

## **Report on the 2023 World Health Organization (WHO) Family of International Classifications (FIC) Network Mid-Year and Annual Meetings**

IFHIMA have representatives on the WHO-FIC Family Development Committee (FDC), Informatics and Terminology Committee (ITC), Education and Implementation Committee (EIC), and Morbidity Reference Group (MbRG). In 2023, they attended the mid-year (Sydney, Australia) and annual (Bonn, Germany) meetings of the WHO-FIC Network.

### Mid-Year Meeting Highlights – Sydney, Australia

At the WHO-FIC Network's mid-year meetings, the committees and reference groups who met advanced the work items that support the WHO-FIC Network strategic plan. Updates from the WHO also included progress on education, reference materials, and tools to assist Member countries with implementation of the Reference Classifications. An IFHIMA update was provided to the Education and Implementation Committee (EIC) highlighting how the organization is supporting the Network's ICD-11 initiatives. This includes the launch of an ICD-11 Community of Practice and the inclusion of two ICD-11 workshops at the 20th IFHIMA Congress. Other highlights included the launch of an ICD-11 Implementation Forum by the EIC and the Morbidity Reference Group (MbRG). The forum intends to facilitate sharing of implementation experiences and discussion topics are expected to provide additional insights from country experiences to enrich the WHO Implementation and Transition Guide.

### Annual Meeting Highlights – Bonn, Germany

Notable updates from the WHO included improvement in the performance of the ICD-11 coding tool, uniform resource identifiers (URIs) now available in the coding tool, additional ICD-11 training videos available on the [WHO YouTube channel](#), and significant progress has been made on the WHO ICD-11 Academy course modules, some of which are expected to be published in the first quarter of 2024. The WHO also clarified the release schedule for ICD-11. An update on the current state of the International Classification of Health Interventions (ICHI) resulted in discussions on planning steps for routine use and included the formulation of an ICHI Reference Group.

The need to optimize the ICD-11 maintenance process was discussed. The Medical and Scientific Advisory Committee (MSAC) provided recommendations on 56 proposals, which is double the prior throughput. This year the Classification and Statistics Advisory Committee (CSAC) began voting on reference guide proposals and the workload surged. Recognizing this increasing number, the Network plans to establish a workgroup for a review of the CSAC process before the end of 2023.

The MbRG also collaborated with Orphanet on rare disease coding exercises and with the Quality & Safety Working Group on coding exercises using the three-part harm model. The EIC also evaluated hundreds of coding exercises, reviewed and updated

the content for several educational units, and reviewed the International Classifications of Health Interventions (ICHI) reference guide.

Content alignment and harmonization of the three Reference Classification is a work item shared by the Family Development Committee (FDC) and the Informatics and Terminology Committee (ITC). During a combined session, an overall update was given followed by presentations on the inventory areas of overlap in three classifications, aligning and harmonizing anatomy and topological entities, and use cases for cross-classification linkages and semantic integration.

The WHO Mapping Task Force (MTF) has created an inventory of national ICD-10/ICD-11 mapping efforts. In addition, a questionnaire on Collaborating Centres' ICD-10/ICD-11 mapping use cases, needs, and plans has also been developed to help coordinate the mapping of different versions. Validation of the WHO ICD-10/ICD-11 maps was noted as a priority and the work will be managed by MTF and a validation planning subgroup.

### Summary

2023 will be remembered not only for significant accomplishments on the classifications but also for the loss of Donna Pickett, who served as the Chief of Classification and Public Health Data Standards at the U.S. National Center for Health Statistics for several years. Donna was recognized for her service, and everyone stood for a minute of silence in remembrance. She would, no doubt, be proud of all that was accomplished in 2023.

Regional advisor reports described progress ranging from pilot tests, from pilot studies to collecting and reporting ICD-11 data. They also reported increasing interest in ICHI and the International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health (ICF) and for traditional medicine. A common theme among the regions was integration and interoperability with current information systems.

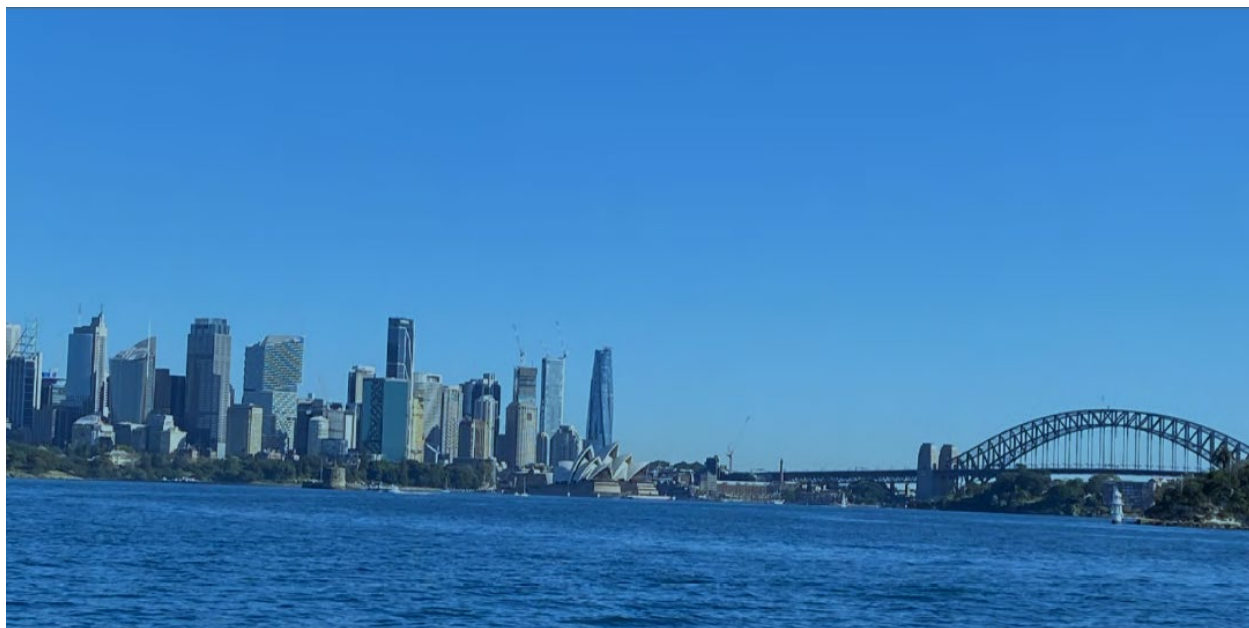
Many countries with a modification of ICD-10 are evaluating ICD-11 MMS, including whether a national linearization is needed for their use case. Key challenges for such countries include resources and governance issues including licensing, and consideration of creation and maintenance of a national linearization. Additional discussion is needed around governance issues. Key challenges for such countries include resources and governance issues including licensing, and consideration of creation and maintenance of a national linearization. Developing guidance for national linearizations of ICD-11 will be a key priority in the coming year.

### *Authors:*

*Kathy Giannangelo MA, RHIA, CCS, CPHIMS, FAHIMA  
IFHIMA WHO-FIC Representative, President at KGC*

*&*

*Mary Stanfill MBI, ACHIP, RHIA, CCS, CCS-P, FAHIMA  
IFHIMA WHO-FIC Representative, Vice President at UASI*

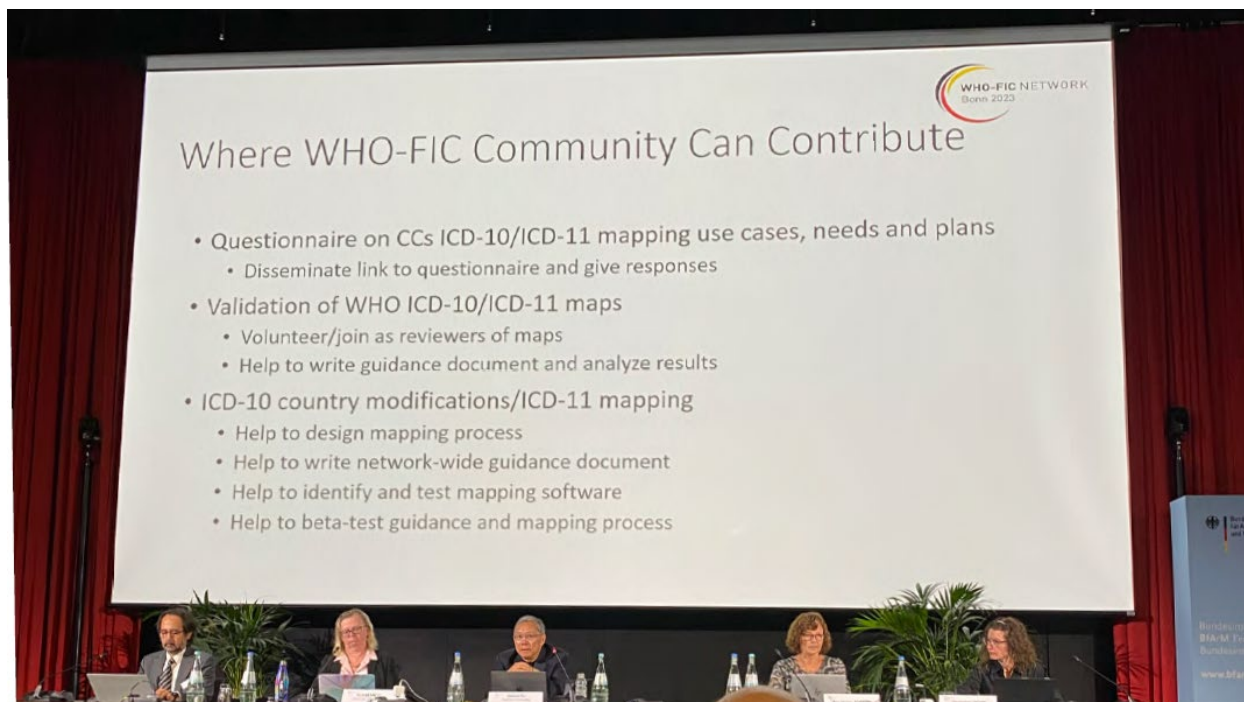


*2023 WHO-FIC mid-year Meetings in Sydney, Australia - Sydney Harbor*



*2023 WHO-FIC Annual Meetings in Bonn, Germany - Bonn flower market*





*Joint ITC and FDC Meeting at the 2023 WHO-FIC Annual Meetings in Bonn, Germany*



*Attendees at the 2023 WHO-FIC Annual Meeting in Bonn, Germany*