

Representing and sharing knowledge using SNOMED

These are the proceedings of KR-MED 2008, the Third International Conference on Formal Biomedical Knowledge Representation, held in Phoenix, Arizona on May 31st – June 2nd, 2008. The conference is co-organized by the Working Group on Formal (Bio-)Medical Knowledge Representation of the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) and the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO), and collocated with the 2008 AMIA Spring Congress.

This 3rd edition of KR-MED was inspired by the vision of a universal clinical terminology, covering a broad range of health-related domains and meeting the needs of all health professionals. In the last two decades numerous health informatics research activities have been performed to turn this vision into reality. This conference highlights the progress made in research as well as application, challenges the current state, and reflects on future work from a perspective of knowledge representation and formal ontologies.

KR-MED 2008 focuses on the Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine – Clinical Terms: SNOMED CT[®]. SNOMED CT is emerging as a comprehensive, multilingual clinical healthcare terminology, which is under a new international ownership since 2007.

Focusing on SNOMED CT, KR-MED 2008 follows up on the successful first Semantic Mining Conference on SNOMED (SMCS) organized in Copenhagen in October 2006.

KR-MED 2008 will bring 2 tutorials, 3 invited speakers, a panel on the state of affairs in member countries, poster presentations and product presentations by some of the sponsors. The scientific sessions address the full spectrum from theory to practice. Theoretical issues include representation, formalization, classification, and the integration of SNOMED CT with information models. Sessions geared toward application cover mapping, subsetting, interface terminologies, and applications for the use of SNOMED CT.

We like to point out that the one-page abstracts in the paper section represent papers that are currently under review for journal submission. Depending on the outcome of the review process, either a reference to the full publication will be added, or the full paper will be included later.

We are confident that these proceedings represent the aim of the conference: sharing knowledge about using SNOMED CT.

Wishing you all an informative and enjoyable conference,

Ronald Cornet, Academic Medical Center, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Kent Spackman, International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation
Chairs of the KR-MED 2008 Scientific Program Committee