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| **Reported by (Name):** | **Geoffrey S. Ibbott, Ph.D.** |
| **Organization:**  | **American National Standards Institute Organizational Member Forum** |
| **Position Title:** | **Technical Advisor to US National Committee to IEC** |
| **Activity:** | **Meeting of ANSI OMF** |
| **Meeting Dates:** | **Mar 25-29 2019** |
| **Meeting Location:** | **Frankfurt, Germany** |
| **Payment $:** | **Travel supported by ASTRO** |
| **Reasons for Attending or not Attending** | **Attended as convenor of WG 1** |
| **Issues from Previous Meetings or Year:** | **Ongoing…** |
| **General Description of Activities of the Organization and/or Meeting:** | **Continue progress on development of new and updated IEC standards. Additional opportunity to meet with German standards committee to discuss collaboration and future joint meetings** |
| **Issues for AAPM:** | **None** |
| **Budget Request ($):** | **Included in WG IEC budget** |

Report of Meeting

ANSI Organizational Member Forum

April 11 2019

The American National Standards Institute publishes and houses standards developed by a large number of governmental, industrial, and organizational members. AAPM is an organizational member, and I attended this meeting to represent AAPM. The meeting actually combined governmental and organizational members, and the topics addressed both groups together, or alternately (see attached agenda.)

There were about 60 Attendees in person and another 30 on WebEx. Organizational members included NEMA, ASTM International, Am. Dental Assoc, Packing Technology, Illumination Engineers, and others. The governmental organizations included DOT, Dept. of Commerce, EPA, Coast Guard, DHS, and others.

The meeting opened at 10:00 am and was co-chaired by two individuals: For the governmental member forum, Timothy Klein who is the standards executive (actually Director, Technology Policy and Outreach) for the US Department of Transportation. For the organizational member forum, Claire Ramspeck who is executive director of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

The purposely of the forum was to bring together government agencies and organizations to network, learn about advances in developing, promoting and promulgating standards, to share issues faced in using and maintaining standards, and to understand how standards are incorporated into guidance and regulations.

The first topic was Artificial Intelligence. We heard a presentation from Elham Tabassi of NIST about how they are leading a response to an Executive Order issued on February 11, 2019 on Maintaining American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence. The deadline for completion is August 11 (six months). NIST is leading development of technical standards for AI that reflect federal priorities for innovation, public trust and confidence. NIST will hold a workshop on 5/30 to develop a plan for federal engagement. It was clear that NIST was struggling to understand how to respond, how broad their effort should be, and how detailed. She provided an email address to sign up for updates (I sent in a request) and assured us that the Forum would receive more information shortly. She was asked if the plan would address healthcare. She seemed unable to answer, but said a lot would depend on the input they received.

Next was a series of presentations on Digital Transformation of Standards. Representatives of three organizations: American Society for Testing and Materials (known as ASTM-International), Water Works, and The Canadian Standards Association (CSA Group). All three described the methods they have used to convert tens of thousands of pages of paper documents to other formats including PDF and XML. CSA Group has done more and allows users (typically testing houses or inspectors) to identify clauses or even individual words in standards and group them into “playlists” to enable them to find relevant clauses quickly. They have developed “augmented reality” apps that allow the use of an iPhone to hover over a clause or diagram in a paper standard and bring up electronic supplemental materials, such as 3D models. They are currently developing an AI-based contextual search engine.

There were a number of questions for these speakers concerning the protection of copyrights, the feasibility of community commenting on standards in development, and the availability of resources to help other organizations who want to do the same thing.

Pirating of published standards is a big problem; several representatives volunteered that they had discovered their standards on Chinese web sites and other places.

Related to this, but later in the day, we heard a presentation about pirating of standards by a website called PublicResource.org. ASTM, NFPA and ASHRAE have filed lawsuits, which are still pending.

A law called the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act requires agencies to use consensus standards where they exist rather than develop new standards. OMB 119 was revised by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in January 2016, and spells out the government strategy for standards development. It promotes agency participation on standards bodies, specifies reporting requirements on conformity assessment activities, and informs agencies of their statutory obligations related to standards setting. This might be relevant to our involvement with the FDA as they move to adopt IEC standards.

The last major topic of the day was a discussion about Incorporation by Reference (IBR). This allows agencies to incorporate the provisions of national or international consensus standards by publishing guidance that refers to these standards. This appears to be the approach the FDA is taking.

I spoke with Joe Bhattia, President of ANSI, who introduced me to George Gulla who is ANSI VP of Publications, Sales, Business and Membership Development. Gulla encouraged me to talk to FDA but also encouraged us to pursue publishing IEC standards in the US through ANSI. Still, he thought the IBR method was the solution.

So I spoke with Timothy Klein and Claire Ramspeck about the FDA. They both suggested I contact Scott Coburn at FDA who is their standards executive. I will first approach Nancy Wersto and Amarjeet Bhullar who have been active in the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to the US National Committee of the IEC. If necessary, I will then contact Scott Coburn.

This was a profitable meeting to attend in that I was able to learn and better understand the different approaches to adopting standards in US regulations and guidance and make contact with several key individuals who can help the AAPM reach its goals of contributing to US standards development and distribution.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoffrey S. Ibbott, Ph.D.