

## **Technical Committee**

### **April 2009 Report to the General Assembly**

The Technical Committee is one of four IHTSDO Standing Committees. The Committee has scheduled monthly teleconferences and, since the October 2008 face-to-face meetings in Copenhagen, has met four times.

#### **RECENT DEVELOPMENTS**

Key accomplishments of the Committee and the Working Groups, Project Groups, and Special Interest Groups that report to it, since the October 2008 meetings include:

- *Workbench Tooling procurement and implementation:*  
Building on the technology architecture developed in 2008, IHTSDO released a Request for Proposal to meet the tooling requirements of the organisation's Members by the procurement and implementation of a Workbench. Evaluators from eight countries reviewed bids relative to the requirements specified in the RFP. Successful bidders for the initial modules were Informatics Inc., CollabNet Inc., the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization through the Australian E-Health Research Centre, and Health Language, Inc. The IHTSDO Workbench includes tools to develop, maintain, and facilitate the use of SNOMED CT in health systems around the world. The Workbench was purchased in January 2009. Support and training arrangements for the Workbench are now in place. Four editions of the Workbench will be delivered: a viewer, to allow browsing of terminology; a standalone editor; a small project edition, which will be used to run a number of collaborative pilot projects; and an International edition, that will be used to maintain the International release. The first two of these editions will be available to Members during March 2009.
- *Compositional Grammar:*  
In May 2008, the HL7 Version 3 Standard "Data Types – Abstract Specification, Release 2" was released for Normative Ballot 2. This standard required that, where coded expressions were used within its data model, the syntax for those expressions should be defined within the organisation responsible for the terminology. A draft for trial use (DFTU) standard was produced in December 2008, "Compositional Grammar for SNOMED CT Expressions in HL7 V3", providing a technical specification of a grammar for composing SNOMED CT expressions that can be carried in HL7 version 3 messages.
- *Open Health Tools Consortium:*  
The Workbench procurement and implementation project is an OHT Charter project. IHTSDO are also participating in OHT's Open Platform Architecture Project, attending the recent workshop in Paris, and weekly project calls.

#### **AREAS OF FOCUS AND RELATED GROUPS**

The following Project Groups and work activities report to the Technical Committee:

- a. ICD10 Mapping Project
- b. RefSet Workbench development project
- c. Translation tooling procurement
- d. Workbench pilot projects
- e. SNOMED CT International release migration
- f. Roadmap for tooling
- g. Request Submission
- h. Release Management
- i. Asset register

In addition, the following project teams will be transferring to the Technical Committee:

- a. Release Format 2 (RF2) specification and implementation
- a. MRCM – definition and implementation in Workbench