

The WHO-FIC 2017 Annual Network Meeting

Mexico City, Mexico

16-21 October, 2017

Five IFHIMA members officially representing diverse perspectives and work were a part of the week-long World Health Organization Family of International Classifications (WHO-FIC) Network meetings and conference in Mexico City, Mexico. The weather was beautiful and the World Trade Center, where the meetings were held, was a great location. Joon Hong (Republic of Korea), Carol Lewis (USA), Vera Dimitropoulos (Australia), Joanne Valerius (USA) and Margaret Skurka (USA) participated in the five-day meeting. Additional HIM colleagues from around the globe were also present as observers or guests.

The theme of the week was "Connecting Data for Health." The official welcome was given Monday morning, 16 October, by representatives from the WHO, and the Ministry of Health in Mexico City. Reports were also given by representatives on various Committees and Reference Groups. A very interesting and interactive presentation was given by Dr. Robert Jakob from the WHO on ICD-11. Dr. Jakob is well known in the coding circles as the Medical Officer, Health Data Standards and Informatics Information, Evidence and Research, of WHO. Participants were able to sign on to the ICD-11 web site with their tablets or phones and code cases real-time using ICD-11. ICD-11 is scheduled to be released for transition to implementation by the WHO in July 2018.

Professor Richard Madden from the National Centre for Classification in Health, The University of Sydney who has led the work on the International Classification of Health Interventions (ICHI) since 1997 for the WHO gave the closing plenary address. He discussed the release of the ICHI Beta Version 2017. ICHI has had wide input from the WHO-FIC Network and active review and testing of ICHI content will continue during 2018. Further information about ICHI is available here: [ICHI Brochure](#). Access to the ICHI Beta Version Platform is at: <http://sydney.edu.au/health-sciences/ncch/ichi2017.shtml>.

Margaret sits on two committees representing IFHIMA with voice and vote - The Education and Implementation Committee (EIC) and the Morbidity Reference Group (MbRG). Both groups held meetings during the week. Vera is also an Australian member on the EIC, the MbRG and the ICD-11 Mortality and Morbidity Statistics Joint Task Force.

In the EIC, Carol Lewis and Joon Hong are instrumental in moving the work forward on the updating and streamlining of the WHO-FIC databases. A subcommittee was formed and charged with the improvement of the questions currently in the database over the

next months. Carol Lewis, Joon Hong, and Margaret are all on this subcommittee. The database document needs streamlining and some specific improvement in the questions. The EIC has also undertaken significant work on ICD-11 education and field testing and the implications for future ICD-11 education and implementation needs. Reports were given by many countries on training issues encountered in initial field testing. To date, Vera has led the work for the WHO on ICD-11 education material developed and on a Transition and Implementation Guidance package.

Information was also disseminated by Sue Walker (Australia) on the database that WHO maintains on the WHO-FIC advisors and educators from the point of view of Implementation and Education. Reorganization of the EIC Strategic Work Plan is ongoing to ensure better alignment of tasks in collaboration with other committees and groups in the WHO-FIC.

The MbRG had three sessions throughout the week. The current emphasis of the MbRG is to continue to improve the ICD-11 Reference Guide, including the Coding Morbidity Rules, the Main Condition supplementary coding and the Diagnosis timing supplementary coding. There was also good discussion on the improvements made to ICD-11 Chapter 24 Factors influencing health status or contact with health services. Reports were also given on the work regarding definitional update to Sepsis and the improvements required to reflect this new knowledge in ICD-11.

There will be a mid-year meetings for both committees in April 2018. The next Annual WHO-FIC Network meeting and conference will be held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, 22-28 October 2018.

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