January 2015 was an exciting month for the International Dysphagia Diet Standardisation Initiative. A group of committee members met in Vancouver, Canada to draft the framework for the international dysphagia diet standards. The committee reviewed:

- The findings from our international survey of patients, care providers, health care professionals, food services, researchers and industry
- Existing regional or national standards being used by various countries
- Evidence from the systematic review

After much debate, discussion and product evaluation, the committee was successful in creating a draft framework for the first International Dysphagia Diet Standards.

What was achieved:

- Agreement of number of levels, descriptors and Identification schemes
- Standards that account for the full lifespan and populations
- Consideration for the environment of use (patients, carers, clinicians, food services/catering, and researchers)

The international nature of the project was appreciated in the decision-making process

Next steps....... The names and labels are currently being verified for translation to ensure they are universally understood terms and easy to identify

Watch for the next IDDSI survey and provide input!