



## IHTSDO Appoints Chief Officers

**Copenhagen, Denmark: October 1, 2008** – The International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO) announced today the appointment of the organisation's Chief Quality Officer, Chief Technical Architect, and Chief Terminologist. Reporting to the CEO, these individuals will lead the development and maintenance of different aspects of the organisation's work programmes on behalf of IHTSDO's Members and other users of the standard around the world.

Advertised on a global basis, the positions attracted more than 200 candidates from over 25 nations. The following candidates were the unanimous choices of the multi-national selection panels assembled for each post:

- **John Gutai** will join IHTSDO as its first Chief Technical Architect. Mr. Gutai has over 20 years of cross-sector experience in information technology, including government, financial services, telecommunications, and process control in manufacturing. Most recently, he has served as a Chief Architect for Fujitsu Services, primarily defining an enterprise architecture and IT strategy for DVLA, an Agency of the Department for Transport in the United Kingdom, to meet the needs of the Agency's clients and its 6500 staff in more than 40 locations.
- **Jane Millar** will be IHTSDO new Chief Quality Officer. IHTSDO's Chief Quality Officer leads the development, implementation, and maintenance of our quality strategy and framework. Ms. Millar brings a deep understanding of health information standards and associated assurance processes to this role. Prior to joining IHTSDO, she has been Head of Information Standard Services in the National Health Service in England since 2001. In this capacity, Ms. Millar's area also provides links to the British Standards Institute's Health Information Standards Committee, thus linking to the work of international standards bodies.
- **Kent Spackman** will serve as IHTSDO's Chief Terminologist. Dr. Spackman has served as the continuity Chief Terminologist for IHTSDO since the organization was formed in 2007. His rich expertise in clinical terminology also reflects his role as the Scientific Director of SNOMED for the College of American Pathologists from 1997 to 2007. Kent A. Spackman received his undergraduate and medical degrees from the University of Alberta. He subsequently earned a PhD in computer science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and completed a residency in clinical pathology at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

### **About International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO)**

The IHTSDO (International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation) and its Members seek to improve the health of humankind by fostering the development and use of suitable standardized clinical terminologies, notably SNOMED CT, in order to support the safe, accurate, and effective exchange of health information. The IHTSDO is an international organisation, established as a Danish not-for-profit association.



### **About SNOMED CT**

SNOMED Clinical Terms™ (SNOMED CT™) is a standardized terminology that can be used as the foundation for electronic health records and other applications. For example, different clinicians often use different terms to describe the same concept. SNOMED CT contains more than 310,000 unique concepts and more than 1.3 million links or relationships between them that ensure that this information is captured consistently, accurately, and reliably across the health system. The terminology is used in more than forty countries around the world. SNOMED CT was originally created by the College of American Pathologists by combining SNOMED RT and a computer-based nomenclature and classification known as Clinical Terms Version 3, formerly known as Read Codes Version 3, which was created on behalf of the UK Department of Health and is Crown copyright.

### **Media Contacts:**

Berit Jensen or Jennifer Zelmer

IHTSDO

[media@ihtsdo.org](mailto:media@ihtsdo.org)

+45 3644 8736

### **Backgrounders:**

- IHTSDO Appoints Chief Quality Officer
- IHTSDO Appoints Chief Technical Architect
- IHTSDO Appoints Chief Terminologist

SNOMED, SNOMED CT, and IHTSDO are trademarks of the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation. All other trademarks used in this document are the property of their respective owners.



## IHTSDO Appoints Chief Terminologist

**Copenhagen, Denmark: October 1, 2008** – The International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO) announced today that it is appointing Kent A. Spackman as its first Chief Terminologist. Dr. Spackman has served as the continuity Chief Terminologist for IHTSDO since the organization was formed in 2007. From 1997 to 2007, he was the Scientific Director of SNOMED for the College of American Pathologists (CAP).

“Kent’s rich background in health terminology and extensive experience with SNOMED CT will be of tremendous benefit to IHTSDO and its Members around the world,” says Jennifer Zelmer, CEO of IHTSDO. “We are delighted that Kent will be bringing his talents to IHTSDO on a full-time basis as a member of our leadership team.”

Given his deep knowledge of SNOMED CT and of its global community of developers and users, Kent Spackman was the unanimous choice of the international selection panel that interviewed candidates for the position of Chief Terminologist. He will join IHTSDO in this position on October 1, 2008. In this role, he will play a leadership role in the development and continuous improvement of the content of SNOMED CT and its related standards. This includes having SNOMED CT be the terminology standard underpinning the international interoperability and conformance of patient care delivered by IT-enabled healthcare systems.

"I'm very happy to have the opportunity to continue to work with many current and new colleagues in this important international effort to help people use SNOMED CT and related standards to improve the use, reuse, and interoperability of health information," says Kent Spackman, IHTSDO's incoming Chief Terminologist.

Born and raised in Canada, Kent A. Spackman received his undergraduate and medical degrees from the University of Alberta. He subsequently earned a PhD in computer science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and completed a residency in clinical pathology at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. He is board certified in clinical pathology with special qualification in blood banking and transfusion medicine. He was elected a fellow of the American College of Medical Informatics in 1992. From 1989 to 1997, he led the academic program in medical informatics at Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) in Portland, Oregon, and also directed OHSU's post-doctoral medical informatics fellowship training program until 2007.

“Kent is among the few people in the world with the skills and experience to perform this vital work,” says Andrew Wiesenthal, the Chair of IHTSDO’s Content Committee and a Member of the Management Board. “We are fortunate, and delighted, that we have been able to bring him into the IHTSDO organization.”

### **About International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO)**

The IHTSDO (International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation) and its Members seek to improve the health of humankind by fostering the development and use of suitable standardized clinical terminologies, notably SNOMED CT, in order to support the safe, accurate, and effective exchange of health information. The IHTSDO is an international organisation, established as a Danish not-for-profit association.



### **About SNOMED CT**

SNOMED Clinical Terms™ (SNOMED CT™) is a standardized terminology that can be used as the foundation for electronic health records and other applications. For example, different clinicians often use different terms to describe the same concept. SNOMED CT contains more than 310,000 unique concepts and more than 1.3 million links or relationships between them that ensure that this information is captured consistently, accurately, and reliably across the health system. The terminology is used in more than forty countries around the world. SNOMED CT was originally created by the College of American Pathologists by combining SNOMED RT and a computer-based nomenclature and classification known as Clinical Terms Version 3, formerly known as Read Codes Version 3, which was created on behalf of the UK Department of Health and is Crown copyright.

### **Media Contacts:**

Berit Jensen or Jennifer Zelmer

IHTSDO

[media@ihtsdo.org](mailto:media@ihtsdo.org)

+45 3644 8736

SNOMED, SNOMED CT, and IHTSDO are trademarks of the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation. All other trademarks used in this document are the property of their respective owners.



## IHTSDO Appoints Chief Quality Officer

**Copenhagen, Denmark: October 1, 2008** – The International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO) announced today that it is appointing Jane Millar as its new Chief Quality Officer. IHTSDO's Chief Quality Officer leads the development, implementation, and maintenance of our quality strategy and framework. Ms. Millar brings a deep understanding of health information standards and associated assurance processes to this role. She has been Head of Information Standard Services in the National Health Service in England since 2001, focusing on establishing and maintaining the Information Standards Board for Health and Social Care, in conjunction with its Chairman.

“High quality standards and processes are key to ensuring accurate and effective health information exchange, and Jane’s extensive experience with standards assurance and approval processes will be invaluable to IHTSDO and its Members around the world,” says Jennifer Zelmer, CEO of IHTSDO. “We are delighted to welcome her to the organization and to our global community.”

Given her extensive experience and deep understanding of health information standards, Jane Millar was the unanimous choice of the international selection panel that interviewed candidates for the position of Chief Quality Officer. This position builds on experience from her current role, where the Information Standards Board’s assurance and approval mandate focuses on interoperability, integration, safety, and fitness for purpose. The work is underpinned by detailed processes, guidance, and advice from standards experts to ensure an evidence-based approach. Ms. Millar’s area also provides links to the British Standards Institute’s Health Information Standards Committee, thus linking to the work of international standards bodies such as CEN and ISO.

"I am excited to be leading on quality work within the IHTSDO, contributing to the development of healthcare information globally. The challenges and rewards of this interprofessional development will allow me to further my passion for the delivery of truly integrated patient information to enhance clinical decision making and, more importantly, ensure patient safety," says Jane Millar, IHTSDO's incoming Chief Quality Officer.

The SNOMED CT workbench is part of IHTSDO’s on-going efforts to enable broader access to, and use of, standardized clinical terminologies worldwide. Already, nine countries (Australia, Canada, Denmark, Lithuania, Sweden, New Zealand, the Netherlands, the UK, and the US) have joined together to support the on-going development and maintenance of SNOMED CT and related standards, sharing the costs on a sliding scale based on national income and making the standards freely available in their jurisdictions. IHTSDO also offers free access to SNOMED CT in countries that are not yet members for qualifying research projects and on humanitarian or charitable grounds.

“We are extraordinarily pleased to have been able to recruit Jane for the position of Chief Quality Officer for the IHTSDO. Her experience, knowledge, energy and commitment will be a great asset to the IHTSDO members and stakeholders as we continue to advance the organization’s quality programs and initiatives,” says Mike Sheridan, the Chair of IHTSDO’s Quality Assurance Committee and a Member of the Management Board.

Jane Millar is a Physiotherapist by profession and became interested in information standards as a result of work locally on the standardisation of record keeping from a multidisciplinary basis. She worked on the development and early implementations of Clinical Terms v3, and also led the United



Kingdom's input to the World Health Organisation International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health. She also spent a short period in a policy role in Wales, which helped her understanding of the requirements centrally for information and its derivation from information collected at point of care. Ms. Millar is an active member of her professional body's information, management and technology group, which helps to ensure she maintains links with practicing clinicians.

#### **About International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO)**

The IHTSDO (International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation) and its Members seek to improve the health of humankind by fostering the development and use of suitable standardized clinical terminologies, notably SNOMED CT, in order to support the safe, accurate, and effective exchange of health information. The IHTSDO is an international organisation, established as a Danish not-for-profit association.

#### **About SNOMED CT**

SNOMED Clinical Terms™ (SNOMED CT™) is a standardized terminology that can be used as the foundation for electronic health records and other applications. For example, different clinicians often use different terms to describe the same concept. SNOMED CT contains more than 310,000 unique concepts and more than 1.3 million links or relationships between them that ensure that this information is captured consistently, accurately, and reliably across the health system. The terminology is used in more than forty countries around the world. SNOMED CT was originally created by the College of American Pathologists by combining SNOMED RT and a computer-based nomenclature and classification known as Clinical Terms Version 3, formerly known as Read Codes Version 3, which was created on behalf of the UK Department of Health and is Crown copyright.

#### **Media Contacts:**

Berit Jensen or Jennifer Zelmer

IHTSDO

[media@ihtsdo.org](mailto:media@ihtsdo.org)

+45 3644 8736

SNOMED, SNOMED CT, and IHTSDO are trademarks of the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation. All other trademarks used in this document are the property of their respective owners.



## IHTSDO Appoints Chief Technical Architect

**Copenhagen, Denmark: October 1, 2008** – The International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO) announced today that it is appointing John Gutai as its first Chief Technical Architect. Mr. Gutai has over 20 years of cross-sector experience in information technology, including government, financial services, telecommunications, and process control in manufacturing. Most recently, he has served as a Chief Architect for Fujitsu Services, primarily defining an enterprise architecture and IT strategy for DVLA, an Agency of the Department for Transport, to meet the needs of the Agency’s clients and its 6500 staff in more than 40 locations.

“John’s experience in shaping and leading large-scale transformation initiatives within fast-moving, mission-critical environments will be of tremendous benefit to IHTSDO and its Members around the world,” says Jennifer Zelmer, CEO of IHTSDO. “We are delighted to welcome him to the organization and our global community.”

Given his impressive track record and global experience, John Gutai was the unanimous choice of the international selection panel that interviewed candidates for the position of Chief Technical Architect. He will join IHTSDO on October 13, 2008. Among other initiatives, John Gutai will lead IHTSDO’s effort to ensure the supply and maintenance of a SNOMED CT multi-lingual modular workbench that will host terminology editing, translation, mapping, and other applications.

"I am very excited by the improvement that standardization of clinical terminology can make to healthcare globally, and am looking forward to leading the introduction of the SNOMED CT workbench together with other initiatives within IHTSDO," says John Gutai, IHTSDO’s incoming Chief Technical Architect.

The SNOMED CT workbench is part of IHTSDO’s on-going efforts to enable broader access to, and use of, standardized clinical terminologies worldwide. Already, nine countries (Australia, Canada, Denmark, Lithuania, Sweden, New Zealand, the Netherlands, the UK, and the US) have joined together to support the on-going development and maintenance of SNOMED CT and related standards, sharing the costs on a sliding scale based on national income and making the standards freely available in their jurisdictions. IHTSDO also offers free access to SNOMED CT in countries that are not yet members for qualifying research projects and on humanitarian or charitable grounds.

“SNOMED CT is the terminology of choice for healthcare providers around the world who need a consistent language for use in electronic health records, but to meet their evolving needs, better tools for collaborative development, distribution, and implementation support of the terminology are required,” says Karen Gibson, the Chair of IHTSDO’s Technical Committee and Vice-Chair of the Management Board. “John is joining the IHTSDO at the beginning of this exciting phase and his expertise will be of tremendous value in guiding decisions over the next few years as countries accelerate their adoption of SNOMED CT.”

Prior to joining IHTSDO, John Gutai worked for Fujitsu, BT, GE Capital, Eurotherm, and Misys, among other organizations. By working on both domestic and international projects, he has acquired diverse experience in areas such as software development, project management, systems integration, and architecture, as well as in developing and using IT standards. John graduated from Cambridge University in Computer Science and completed graduate studies in Knowledge-Based Systems at Edinburgh University.



### **About International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO)**

The IHTSDO (International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation) and its Members seek to improve the health of humankind by fostering the development and use of suitable standardized clinical terminologies, notably SNOMED CT, in order to support the safe, accurate, and effective exchange of health information. The IHTSDO is an international organisation, established as a Danish not-for-profit association.

### **About SNOMED CT**

SNOMED Clinical Terms™ (SNOMED CT™) is a standardized terminology that can be used as the foundation for electronic health records and other applications. For example, different clinicians often use different terms to describe the same concept. SNOMED CT contains more than 310,000 unique concepts and more than 1.3 million links or relationships between them that ensure that this information is captured consistently, accurately, and reliably across the health system. The terminology is used in more than forty countries around the world. SNOMED CT was originally created by the College of American Pathologists by combining SNOMED RT and a computer-based nomenclature and classification known as Clinical Terms Version 3, formerly known as Read Codes Version 3, which was created on behalf of the UK Department of Health and is Crown copyright.

### **Media Contacts:**

Berit Jensen or Jennifer Zelmer  
IHTSDO  
[media@ihtsdo.org](mailto:media@ihtsdo.org)  
+45 3644 8736

SNOMED, SNOMED CT, and IHTSDO are trademarks of the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation. All other trademarks used in this document are the property of their respective owners.