

What is IGOTF-CSD?

The *International Group on Terminology Frameworks – Communication Sciences and Disorders*, known as IGOTF-CSD, is a group of representatives from several professional associations around the world. The group had its first face-to-face meeting in November 2005 in San Diego.

IGOTF-CSD is developing a long-term, strategic, collaborative project related to the terminology. The *Terminology Frameworks Project* aims to improve the appropriateness, accessibility and consistency of both professional and public terms in the field of communication sciences and disorders.

This project will not replicate the considerable work already done on terminology. The *Terminology Frameworks Project* will NOT encompass the development of a list of terms with definitions, an organisational or classification system for existing terms, nor a translation of terms across languages or dialects.

In contrast, the *Terminology Frameworks Project* will investigate the principles and scientific methodologies applicable to terminology. Therefore, the *Terminology Frameworks Project* will be *about* terminology; it will develop shared reference frameworks to allow productive debate and decisions about terms in all their applications.

The IGOTF-CSD is conducted in English, but the aim is to develop frameworks for terminology that are applicable universally. The choice of which terms to use will ultimately always be a local decision, influenced by the local language and culture, the legal and policy context, and the work setting and requirements. Thus, a term for a particular concept will be expressed in a variety of ways around the world. However, the underlying *concept*, its *characteristics* and its *purpose* could be effectively discussed across these various contexts through reference to a framework. This will allow both consistency and flexibility.

This is a new approach to an old problem. The rationale for this new approach is the belief that there is a lack of tools for objective and productive debate about terms. Specialised study about terminology itself can lead to positive outcomes by providing (1) tools for analysis and debate about terms, and (2) greater understanding about how to develop appropriate and effective terms.

The *International Group on Terminology Frameworks – Communication Sciences and Disorders* aims:

- To share international perspectives on terminology;
- To work to raise awareness of professionals about the importance of improving appropriateness and consistency;
- To investigate and document the scope of issues/needs in terminology including prioritised areas for work, key factors and important stakeholders;
- To extend knowledge about the important characteristics of terms that enable clear communication;
- To develop frameworks for terminology that articulate the essential characteristics of terms for various purposes;
- To support the development of frameworks for terminology which will assist in:
 - Decisions about the best and most accessible terms for public relations;
 - Development of appropriate terms for improved workplace communication;
 - The integration of terms from communication sciences and disorders within cross-discipline systems of clinical terminologies and classifications;
 - The crafting of scope of practice statements by the profession which are more accessible to others;
 - Improved intra-professional communication, by allowing clearer debates on diagnostic criteria, effective intervention, etc.;
 - Effective prevalence research by overcoming the current dilemma of inconsistent and variable terms used in such work
 - The development of structurally-sound taxonomies of communication disorders.