

**Opening Remarks – Plenary Meeting
ISO/TC 215 – Healthcare Informatics
Monday, May 10, 2004 – 9:00 a.m.
JW Marriott – Washington, DC**

8:30 a.m. D. Karmol arrives at J.W. Marriott

9:00 a.m. Plenary meeting called to order by Chairman Kwak

9:10 a.m. (approx) Welcome remarks from ANSI representative, David Karmol

David Karmol
ANSI Vice President, Public Policy and Government Relations

Thank you Chairman Kwak (*pronounced* Qwāhk). Good morning everyone.

On behalf of the members and staff of the American National Standards Institute, the U.S. member of the International Organization for Standardization, it is my honor to welcome you to the United States and to our nation's capital, Washington, DC, for this meeting of ISO Technical Committee 215 – *Healthcare Informatics*.

<< *INSERT GENERAL REMARKS ABOUT DC* >>

As Dr. Kwak mentioned in his kind introduction, my role is to serve as a liaison between ANSI and government agencies at the federal, state and local levels.

Many of you may already know that in 1996 the United States passed the *Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act*, commonly known here as HIPPA. A group of healthcare representatives was appointed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to study issues related to the adoption of uniform data standards for patient medical record information and the electronic exchange of such information. Over time, the focus of this group expanded to encompass both financial transactions and clinical data standards.

The industry's current goal is to establish a National Health Information Infrastructure that will permit computer systems to communicate seamlessly throughout healthcare -- leading to a safer, higher-quality, and more efficient health care systems that will help to protect all people.

Clearly, there is a direct relationship between the development of health informatics standards and health information systems that are uniform and understandable by all.

It will be a formidable challenge, but it is a challenge that needs to be addressed head-on.

Many organizations are already involved, providing a solid foundation and methodology from which to move forward with countless *e-health* issues.¹ Coordination is critical so that you can help to minimize or eliminate duplication of effort and redundancies.

ANSI was very pleased to see the emphasis you are giving to developing a new paradigm of intelligent IT-based systems for health informatics, and your commitment to global consensus. By coming together in Washington, DC this week, you are each helping TC 215 advance its mission to achieve compatibility and interoperability between independent systems while ensuring the compatibility of data.

Dr. Kwak, I congratulate you on your leadership of the committee during your past year in office, and extend the thanks of the United States and the larger ISO community for your vision and forward-thinking approach to addressing the work of this committee. We clearly see that the work of TC 215 is growing, changing and moving forward at a rapid pace – a pace that is critically important for the protection of global citizens.

The U.S. has been an active participant in the work of this committee since its founding in January 1998. We are honored to serve as the Secretariat for this important committee, and extend our thanks to the Audrey Dickerson and the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) for their support and efforts on behalf of this committee.

ANSI extends our gratitude to Booz Allen Hamilton for their sponsorship of this meeting, and to ANSI's own Healthcare Informatics Standards Board for its support of this evening's reception. Bob Owens, chair of the ANSI-HISB, as well as several members of the Board, are with us today and will serve as our representatives and hosts during the event.

In conclusion, I extend to each of you our thanks and appreciation for your efforts to develop a global e-health system.

Please . . . enjoy your time in Washington and have a successful and productive meeting.

¹ NOTE TO DAVID: Definition of *E-health*: Using health information and communication technology to prevent disease and improve the health status of individuals.