill, Director, HL7 Project Management Office; and
Rick Haddorff and Freida Hall, Co-Chairs, Project Services Work Group

Dave Hamill

SAIF Pilot Coordination Project

Project Services is leading this project, which is sponsored by the Technical Steering Committee. The primary deliverable of the SAIF Pilot Coordination project will be to create concrete examples of artifacts that can be used in a future version of an HL7 SAIF Implementation Guide.

Additionally, SAIF Pilot Coordination will assist in the documentation of processes encountered throughout the development of projects under the SAIF AP (Architecture Program) umbrella – such as procurement of HL7 tooling software – and others that require input from more than one work group.

Overall, the project will document coordination conducted by over twelve HL7 work groups as they proceed through over nine projects under the SAIF AP umbrella. From this coordination, suggested contributions to SAIF governance documents will be created as well as modifications to the HL7 Project Life Cycle for Product Development (PLCPD).

Project Services is happy to be working on this effort to help move HL7 toward adoption of the SAIF architecture. We appreciate and welcome the contributions from all those involved in the SAIF AP projects.

Did you know? When Closing a Standards Project, Adhere to GOM Section 14.14

While working with co-chairs cleaning up projects based on the PBS Metrics, many were not aware of the policy stated in Section 14.14 of the **HL7 Governance and Operations Manual** (GOM) in regards to closing a standards project:

> The TSC may discontinue a project involving a new HL7 Protocol Specification (§02.02) or revision to an existing HL7 Protocol Specification (a standards project) if the initiating work group has been:
> a) unable to reach consensus necessary to bring the HL7 Protocol Specification to normative ballot within a year of project initiation; or
> b) unable to successfully complete a normative ballot and move the HL7 Protocol Specification to publication within a year of initiation of a normative ballot

Given approval by three quarters of those in session when the motion is addressed, a work group may petition the TSC to discontinue a standards project regardless of its current status. The work group has the discretion to take this action for whatever reason it deems appropriate. The TSC shall have the final decision on a request to discontinue a standards project.

Adoption Process White Paper

Project Services has created a white paper focusing on "Introducing New Processes to HL7" in response to the TSC's request **(TSC GForge tracker**

Frieda Hall

#1681). This document proposes the approval and adoption methodology for non-standards process artifacts.

HL7 has a well defined methodology for producing standards, but the method to introduce new processes and move them to adoption and deployment

Rick Haddorf

throughout the HL7 organization is more obscure/ad hoc. The "Introducing New Processes to HL7" white paper evaluates the issues and proposes a standard approach to introduce new processes to HL7. The proposed approach includes three steps for approval of a new process artifact: Initiation, Development and Validation. Adoption of a new process artifact includes three phases: Piloted, Endorsed and Implemented (which, when implemented, the new process will be deemed either encouraged or mandated). Lastly, an Appendix focused solely on Peer Review has been included for easy reference.

Questions? Feel free to contact Project Services.

HL7 Decision Support Service Standard Achieves Normative Status; Open-Source Implementation Available at OpenCDS.org

By Kensaku Kawamoto, MD, PhD, Director, Knowledge Management and Mobilization; and Assistant Professor, Department of Biomedical Informatics, University of Utah

Kensaku Kawamoto, MD, PhD

The HL7 Decision Support Service (DSS) standard, which provides a standard interface for accessing patient-specific inferencing capabilities, achieved unanimous approval in its May 2011 normative ballot. A joint effort by the HL7 Clinical Decision Support Work Group and the HL7 Services Oriented Architecture Work Group, the HL7 DSS standard is a member of a family of healthcare services standards developed as a part of the Healthcare Services Specification Project (HSSP), which is a joint initiative between HL7 and the Object Management Group (OMG) to standardize the capabilities and interfaces of software services important to healthcare (http://hssp.wikispaces.com).

An open-source implementation of the DSS standard is being developed by a multi-institutional effort known as OpenCDS (www.opencds.org). OpenCDS provides a complete solution for authoring, testing, and executing DSS knowledge modules to provide patient-specific clinical decision support capabilities. OpenCDS leverages a variety of open-source resources including the JBoss Drools rules engine and the Apelon terminology management system, and it provides an open-source implementation of the emerging HL7 Virtual Medical Record standard.

Further information regarding OpenCDS and the HL7 DSS standard can be found on the Web at http://www.opencds.org and at http://hssp-dss.wikispaces.com. HL7 members with interest or questions in either effort are welcome to contact Kensaku Kawamoto, MD, PhD at kensaku.kawamoto@opencds.org. Ken is a co-chair of the HL7 Clinical Decision Support Work Group and the project lead for both the DSS and OpenCDS efforts.

News from the PMO, cont.

Webinar Recording: HL7 Project Management Tool Overview for HL7 Project Facilitators

In case you didn't know, the HL7 PMO recorded a webinar which provides an overview of the various HL7 Project Management tools. To view the 38 minute webinar recording, please go to www.HL7.org > Resources > Webinar Recordings. This session, targeted for co-chairs and those leading HL7 projects (i.e. Project Facilitators), demonstrates HL7 project tools including Project Insight (HL7's primary project repository), the HL7 Searchable Project Database, GForge, and also provides a review of HL7 project processes and methodologies.

If you'd like the PMO to present this webinar at one of your Steering Division or work group conference calls, please contact Dave Hamill at pmo@HL7.org to schedule a day and time.

HL7 Project Tracking Tools

All of HL7's project tools, including the Searchable Project Database, GForge and Project Insight, are available on www.HL7.org via Participate > Tools & Resources > Project Tracking Tools.

HL7 Mentors:
Extending a Helping Hand

By Margie Kennedy, Co-Chair, Process Improvement Committee; Director, Standards Collaborative, Canada Health Infoway

At any HL7 working group meeting (WGM), there is a high probability that new participants will encounter at least a few familiar faces in the crowd who will share their WGM experiences and offer tidbits for a successful meeting. While such encounters are always welcome, HL7 International does in fact have a formal role for mentors with a role description and specific responsibilities.

Mentors are experienced HL7 members who help guide new HL7 attendees and support engagement in HL7 activities. You can expect to find mentors supporting a new HL7 attendee to effectively access materials, engage in topics of interest in a timely way, connect to appropriate resources and HL7 leaders and/or volunteers, and foster member participation in HL7 International activities.

Although mentoring activities are targeted primarily at HL7 International activities, guidance may also be extended to HL7 Affiliate engagement. Mentor activities are typically initiated at the working group meetings but mentors may, and are encouraged to, continue this relationships beyond the WGM. Communication is intended to be informal, collegial, and supportive, assisting the new attendees to get the most out of their HL7 membership and potentially growing into new future leaders and/or mentors.

The best mentors are not always the most senior or most technical experts HL7 members, but we strive to recruit the best qualified and most experienced HL7 members in order to provide the optimal experience and assistance to new members. Our mentors may be experts either in HL7 content or organization/process to support new attendees' needs and should demonstrate the following attributes:

- Been a member of HL7 International for at least five years
- Held at least one co-chair or affiliate chair role
- Attended at least five working group meetings in the last five years
- Participated in at least five ballots in the last five years
- Have excellent interpersonal communication skills
- Have a clear and expressed interest in supporting first-time attendees and new HL7 members

The Process Improvement Committee (PIC) has responsibility for the Mentors and First-Time Attendee Program. Additionally, the International Mentoring Committee leverages mentors in their role of supporting potential new affiliates. New volunteers are always welcomed at both committees, and we especially invite those with multiple languages to consider becoming a mentor.

If you or someone you know would be a great mentor, please contact PIC (Helen Stevens at helen.stevens@shaw.ca or Margie Kennedy mkennedy@infoway-inforoute.ca) to inquire about how you can participate.

Upcoming INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

HL7 25th Annual Plenary & Working Group Meeting
San Diego, CA
September 11-16, 2011
For more information, please visit
http://www.hl7.org/events/wgm092011/

HIMSS AsiaPac11
Melbourne, Australia
September 20-23, 2011
For more information, please visit
http://www.himssasiapac.org/11/home/index.aspx

ISHEP 2011 – Interoperability and Standards in Healthcare
Varaždin, Croatia
October 20-21, 2011
For more information, please visit
http://www.ishep.org

eChallenges e-2011 Conference
Florence, Italy
October 26-28, 2011
For more information, please visit
http://www.echallenges.org/e2011/

TSC Newsletter Update

By Lynn Laakso, HL7 TSC Project Manager

Lynne Laakso

The TSC continues to work on Product Visibility, Product Quality, the SAIF Architecture Program and T3F Review. More information is available on each of these efforts from the TSC web page under "Projects," at http://www.hl7.org/Special/committees/tsc/projects.cfm. In addition, the TSC continues maintenance of Work Group Visibility, as well as Work Group Health.

- Only 11 work groups will need to review their Mission and Charter (M&C) statements by the 2011 September Working Group Meeting (WGM). These M&C statements have not been reviewed for two years. Please review your Mission and Charter statements to keep them current! There are 14 work groups that need to update their Decision Making Practices (DMPs) in accord with the latest template. The TSC will also recognize the "healthiest" work groups at the 2011 September WGM. Three year planning should also be occurring annually, and 15 work groups are in need of notifying HQ when their plans have been updated.

- **Innovations Project** (PI #701) work has not seen new ideas advanced in quite a while, and without further suggestions the project will likely be cancelled by the September WGM. New innovative concepts can be submitted for presentation and review on the Innovations wiki page at http://wiki.hl7.org/index.php?title = Innovations

- **The SAIF Architecture Program** (PI #751) is coordinating activities of the Product Quality project (PI #647), SAIF Pilot Coordination (PI #764), HL7 SAIF Implementation Guide (PI #763), and the SAIF Book balloting (PI #746)

- TSC Retrospective Self-Assessment Based on T3F Recommendations (PI #749)

The TSC also approved a number of new projects. You can always see the most recent list of new projects from the Project Insight Searchable Database. To show the projects most recently approved by the TSC, select "TSC Approval" from among the different date fields and then click "Filter Projects." By entering a date range you can see just the ones since the last WGM, or click the column heading over "TSC Approval Date" to bring the most recent TSC approvals to the top of the list.

Among a host of approvals granted by the TSC since the last WGM, several DSTU publications were approved. Interested parties are invited to download these DSTU and provide comments and feedback on the standards and their implementation at http://www.hl7.org/dstucomments/.

- **HL7 Version 3 Standard: Orders; Substances CMETs R10,** DSTU Publication Request for O&O at Project Insight ID #626, for 24 months

- **HL7 Version 3 Standard: Structured Product Labeling, Release 5,** DSTU publication request for RCRIM at Project Insight ID #325, for 24 months

- **HL7 Version 3 Standard: Common Product Model CMETs, DSTU Update Release 10,** at Project Insight ID #625, for 24 months

- **HL7 Version 3 Standard: Orders; Substances CMETs Release 10,** at Project Insight ID #626, for 24 months

For any additions, updates or suggestions on any of these TSC promoted initiatives please contact Lynn Laakso (lynn@HL7.org).

How to find TSC information

The TSC wiki site houses its minutes, process documents, templates, links to the ArB wiki and the TSC Issue Tracker, a list of current projects, and more. You can access the TSC wiki at: http://www.hl7.org/permalink/?TSCWiki. See the links below for instructions on how to view the list of projects and access the TSC Issue Tracker.

- TSC Tracker: link to http://gforge.hl7.org/gf/project/tsc/tracker/

IHIC 2011 Recap

By Stan Huff, MD, US Representative to the Affiliate Council and IHIC 2011 Program Co-Chair

Stan Huff, MD

The 12th Annual International HL7 Interoperability Conference (IHIC 2011) was held May 13 and 14 in Orlando, Florida. This is the first time that IHIC has been held in the United States. The two-day meeting was conducted in a unique format with 16 invited speakers and 16 submitted papers presented. The theme of the conference was "The Tomorrowland of Health." Four half-day tracks discussed the topics of the future of personal health and digital devices, simulation and virtual environments, meaningful use, and next generation architectures.

IHIC 2011 presentations

The invited speakers provided summaries of the best current thoughts on patient centered health, game based education methods, sharing of simulated patients, personalized health, and health related devices connected to home and personal networks. Senior keynote speakers included Ken Lunn, PhD (NHS); John Halamka, MD (Harvard University); Jon Adams (FreeScale); Tom Jones, MD (Tolven); Jeffrey Taekman, MD (Duke University); Peter Greene, MD (Johns Hopkins); and Sasha Bojicic (Canada Health Infoway).

The submitted papers covered cutting edge developments in implementing HL7 standards in real systems. The 16 presenters represented initiatives underway in eleven countries. The topics discussed included greenCDA®, social networking, interoperability infrastructure, and information modeling. The presentations of the submitted papers were a nice practical complement to the more theoretical and strategic ideas presented by the invited speakers. The discussion was lively during the sessions and even carried over into the conference's social networking event held at Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville at Universal Studios CityWalk®.

The conference was a hit with everyone who participated due to the hard work of Stan Huff, MD;

Ed Hammond, PhD; Catherine Chronaki; and Dennis Giokas who served as the organizing committee, and to the excellent help from HL7 staff including Don Lloyd, Lillian Bigham, Mary Ann Boyle, and Andrea Ribick. Thanks also to the many others who participated in reviewing and ranking the submitted papers.

Captions, clockwise from below: Balloon hats at the Friday night networking reception at Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville; Stan and Mitzie Huff; Andy Woyak of GE Healthcare, the organization which sponsored the networking event.

Rick Geimer

HL7 Releases New Tool
for Capturing, Storing and Managing CDA® Templates

By Rick Geimer, Chief Technology Officer, Lantana Consulting Group

HL7 recently announced the release of the Trifolia Workbench, Consolidation Project Edition 1.0, Beta Release. This release supports standards authors, developers and implementers in capturing, storing and managing HL7 Clinical Document Architecture (CDA) templates. It contains the full set of templates balloted through the HL7/IHE Health Story Consolidation Project, which harmonized health information exchange specifications for meaningful use of EHR technology. The project covered the HL7 Continuity of Care Document (CCD®) and the Health Story implementation guides for Discharge Summary, six other types of common clinical documents, and unstructured documents which can carry any clinical content. The tool will help developers and implementers localize and publish CDA templates.

Trifolia Workbench, Consolidation Project Edition 1.0, Beta Release features:

- **Template Repository:** A centralized database for CDA template management
- **Structured Template Entry Tool:** Enter, review, manage and localize/update HL7 CDA templates
- **HL7 CDA Templates:** Nearly 70 clinical templates from the HL7/IHE Health Story Consolidation Project
- **Publishing Tool:** Export templates to share within and outside your organization
- **Documentation:** Manuals to support installation and use

The Trifolia Workbench was developed by Lantana Consulting Group, who prepared this release for HL7 as a

Trifolia Workbench Beta Release supports standards development and localization; includes library of meaningful use templates

resource to support adoption of the HL7/IHE Health Story Consolidation Project. The Trifolia logical model is open source so that implementers can use it to develop general templates and reference libraries. "We are excited to offer this release of Trifolia Workbench to HL7 members," said Rick Geimer, Chief Technology Officer, Lantana Consulting Group. "Our hope is that this release provides the informatics community with a useful tool for developing CDA templates."

"HL7's acceptance and offering of the Trifolia tool aligns nicely with the organization's current strategic initiatives," said John Quinn, HL7's chief technology officer. "We are very interested both in adopting tools that make our standard easier to implement and in developing end to end Version 3/CDA template infrastructure. This tool brings us a step closer to both of those goals."

Versions of the Trifolia Workbench have been developed by Lantana Group for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Child Health Corporation of America. It is one of several emerging tools addressing simplification of standards implementation. The Trifolia Workbench tool is available to HL7 members for download at the HL7.org website at Home > Resources > Tools & Resources > CDA Tools > Trifolia Workbench (Consolidation Project Ed.) < http://www.hl7.org/documentcenter/private/standards/cda/Trifolia_HL7_Consolidation_20110712-dist.zip >

ACLA and HL7 Announce Approval of
First-Ever Electronic Directory of Services (eDOS) Implementation Guide

Ken McCaslin

Ken McCaslin, Co-Chair, Technical & Support Services Steering Division-HL7 Technical Steering Committee;
Co-Chair, Electronic Services Work Group; Director, HealthCare Standards, Quest Diagnostics, Inc.
and Jason DuBois, Vice President, Governmental Relations, ACLA

The American Clinical Laboratory Association (ACLA) and Health Level Seven® International (HL7®) recently announced the approval of the first-ever implementation guide in the laboratory industry for a reliable process to deliver a laboratory's electronic Directory of Service to those providers ordering laboratory services in a meaningful and constructive process.

The Version 2 Implementation Guide establishes a standard format for delivery of test compendium data elements that differ from laboratory to laboratory, including order codes, test descriptions, and specimen requirements. The guide is based on the Master File chapter of the HL7 Version 2.6 standard. As it was being developed, a number of proposed edits were incorporated into the guide, which also included the early adoption of change proposals to HL7 Version 2.8, to enable eDOS to provide all the necessary information to assist in the research, selection and ordering of laboratory tests.

Jason DuBois, vice president of government relations at ACLA said, "Standardization and interoperability are crucial elements in advancing the adoption of electronic healthcare. I am pleased that ACLA's members have collaborated to develop a framework for the electronic distribution of a Directory of Service for laboratories based on the HL7 standard. This interoperability standard for laboratory services is the first of its kind and sets the stage for similar collaborative efforts in other areas of the healthcare industry."

Use of this implementation guide will support the initial laboratory test compendium for each customer as well as ongoing maintenance updates throughout the life of the interface, regardless of the laboratory or electronic health record (EHR) system. The guide will allow EHR systems and other laboratory systems to automate the database update process for all laboratories so that services are ordered in one consistent manner. This will translate into newly developed tests, such

as the one for the H1N1 virus, being made available for ordering on a timelier basis.

Doug Fridsma, MD, PhD, director of the office of standards and interoperability at ONC and HL7 International board member, commented, "I applaud the efforts of ACLA and HL7 to produce this first-ever standard for laboratory interoperability. It marks an important step in an ongoing journey toward full nationwide interoperable health information exchange and improved outcomes for patients."

HL7 members can download the HL7 Version 2 Implementation Guide: Laboratory Test Compendium Framework on the HL7 website.

Congratulations

To the following people who passed the HL7 Certification Exams

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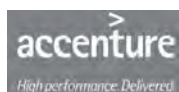Dileep R

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HL7 UK Welcomes New Chair

Dr. Philip Scott is the newly elected chair of HL7 UK. He is also the vice-chair of the UK Faculty of Health Informatics, and is a senior lecturer in information systems at the University of Portsmouth. Philip previously worked in NHS information management and IT development projects for fourteen years. He has been a member of the HL7 UK Board since 2005. He has a practical interest in systems interoperability, having led numerous implementation projects such as an automated solution for diagnostic image transfer from the local military hospital unit and Independent Sector Treatment Centre into the NHS hospital's PACS. Philip has an MSc with distinction in healthcare information systems and a PhD for a research program exploring clinician usage of information. He is a fellow of the British Computer Society, a chartered IT professional and a fellow of the Higher Education Academy. He also chairs the program committee for the Southern Institute for Health Informatics hosted by the University of Portsmouth, organized the HL7 UK 2010 road shows, and is a guest lecturer in the HL7 UK university outreach programme for academic health informatics courses.

Philip Scott, PhD

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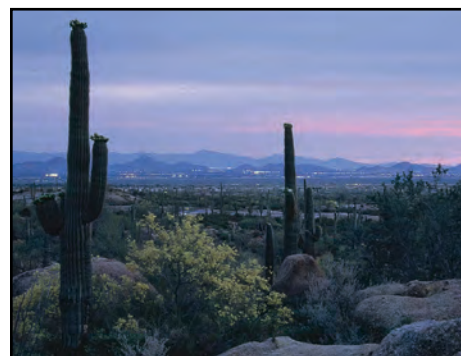**Working Group Meeting**

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