

MINUTES

DICOM STANDARDS COMMITTEE

October 12, 2010

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Members Present – Vendors	Represented by
Fujifilm Medical Systems	Takashi Nakashima
GE Healthcare	Harry Solomon
Merge Healthcare North America	Ronald Cowan
Philips Healthcare	Cor Loef
Siemens Healthcare	Nikolaus Wirsz
Toshiba Medical Research Institute USA	Kevin O'Donnell
Members Present – Users	Represented by
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiologists	Allan Farman
American College of Radiology	Alan Rowberg (Proxy)
American College of Radiology	Charles Kahn
European Society of Radiology	Peter Mildemberger (Proxy)
Societe Francaise de Radiologie	Joel Chabriaais
*Society for Imaging Informatics in Medicine	Paul Nagy (Proxy)
Members Present – General Interest	Represented by
JAHIS	Takashi Nakashima
JIRA	Makoto Suzuki
Medical Imaging & Tech. Alliance	Howard Clark
Others Present	Associated with
Fred Behlen	WG-20/ACR
Helmut Keonig	WG-20/Siemens Healthcare

Frank Stockmann	Institute Straumann
Lawrence Tarbox	Mallinckrodt Inst. of Radiology
Kees Verduin	WG-16/Consultant
Wim Corbijn van Willenswaard	WG-16/Philips Healthcare

Members Absent – Vendors	Represented by
Agfa HealthCare	Geert Claeys
*Boston Scientific	Tat-Jin Teo
*Carestream Health	Jonathan Belanger
Carl Zeiss Meditec	Tobias Kurzke
*Corista	Eric Wirch
DatCard Systems	Jere Darling
*DeJarnette Research Systems	Charles Stockham
ETIAM	Emmanuel Cordonnier
*Genetix	Julian Burke
Hologic	Janet Keyes
*Konica Minolta Medical & Graphic	Ugo Joe Piasevoli
^McKesson Medical Imaging Group	David Heaney
*MEDIS Medical Imaging	Robert Goedhart
Microsoft	Evgeny Salnikov
Panasonic Healthcare	Masayuki Takahashi
RadPharm	David Clunie
*^Sectra	Krister Valtonen
Sony	Paul Gardiner
*SuperSonic Imagine	Jacques Souquet
Varian Medical Systems	Uli Busch
*Ziosoft	Katsumasa Makino
Members Absent – Users	Represented by
*American Academy of Ophthalmology	Lloyd Hildebrand
American Academy of Orthodontists	Kirt Simmons
*American College of Cardiology	Thomas Gerber
American College of Radiology	John Carrino
American College of Radiology	Steve Horii
American College of Veterinary Radiology	Dennis Balance
American Dental Association	Greg Zeller
*College of American Pathologists	James MacDonald
*European Society of Cardiology	Nico Bruining
*European Society of Radiology	Jan Stormer

*Healthcare Information Management & Systems Soc.	Audrey Dickerson
*Medical Image Standards Assn. of Taiwan	Jenn-Lung Su
*Radiological Society of North America	Chris Carr
Spanish Health Informatics Society	Marcial Garcia Rojo
Members Absent – General Interest	Associated with
*Canada Health Infoway	Margaret Kennedy
*Center for Devices and Radiological Health	Kish Chakrabarti
*CIMICS	Jianming Qu
*India Centre for Development of Adv. Computing	J. S. Bhatia
*Korean PACS Standards Committee	Hee-Joung Kim
*National Cancer Institute	C. Carl Jaffe
*Web3D Consortium	Alan Hudson

- * = Does not count toward a quorum at this meeting.
- ^ = Has not submitted Patent Agreement.

Presiding Officers:

Charles Kahn, Co-chair
Kevin O'Donnell, Co-chair

1. Preliminary Events

Participants identified themselves and their employers. Members accepted version 1 of the agenda, which had been posted to the Committee's private FTP site. Minutes of the April 13, 2009 meeting in Chicago, Illinois were approved with only minor revisions and one abstention (GE Healthcare).

The secretary reported that the Committee includes 50 organizational members with a total of 53 official voting representatives. However, 28 of these representatives were absent from at least the last two meetings, so they do not count toward a quorum. Therefore, 25 representatives do count toward the quorum, and 13 must be physically present (or represented by a proxy) to constitute a quorum. At this meeting, since 15 voting representatives were present, the quorum requirements were met.

2. Election of New Members

Members reviewed applications for membership in the Committee submitted by three biomedical/professional organizations:

- American Association of Orthodontists represented by Dr. Kirt Simmons
- American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiologists represented by Dr. Allan Farman
- Spanish Health Informatics Society represented by Dr. Marcial Garcia Rojo

All organizations provided a signed DICOM Patent Disclosure Agreement. The Committee's secretariat recommended approval of these applications. Members voted unanimously to approve all of these user associations for membership.

3. [Requests to Join Working Groups](#) [RESUME HERE](#)

Nominations (or requests for appointment) to various working groups were received for the following:

- Vendors
 - Accuray WG-07
 - Alcon Research WG-09
 - Dako North America WG-26
 - Numa WG-03
 - Still River Systems WG-07
- Individuals
 - Bosch, Walter WG-07
 - Curran, Bruce WG-07
 - Flynn, Michael WG-04
 - Mejias, Cristina Suárez WG-11/12/17/24
 - Moyers, Michael WG-07
 - Rubin, Daniel WG-08/18/20

Each nomination or request was accompanied by an executed DICOM Patent Disclosure Agreement. Upon consideration by the Committee, each was appointed to full membership on the respective working groups.

4. [Election of Officers](#)

At the December meeting, Charles Kahn will complete his second term as user co-chair of the DSC. The Nominating Committee reported that it had identified two candidates for that position – Dr. John Carrino and Dr. Allan Farman. Members were invited to nominate additional candidates who would be willing to serve, but none were identified. At this point, the nominations were closed, and Dr. Farman announced that he wished to withdraw his name from consideration. While members were inclined to issue a ballot that would provide an opportunity for write-in candidates, a subsequent review of rules indicated that Dr. Carrino could be elected by acclamation.

Members of the Nominating Committee also recommended Makoto Suzuki and Joel Chabriaais as candidates to fill the two at-large vacancies on the Executive Committee. No additional nominations were offered from the floor. Hence, these two candidates also were elected by acclamation.

5. [Staff Report](#)

STATUS OF RECENT SUPPLEMENTS

Committee Secretary Howard Clark presented the following report on the status of supplements approaching maturity.

Sup. No.	Subject	Approved for	Due	Next Step or Comments
74	Utilization of Worklist in Radiotherapy Treatment Delivery	Ltr. Bal.	Jun. '10	Rev. for FT/Nov. '10
95	Audit Trail Messages	Fin. Txt.		Approved Aug. '10
96	Unified Worklist and Procedure Step	Ltr. Bal.	Mar. '10	Rev. for FT/Nov. '10
118	Application Hosting	Fin. Txt.		Approved Aug. '10
129	Electrophysiology SR	Pub. Cmt.	Aug. '07	Rev. for LB/Jun.
131	Implant Templates	Ltr. Bal.	May '10	Rev. for FT/Nov. '10
134	Implantation Plan SR IOD	Ltr. Bal.	May '10	Rev. for FT/Nov. '10
135	SR/CDA Mapping	Fin. Txt.		Approved Aug. '10
139	Enhanced XA/XRF IOD Informative Annex	Ltr. Bal.	Aug. '09	Rev. for FT/Nov. '10
142	Clinical Trial De-identification Profiles	Ltr. Bal.	Aug. '10	Rev. for FT/Jan. '11
144	Ophthalmic Axial Measurements Storage SOP Class	Fin. Txt.		Approved Jun. '10
145	Whole Slide Microscopic Images	Fin. Txt.		Approved Aug. '10
146	Ophthalmic Visual Field – Static Perimetry Measurements Storage SOP Class	Fin. Txt.		Approved Aug. '10
148	WADO via Web Services	Pub. Cmt.	Oct. '10	Rev. for LB/Jan. '11
149	MPEG-4	Ltr. Bal.	Aug. '10	Rev. for FT/Tcon

CB = Confirmation Ballot; FT = Final Text; FZ = Frozen Text for Trial Use; LB = Letter Ballot; TBD = To Be Determined

6. [Stalled Supplements](#)

The table above reveals the flow of active supplements through DICOM's deliberate and rigorous review process. Some supplements, however, never even get onto the chart. Instead, they linger on the back burner for years. Consider:

Sup#	Name	Last WG-06 Review
109	SOP Instance Location Service	Jan. 2005
115	Evidence Document SOP Classes	Jan. 2006
129	Electrophysiology Structured Reports and Procedure Log Templates	Aug. 2007

At its August 2010 meeting, members of WG-06 took stock of these stalled supplements and determined that it would be appropriate to suggest that the DSC establish a policy of revoking any work items that have not progressed for a period of three years or more. WG-06 members believe that such a lack of progress is likely to indicate that the topic is no longer a high priority matter. Members agreed with this assessment and decided to make the review of stalled work items (or supplements) a routine agenda item for future meetings. They believe that the champions for such initiatives should be reminded of this situation and invited to make a case for why the work item should not be revoked.

Likewise, members noted that similar consideration may be applied to change proposals (CPs) that have not advanced in three years. However, since these are managed by WG-06 and not assigned by the DSC, members believe that WG-06 have authority to cancel such stalled CPs.

7. XML Encoding of the DICOM Standard

In Dr. Clunie's absence, Howard Clark noted that virtually all figures in the Standard have been converted to SVG format. The next step is to locate a contractor who can convert the text. After selecting a potential contractor, **Dr. Clunie** plans to provide some carefully chosen samples to test the vendor's capabilities. If performance is satisfactory, a contract will be let.

8. Proposed Work Items

Three new work-item requests were submitted for Committee approval. Each was posted at least two weeks prior to the meeting. Following due deliberations, the Committee responded as follows:

Number	WG	Topic	Result
2010-10-A	4	JPEG XR Transfer Syntax	Deferred until December meeting. See comment 1.
2010-10-B	22	Dental Mapping and Query-Retrieve	Approved.
2010-10-C	22	Standardization in the Prosthetics Value Chain	Deferred until December meeting. See comment 2.

Comment 1. Members wondered whether this technology is available outside of the Microsoft platforms (e.g., Unix) and under what terms – especially for an independent implementer. Also, they asked staff to determine whether the terms were consistent with DICOM's Patent Disclosure Agreement. [Secretary's note – NEMA's legal counsel believes that the intellectual property terms are consistent with the DICOM Patent Policy.]

Comment 2. Members noted the strong interest in Dentistry shown by the Brazilian participants in the Conference. They suggested that Dr. Farman invite the Brazilian leaders in this field to actively participate in this effort. It will be important to have some one with strong DICOM expertise involved in writing this supplement. The work should also include completion of CP375. A number of technical recommendations were offered for consideration by WG-22. These included a need to provide enhanced definition of requirements, clarity on the nature of the IOD for interfaces 1 and 2, resources needed from WG-06, and a proposed timeline.

9. Participation of Observers with Heavy Stake in Working Group Activities

Prior to the April meeting in Bordeaux, members noted that DICOM's Procedures encourage the participation in its working groups of all parties that have a direct and material interest in the activities of the Committee or its working groups. Additionally, the Procedures require that any organization seeking membership in either the Committee or one of its working groups shall submit a signed copy of the Patent Disclosure Agreement. Organizations that meet both criteria may become formally appointed voting members of the Committee or one (or more) of its working groups. However, some companies that have a very strong interest in the work of a particular group will regularly attend the meetings of that group and actively participate in its standards-development efforts without ever signing the Patent Agreement or seeking to become an official voting member. While such organizations may have related patents, they have no obligation to reveal that information or to declare whether and on what term they might make that technology available. Some might even take note of the ideas put forth in working group meetings and rush off to quietly patent those ideas before the Standard is even complete. Many members of the Committee and its various working groups are troubled by these scenarios and wonder what if anything could or should be done about it.

In the April meeting, considerable time was devoted to a discussion of possible actions that might be taken to deal with this kind of unfair behavior. While several alternatives were identified, no single action was found that could entirely solve the problem and do no harm to the DICOM process. Members asked the secretary to consider these suggestions and identify a course of action to at least improve the situation.

Staff has observed that many working group participants (including officers) simply are unaware of these policies or of their status with respect to them. After careful consideration of this situation, staff determined that a good first step would be to alert the participants in each working group about their own voting status and encourage all active members to seek a formal appointment. In consultation with one Committee member's representative (Cor Loef), a tool was developed for this purpose, and working group chairs were notified to expect it. (A copy of that message is included in the Other Documents Folder for this meeting.) Working Group Seven was the first group to receive this request. As noted above, five new members were appointed to WG-07 at this meeting. WG-22 will be the next group to receive this request. WG-24 should follow soon after. Others will be distributed as time permits.

10. DICOM-Related Activities around the World

Makoto Suzuki made a PowerPoint Presentation on recent DICOM activities in Japan. A copy of his presentation is available in the Minutes Folder on the DICOM Web Page and on the Public FTP site. Additionally, a comprehensive report on Radiology in Brazil was provided by Dr. Daniel Nóbrega da Costa on the third day of the Conference.

11. International Standards Organizations

As a consequence of some scheduling problems, this item was not discussed.

12. Committee for the Advancement of DICOM

No members of this Committee were present to report on recent or planned activities.

13. DICOM Conference

Dr. Lawrence Tarbox, the General Chair of the DICOM Conference for 2010, led a discussion of the overall experience. He noted that this is the first time that the conference was held in cooperation with another organization and felt that this provided some major advantages and some drawbacks. For example, BCR handled all of the logistical details, provided an extremely valuable simultaneous translation service, helped us to locate all of our invited speakers, and attracted more Brazilian participants than would otherwise have happened. However, the delay in creating a suitable registration form probably resulted in some loss of potential attendees from outside of Brazil. He observed that attendance ran between 30 and 70 depending on the particular topic under discussion. At least 30% of attendees were using headphones at any time. Looking to the future, he thought it would be desirable to get a list of persons who signed up for the DICOM Conference and follow up with a letter. Recognizing the interest in DICOM activities among persons from Brazil who attended the conference, Harry Solomon wondered whether there might be a need for some sort of regional forums to exchange information among interested parties. This might be as simple as a separate page in Comp.Protocols.DICOM.

14. Reports from the Working Groups

Members reviewed written and oral reports submitted by working group chairs. However, due to the secretary's absence, no detailed responses were recorded. Copies of the written reports and PowerPoint presentations may be found in the Reports Folder for this meeting.

Unfortunately, in the course of this review, members were informed that WG-10's long-time User Co-chair Joel Chabrais will no longer be able to regularly attend DICOM activities. With regret over this resignation, Dr. Charles Kahn presented a certificate of appreciation to Dr. Chabrais in recognition of his many years of valuable service to the DICOM community.

15. Promoting DICOM

As a consequence of some scheduling problems, this item was not discussed.

16. New Business

No new business was brought before the Committee.

17. Time and Place of Future Meetings

Members confirmed the following meeting dates and locations:

- December 2, 2010; RSNA; Chicago, IL
- April 12, 2011 – IHE Connect-a-thon; Pisa, Italy

- Fall 2011 – Korea???
- December 1, 2011 – RSNA; Chicago, IL

18. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:45 p.m.

Reported by:

Howard E. Clark, Secretary
November 22, 2010

Reviewed by Counsel: CRS 11/23/10