McDougall Receives Engineering Award

By W. Ed Hammond, PhD, Chair of the HL7 Advisory Committee, Technical Committee Vice Chair and Chair-Elect

It is likely that most HL7 members are not aware that Mark McDougall's college degree is in industrial engineering (known as management engineering in healthcare) from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Before he made a career switch to association management, he worked as a management engineer and consultant conducting operational audits, staffing studies, and productivity improvement studies in hospital departments throughout the Chicago area. He also served as an information technology consultant helping hospitals throughout the country develop strategic IT plans, as well as with vendor selection and implementation projects.

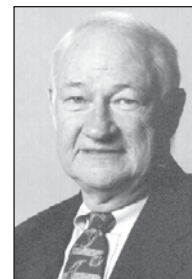His career move to association management included work at the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS), the College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME), the Microsoft Healthcare Users Group (MS-HUG), the Coalition for Healthcare eStandards (CHeS), and during the last fifteen years, with Health Level Seven (HL7).

The College of Engineering at the University of Wisconsin – Madison has produced tens of thousands of engineering graduates. For the last fifty-nine years, the College of Engineering has presented distinguished achievement awards to eight alumni each year. On October 13, 2006, Mark McDougall received the 2006 College of Engineering Distinguished Achievement Award, a recognition reserved for engineering graduates at least twenty years after they received their degree, who have achieved notable success and have made signification contributions to their fields. Vetted

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by a faculty and staff review group, the awardees and their efforts offer substantial evidence of the ways in which engineering helps to improve society. Mark is the first graduate of the BS Industrial Engineering program to receive this award.

As noted by UW College of Engineering Professor Patricia Flatley Brennan, RN, PhD, "For over twenty years, Mark McDougall has applied engineering process improvement strategies to the challenges of healthcare information systems, first as an industry consultant, and later through the leadership in some of the most important professional societies that shape the emergence of information technology resources for healthcare. Mark's real contributions are in blending the business process strategies to ensure a functional organizational structure and the interpersonal acumen required to create consensus-based standards for information technology."

On behalf of the HL7 Board of Directors, we are delighted to see Mark's talents and contributions to the healthcare information technology field recognized by his institution. We congratulate Mark on this landmark achievement. We, in HL7, are fortunate to enjoy the benefits of his leadership.

University of Wisconsin's Dean of the College of Engineering, Paul Peercy, presents Mark McDougall with a Distinguished Achievement Award during this year's Engineers' Day Banquet.