

June 25, 2024

To: United States National Committee
Re: IEC Young Professionals Nomination – Recommendation Letter for Shayna Knazik

Dear Selection Committee,

I am writing to strongly recommend Shayna Knazik for the 2024 IEC Young Professionals Program based on her work on DICOM, the primary international standard for medical imaging.

I have had the pleasure of working with Shayna on multiple committees over the last four years where she has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the diverse medical imaging community members who make up the committees, the ability to quickly absorb new material and processes, exceptional management skills, and a dedicated attention to detail.

Shayna joined MITA, the medical imaging trade association, as a Senior Program Manager for DICOM at the beginning of 2020, just as the COVID pandemic hit. Her adaptability was immediately tested and proven as she facilitated the smooth transition of the full-week technical meetings that she manages to virtual format for two years during COVID. Happening 5 times per year, these meetings of Working Group 6 are complex to start with, involving multiple working groups, international participants, and producing hundreds of pages of new technical specifications each year. While we are happy to be back face-to-face, it was Shayna's dedication that kept the wheels turning during the interval.

To better capture the key decisions about several dozen standard extensions and change proposals, Shayna took the initiative to improve the structure and content of the meeting summary that comes out of each WG-6 meeting. I, and others, now frequently use it as a reference when updating colleagues and related standards groups. She is constantly on the lookout for details that have been overlooked and ways to improve our process. She is an important contributor to the high productivity of the group and coordinates activities from new work item proposal submission, through public comment, letter ballot, and publication.

Over the past year, Shayna has taken on the role of DICOM General Secretary, managing the DICOM Standard Committee, which is the governing body for development of the DICOM Standard. Like WG-6, this involves coordinating subject matter experts across many different time zones, countries and stakeholder organizations. This also involves coordinating with the chief editor of the DICOM Standard to publish updates five times per year.

We have benefited from Shayna's ability to leverage her past experience with the American Association of Physicists in Medicine and its international collaborators. She has applied that experience with us in her pursuit of greater understanding and involvement in international standards development. Her awareness and sensitivity to cultural diversity and linguistic challenges is particularly relevant when managing committees with members from many different cultural backgrounds. On top of that, her focus and enthusiasm set a positive tone for all the groups that she manages.



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I strongly believe that Shayna would be an outstanding candidate for the IEC Young Professionals Program. It would be a valuable experience that she could apply to her daily activities within the DICOM organization, and the program would benefit, as we have, from her participation.

Sincerely,

Kevin O'Donnell, MASc, FSIIIM
Sr. Mgr., Connectivity, Standards and Interoperability
Canon Medical Research USA, Inc.
Chair, DICOM WG-10
Past-Chair, DICOM Standards Cmte
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