

Former USAN Director Joins BI/DSI Experts



Sophia V. Fuerst
M.S., M.B.A.
DSI, USAN/INN
Managing Director

Ms. Fuerst has an impressive history with regulatory agencies. As prior Director of the United States Adopted Names (USAN) Program and Secretary of the USAN Council, Ms. Fuerst was responsible for a specifically organized effort directed at producing simple, informative, and unique non-proprietary names for drugs, (as well as other related agents), based on a logical nomenclature classification. Ms. Fuerst came to the American Medical Association (AMA) in 1984 as an Editor for International Drug Names, and joined the USAN staff in 1986 as Assistant Secretary to the USAN Council. She left the USAN Program in late 1999 to become a consultant for the International Nonproprietary Names (INN) Programme at the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva. She was asked to return as Director to the USAN Program in July 2000. Ms. Fuerst is also a member of the American Chemical Society (ACS) Committee on Nomenclature, Terminology, and Symbols. She is also a member of the Cosmetics, Toiletry, and Fragrance Association (CTFA) Nomenclature Committee. She has close liaisons with the Institute for Safe Medications Practices (ISMP), the Safe Medications Practices Consulting (SMPC), the USP, the APhA, the FDA, PhRMA, and many other public and private organizations which consistently keep her abreast of all current developments in the industry.

"There has been an increase in rejections by the USAN Council due to look-alike/sound-alike objections. DSI safety testing can help prevent this in the future."

- **Sophia V. Fuerst M.S., M.B.A.**

Call any of our regional offices to set up an appointment with Sophia Fuerst

Different Names For Drugs

Physicians and other health professionals, patients, researchers, manufacturers, and the public may refer to drugs by several names, including :

- official nonproprietary name – United States Adopted Name (USAN)/International Nonproprietary Name (INN) (sometimes referred to as the generic name)
- proprietary name(s) – brand, trademark, or “invented” name selected by the manufacturer
- trivial (unofficial) name
- chemical name
- code designation(s) – usually alphanumeric, with letters to refer to the manufacturer that assigns the code designation for the drug and numbers to refer to the chemical compound

However, only one drug name, the approved nonproprietary name, is regulated internationally to ensure consistent usage, and no duplication with other drugs. The existence of international nomenclature for pharmaceutical substances is important for clear identification, safe prescribing and dispensing of medicines to patients, and for communication and exchange of information among health care professionals and scientists worldwide.

Difference Between “Generic” and “Nonproprietary”

The USAN/INN identifies a specific pharmaceutical substance or active pharmaceutical ingredient. The USAN/INN is in the public domain and can be used without restriction. It is sometimes referred to colloquially as the **generic name** – however the terms **generic** and **nonproprietary** are not synonymous. **Generic** drugs are formulations of a drug that can be manufactured once a drug is no longer under patent restrictions. **Generic** drugs, as well as proprietary drugs, can be referred to by their **nonproprietary name**.

New Director of the USAN Program



Stephanie C. Shubat, M.B.A. has been appointed as the new Director of the USAN Program. Ms. Shubat has been with the American Medical Association for over 20 years, working in various areas, and became Associate Secretary/Scientist to the USAN Program in 2000.