



## Quality Assurance Committee October 2008 Report to the General Assembly

The IHTSDO Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) has enthusiastically maintained its scheduled monthly conference calls during this period. Attendance has been a consistent and respectably quorate 8-9 members (65%).

Highlights of work undertaken or overseen by the committee during this period have been:

- **Quality Assurance Framework.** The QAC has provided regular input and critiquing of the evolving Framework document.
- Additionally an accompanying **Prototype Framework Toolkit** has been developed, and the QAC has given advice on appropriate mechanisms for its implementation and integration into 2009 activities.
- **Quality Issues Prioritisation.** Building on detailed discussions at the Evanston meeting, the QAC has developed a discussion document that presents a recommended approach to quality issues elicitation and prioritisation, and wishes to see this inform IHTSDO practice.
- **Education;** The QAC has advanced the requests of the Education SIG for curriculum development and information-sharing facilities.
- **Quality measures/metrics:** The QAC has provided regular input into the initiatives underway to introduce novel quality metrics into routine IHTSDO practice. Some of these have proved harder to progress than others (in particular difficulty has been encountered with measures for editorial rule adherence in content development), however the QAC has seen considerable progress on the publication of technical data production quality metrics
- **Content project prioritisation:** The QAC provided detailed and reasoned input into the exercise undertaken to determine the priority content projects for 2009.
- **Liaison with other IHTSDO Committees.** In recognition of the considerable shared interests in the SNOMED CT data between the Content and Quality Committees, a joint session at the Helsingor meetings has been planned between the two groups. In addition, the QAC has actively sought requests from the Technical and R&I Committees for items that where QAC input would be valuable.

Future ambitions include:

- Working with the IHTSDO community to assist in the implementation and integration of the Quality Assurance Framework and the Quality Issues Prioritisation strategy into routine IHTSDO practice.
- Working with the Education Special Interest Group to ensure the timely development and dissemination of appropriate educational and training materials.

The QAC anticipates a lively and productive session in Helsingor, and recognises that this meeting will coincide with a number of committee member changes, a change of chairmanship and the arrival of a new Chief Quality Assurance officer. In order to expedite



these transitions, the QAC has advanced all relevant items above to a state where hand-over should present the least difficulty.

M.Sheridan, Chairman QAC October 9<sup>th</sup> 2008