

Welcome to the ninth issue of PITUS Update. The Project provides regular updates on the progress of the Pathology Information Terminology and Units Standardisation (PITUS) project through this newsletter.

PITUS 18-20 Working Group Updates as at 31 January 2019

Working Group	Number of Meetings	Number of Members
Wg1 Evaluation & Promotion	8	20
Wg2 Terminology Development Immunopathology	1	13
Wg2 Terminology Development Serology / Microbiology / Molecular	2	11
Wg2 Terminology Development Haematology/Transfusion Med	1	15
Wg2 Terminology Development Chemical Pathology	1	14
Wg2 Terminology Development Anatomical Pathology/Cytology	1	12
Wg2 Terminology Development Genetics	0	0
Wg3 Systems Design & Compliance	6	20
Wg4 SPRC Infostructure & Conformance	4	13
Wg5 Report Standardisation	3	21

[Working Groups Update October 2018](#)

[Working Groups Update November 2018](#)

[Working Groups Update December 2018](#)

The PITUS 18-20 Steering Committee met for the second time via web conference on Tuesday 27 November 2018.

RCPA Pathology Informatics Seminar

The Chair of the PITUS 18-20 Steering Committee and each of the PITUS working groups were among the twenty speakers delivering a wide range of thought-provoking presentations at the second RCPA Pathology Informatics Seminar held on the 19 and 20 November 2018. The program for Day 1 focused on several facets of pathology informatics including; updates on the Pathology Information, Terminology and Units Standardisation (PITUS) 18-20 Project, Standards for Pathology Informatics in Australia (SPIA), My Health Record (MyHR), Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR), Structured Reporting of Cancer Protocols (SPRC), Report formatting and current industry issues relating to pathology informatics. Day 2 provided an overview of Pathology messaging, SNOMED-CT and LOINC terminology, and advanced concepts for pathology informatics regarding the linking of SNOMED-CT and LOINC standards with information databases as well as an insight into privacy and data issues. A total of 63 delegates attended the seminar, including pathologists, scientists, healthcare informaticians and members of the medical software industry. A heart felt thank you to A/Prof Ken Sikaris for organising a brilliant collective of minds and congratulations to all speakers for delivering exceptional presentations to a very appreciative audience.

Authorised speaker presentations are now available on the RCPA website [Authorised Presentations Informatics Workshop 2018](#).

SPIA Survey 2018

The PITUS 18-20 Project in conjunction with the RCPAQAP KIMMS Program developed an online survey of 21 questions to gauge the current level of awareness and implementation of the Standards for Pathology Informatics in

Australia (SPIA) as endorsed by the RCPA within accredited Australian pathology laboratories. The survey was distributed to 155 prospective participants representing over 95% of public, private and catholic accredited pathology accredited pathology laboratory groups throughout Australia. The survey was open for four weeks, closing on 14 December 2018. 57 individual survey responses were received in total. Individual responses were received from participants from all Australian states and territories and the overall estimated response rate was 55.7%. 55.6% of public laboratory groups contacted responded; while 38.1% of private/catholic pathology laboratories/groups contacted responded to the Survey. The Survey consisted of a mix of demographic and technical questions, and from the responses, the Project was able to gauge a number of large public and private sector pathology laboratories have adopted SPIA – however greater awareness of SPIA is required. This will be a focus for the Project over the next 24 months. A full analysis of the collective responses has been collated in a report to the Department of Health as one of the PITUS 18-20 Project deliverables.

Three key Project activities will be undertaken in direct response to the Survey results and opinions expressed:

- To increase levels of SPIA awareness, the Project will engage with a range of key stakeholders in the public, private and catholic pathology community
- To improve SPIA compliance, the Project will seek opportunities for SPIA endorsement via the National Pathology Accreditation Advisory Council (NPAAC);
- To promulgate the benefits of interoperability, the Project will seek to engage with stakeholders who indicated they had no plans to adopt any of the SPIA standards, as well as collaborate with SPIA champions to promote the benefits.

Thank you to all survey participants, your contribution has provided the Project with a sound insight into the current levels of SPIA adoption and comments provided have been of great value in understanding where the Project needs to focus efforts in raising awareness of SPIA.

New RCPA Website

The College website received a glamorous makeover on Friday 11 January 2019. Please make yourselves familiar with the new responsive format and the latest RCPA news.

Events

Pathology Update 2019 – The Power of Personalised Pathology – will be held at the Melbourne Convention Centre on Friday 24 – Sunday 26 February 2019. A most impressive scientific program, including eleven extraordinary international speakers has been organised by the Chairs and members of the Scientific Program committees. 140 Australasian and 11 internationally renowned speakers will be presenting, and a new record has been attained for the number of poster submissions for the Roche Scientific Poster Display.

Of note within the program, A/Prof Ken Sikaris from Melbourne Pathology will present 'The Importance of standardisation in pathology informatics' and Paul Carroll from the Australian Digital Health Agency will speak to 'Diagnostics in the MyHealth Records' on Friday 22 February. On Sunday 24 February, Prof Lillian Sui from the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, Toronto, Canada will deliver her presentation on 'Building National and International Genomic Data Sharing Initiatives'.

Delegates are encouraged to make the most of the event by attending the various workshops, social events and networking opportunities on offer throughout the program. Further information is available on the RCPA website [Pathology Update 2019](#).