

# Using the IUPAC International Chemical Identifier standard (InChI) to find information on chemicals

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The main web sites for the IUPAC InChI project are:

<http://www.iupac.org/inchi>

and

<http://www.inchi-trust.org>

5/15&16/2014

Slides are available at <http://www.hellers.com/steve/pub-talks/SIN-5-14.pdf>



# What is InChI ?

**The IUPAC International Chemical Identifier structure representation standard, or InChI, is a non-proprietary, machine-readable string of symbols which enables a computer to represent the compound in a completely unequivocal manner.**

**InChIs are produced by computer from structures drawn on-screen with existing structure drawing software, and the original structure can be regenerated from an InChI with appropriate software.**

**InChI is really just a synonym.**

**[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Chemical\\_Identifier](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Chemical_Identifier)**

# Why InChI? - Too Many Good and Excellent Identifiers (“Standards”)

## Structure diagrams

- various conventions
- contain ‘too much’ information

## Connection Tables/Notations

- MolFiles, SDF, SMILES, ROSDAL, ...

## Pronounceable names (and mostly unpronounceable) and mostly complex names

- IUPAC, CAS 8<sup>th</sup> CI name, CAS 9<sup>th</sup> CI name, trivial, trade, WHO INN, ASK

## (Dumb) Index Numbers

- EINECS, FEMA, DOT, RTECS, CAS, Beilstein, USP, RTECS, EEC, RCRA, NCI, UN, USAN, EC, ChemSpider ID, REACH, MFCD#, ...

**“Standards are like toothbrushes – everyone has one but no one wants to use someone else's.”**

**Phil Bourne, Associate Director for Data Science, NIH**



“No, no, not  
another  
structure  
standard!!!”

# What “*is*” the InChI standard?

The InChI standard programmed into the **algorithm** is an **arbitrary** decision as to how structures are handled. In most cases there is total agreement (e.g., CH<sub>4</sub> - methane). In cases of more complex molecules where there is not agreement among chemists, one representation is chosen. As long as the arbitrarily chosen representation is properly programmed, one will always get the **SAME** result using it – which is what a standard is!

**InChI is plumbing. InChI is an (enabling) tool. It is a means to an end. InChI is a modern enabling technology.**

**For all but small group of chemists developing it, InChI is not something anyone should want to know about.**

**All you want to do is **use** InChI to find information on the web.**

**InChI is helping scientists to do better work and **find/link** to the latest information.**

**InChI is not a replacement for any existing internal structure representations. InChI is in **ADDITION** to what one uses internally. Its value to a scientist is in **FINDING** and **LINKING** information**



**Without InChI, finding something on the Internet is like trying to find the bathroom in a house with 1,000,000 unmarked doors**

**The Internet is like drinking from a fire hydrant;  
InChI will cut it to a faucet drip.**

# The problem with too much information on the Internet: **Lack of integration**

multiple applications  
multiple repositories  
multiple interfaces and protocols

**InChI does not replace any internal, local system pieces. Your language and format remain as is.**

**But even though we communicate around the world in English, there are still over 2,500 language versions of the Bible.**

**As you see on many drug labels “InChI for external use only.”(1) The InChI standard is like universal language -- like English.**

(1) <http://www.macmillandictionary.com/us/dictionary/american/external>

# InChI is for computers

**An InChI string is not directly intelligible to the normal human reader. Like Bar Codes, and InChI QR codes - InChIs are not designed to be read by humans.**

**Or, put another way – never send a human to do a machine's job!**

**Technology is at its best when it is invisible.**

# InChI YouTube Videos

## 1. What on Earth is InChI?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rAnJ5toz26c>

## 2. The Birth of the InChI

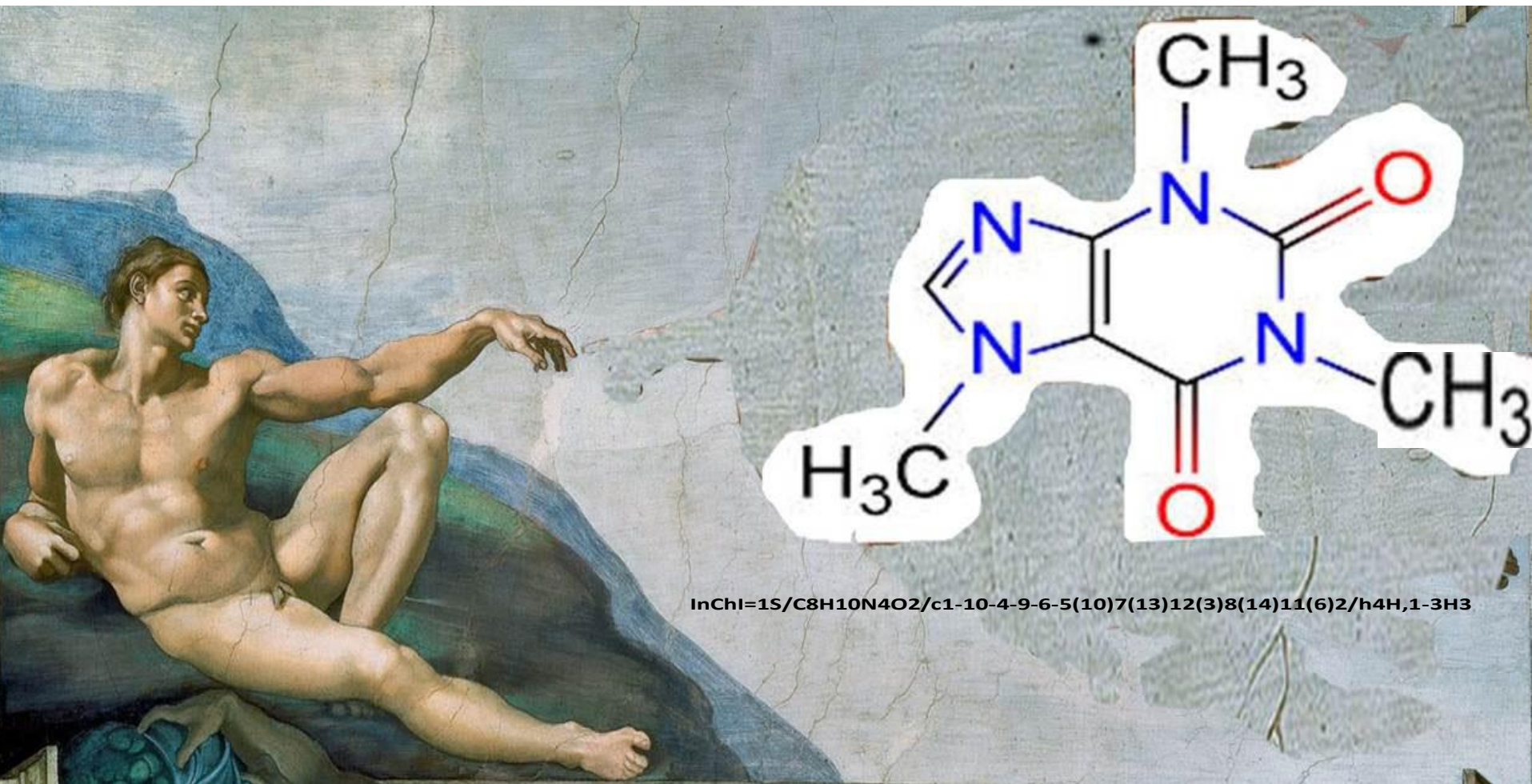
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X9c0PHXPfso>

## 3. The Googlable InChIKey

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UxSNOtv8Rjw>

## 4. InChI and the Islands

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qrCqJ0o4jGs>



**With apologies to Michelangelo -- God created man & man created InChI**

# How do I create an InChI ?

**InChIs are produced by computer from structures drawn on-screen with existing structure drawing software, and the original structure can be regenerated from an InChI with appropriate software.**



## Re: [CHMINF-L] Inchi and chemical databases

You forwarded this message on 9/15/2010 5:37 PM.

CHEMICAL INFORMATION SOURCES DISCUSSION LIST [CHMINF-L@LISTSERV.INDIANA.EDU] on behalf of Ian A Watson

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 15, 2010 3:24 PM

**To:** CHMINF-L@LISTSERV.INDIANA.EDU

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Interesting example of Caffeine smiles on the web site. I was able to generate 172 different smiles for the Caffeine molecule (email me if you'd like them). Presumably each one of these could be a unique smiles in somebody's implementation.

But when I converted each of those 172 different smiles to InChI, I got the exact same InChI string for each one. That's exactly how things are supposed to work. Nice.

Ian Watson



c1(=O)c2c(n(C)c(=O)n1C)ncn2C  
c12c(n(C)c(=O)n(C)c1=O)ncn2C  
O=c1n(C)c(=O)c2c(ncn2C)n1C  
Cn1c2c(nc1)n(C)c(=O)n(C)c2=O  
c12c(ncn1C)n(C)c(=O)n(c2=O)C  
O=c1c2c(ncn2C)n(c(=O)n1C)C  
c12c(n(cn1)C)c(=O)n(C)c(=O)n2C  
Cn1c2c(nc1)n(c(=O)n(c2=O)C)C  
c12c(ncn1C)n(c(=O)n(C)c2=O)C  
c12c(ncn1C)n(C)c(=O)n(C)c2=O  
Cn1c(=O)n(C)c(=O)c2c1ncn2C  
n1(c2c(nc1)n(C)c(=O)n(C)c2=O)C  
c12c(n(C)cn1)c(=O)n(c(=O)n2C)C  
Cn1c(=O)c2c(ncn2C)n(c1=O)C  
n1cn(C)c2c1n(c(=O)n(c2=O)C)C  
n1cn(c2c1n(C)c(=O)n(c2=O)C)C  
c12c(c(=O)n(c(=O)n1C)C)n(C)cn2  
c1nc2c(n1C)c(=O)n(C)c(=O)n2C  
c1(=O)n(C)c(=O)c2c(ncn2C)n1C  
O=c1n(c(=O)c2c(ncn2C)n1C)C  
Cn1cnc2c1c(=O)n(C)c(=O)n2C  
n1(c(=O)n(c(=O)c2c1ncn2C)C)C  
c1(=O)n(C)c(=O)c2c(n1C)ncn2C  
O=c1n(c2c(n(cn2)C)c(=O)n1C)C  
Cn1c2c(n(cn2)C)c(=O)n(c1=O)C  
Cn1c(=O)c2c(n(C)c1=O)C)ncn2C  
Cn1cnc2c1c(=O)n(c(=O)n2C)C  
c1nc2c(c(=O)n(C)c(=O)n2C)n1C  
c12c(ncn1C)n(c(=O)n(c2=O)C)C  
c1nc2c(n1C)c(=O)n(c(=O)n2C)C  
Cn1c2c(n(cn2)C)c(=O)n(C)c1=O  
n1(C)c2c(n(C)c(=O)n(c2=O)C)nc1  
n1(C)c2c(nc1)n(C)c(=O)n(c2=O)C  
n1(c(=O)c2c(n(c1=O)C)ncn2C)C  
n1(c(=O)c2c(n(c1=O)C)ncn2C)C  
n1(c(=O)c2c(n(C)c1=O)ncn2C)C  
Cn1c(=O)n(c2c(c1=O)n(C)cn2)C  
n1(C)c(=O)n(C)c(=O)c2c1ncn2C  
c1(=O)n(c(=O)c2c(ncn2C)n1C)C  
n1(cnc2c1c(=O)n(c(=O)n2C)C)C  
n1(C)c(=O)n(C)c2c(n(cn2)C)c1=O  
n1(c2c(n(cn2)C)c(=O)n(C)c1=O)C  
n1(C)cn2c1c(=O)n(C)c(=O)n2C  
O=c1c2c(n(C)c(=O)n1C)ncn2C  
n1(c2c(nc1)n(c(=O)n(c2=O)C)C)C  
n1(C)c(=O)c2c(n(c1=O)C)ncn2C  
n1(c2c(c(=O)n(C)c1=O)ncn2C)C  
c12c(n(c(=O)n(c1=O)C)C)ncn2C  
n1cn(C)c2c1n(C)c(=O)n(c2=O)C  
c12c(c(=O)n(C)c(=O)n1C)ncn2C  
Cn1c2c(n(C)cn2)c(=O)n(c1=O)C  
n1(c(=O)n(C)c2c(n(cn2)C)c1=O)C  
n1cn(c2c1n(C)c(=O)n(C)c2=O)C  
c1(=O)n(c2c(c(=O)n1C)n(C)cn2)C  
Cn1c(=O)n(c(=O)c2c1ncn2C)C  
O=c1n(c(=O)n(c2c1n(cn2)C)C)C  
n1(c2c(c(=O)n(c1=O)C)ncn2C)C  
c12c(n(cn1)C)c(=O)n(c(=O)n2C)C  
c12c(c(=O)n(C)c(=O)n1C)n(C)cn2  
Cn1c(=O)c2c(n(C)c1=O)ncn2C

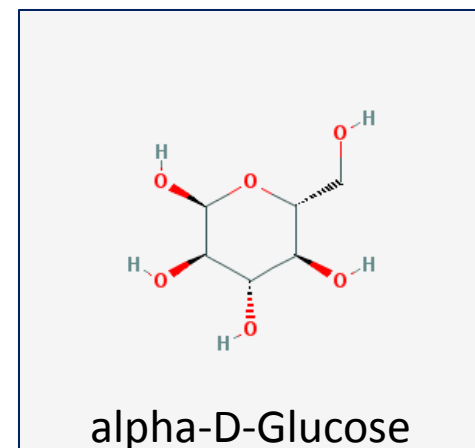
c1(=O)n(C)c2c(n(cn2)C)c(=O)n1C  
O=c1n(C)c2c(c(=O)n1C)n(C)cn2  
n1(C)c2c(c(=O)n(C)c1=O)n(C)cn2  
n1cn(c2c1n(c(=O)n(C)c2=O)C)C  
O=c1n(c(=O)n(C)c2c1n(cn2)C)C  
c1(=O)c2c(nc(=O)n1C)C)ncn2C  
c1(=O)n(c2c(n(cn2)C)c(=O)n1C)C  
Cn1c2c(c(=O)n(c1=O)C)n(cn2)C  
c1(=O)n(c(=O)c2c(n1C)ncn2C)C  
O=c1n(c(=O)c2c(n1C)ncn2C)C  
n1cn(C)c2c1n(c(=O)n(C)c2=O)C  
n1(c(=O)n(C)c2c(c1=O)n(C)cn2)C  
O=c1c2c(ncn2C)n(C)c(=O)n1C  
n1(cnc2c1c(=O)n(C)c(=O)n2C)C  
n1(C)cnc2c1c(=O)n(c(=O)n2C)C  
n1cn(C)c2c1n(C)c(=O)n(C)c2=O  
O=c1n(C)c(=O)n(C)c2c1n(C)cn2  
n1(C)c(=O)n(c2c(c1=O)n(C)cn2)C  
Cn1c(=O)c2c(ncn2C)n(c1=O)C  
n1(c2c(n(cn2)C)c(=O)n(c1=O)C)C  
Cn1c(=O)c2c(n(cn2)C)c(=O)n(C)c1=O  
O=c1n(c2c(c(=O)n1C)n(cn2)C)C  
Cn1c2c(n(C)c(=O)n(C)c2=O)nc1  
n1(c(=O)n(C)c(=O)c2c1ncn2C)C  
O=c1n(C)c2c(n(C)cn2)c(=O)n1C  
n1(C)c2c(n(cn2)C)c(=O)n(C)c1=O  
c1(=O)c2c(ncn2C)n(c(=O)n1C)C  
O=c1n(c2c(c(=O)n1C)n(cn2)C)C  
Cn1c2c(n(C)c(=O)n(C)c2=O)nc1  
Cn1c2c(nc1)n(c(=O)n(C)c2=O)C  
Cn1c2c(n(C)cn2)c(=O)n(C)c1=O  
c12c(n(C)c(=O)n(c1=O)C)ncn2C  
n1(c2c(c(=O)n(c1=O)C)ncn2C)C  
c1(=O)n(C)c(=O)n(c2c1n(cn2)C)C  
n1(c2c(n(C)cn2)c(=O)n(c1=O)C)C  
c1(=O)n(c2c(n(C)cn2)c(=O)n1C)C  
n1(c2c(nc1)n(C)c(=O)n(c2=O)C)C  
Cn1c2c(nc1)n(C)c(=O)n(c2=O)C  
c12c(c(=O)n(c(=O)n1C)C)n(cn2)C  
Cn1c2c(n(c(=O)n(C)c2=O)C)nc1  
c1(=O)n(c(=O)n(C)c2c1n(C)cn2)C  
c1(=O)n(C)c2c(n(C)cn2)c(=O)n1C  
n1(c(=O)c2c(ncn2C)n(C)c1=O)C  
n1(c2c(n(C)c(=O)n(C)c2=O)nc1)C  
O=c1n(c2c(n(C)cn2)c(=O)n1C)C  
c1(=O)n(C)c(=O)n(C)c2c1n(C)cn2  
Cn1c(=O)n(c2c(c1=O)n(cn2)C)C  
n1(c2c(n(c(=O)n(C)c2=O)C)nc1)C  
Cn1c2c(c(=O)n(c1=O)C)n(C)cn2  
c1(=O)n(C)c2c(c(=O)n1C)n(cn2)C  
O=c1n(C)c2c(c(=O)n1C)n(cn2)C  
c1(=O)n(C)c(=O)n(c2c1n(C)cn2)C  
Cn1c(=O)n(C)c2c(n(C)cn2)C  
Cn1c(=O)n(C)c2c(c(=O)n1C)C  
O=c1n(C)c(=O)n(C)c2c1n(cn2)C  
c1(=O)n(C)c2c(c(=O)n1C)n(C)cn2  
c1(=O)n(c(=O)n(C)c2c1n(cn2)C)C  
n1(C)c(=O)c2c(ncn2C)n(C)c1=O  
Cn1c(=O)n(c2c(ncn2C)n(C)c1=O)C

O=c1c2c(n(c(=O)n1C)C)ncn2C  
O=c1n(C)c2c(n(cn2)C)c(=O)n1C  
n1(C)c(=O)n(c2c(n(C)cn2)c1=O)C  
n1(C)c2c(c(=O)n(c1=O)C)n(cn2)C  
Cn1c2c(c(=O)n(C)c1=O)n(C)cn2  
c1(=O)n(c2c(c(=O)n1C)n(cn2)C)C  
n1(c2c(n(C)c(=O)n(c2=O)C)nc1)C  
n1(c2c(c(=O)n(C)c1=O)n(C)cn2)C  
n1(C)c(=O)c2c(ncn2C)n(c1=O)C  
Cn1c(=O)n(C)c2c(n(cn2)C)c1=O  
O=c1n(C)c(=O)c2c(n1C)ncn2C  
n1(c(=O)n(c2c(c1=O)n(cn2)C)C)C  
O=c1n(c(=O)n(C)c2c1n(cn2)C)C  
n1(C)c(=O)n(c2c(n(cn2)C)c1=O)C  
n1(c(=O)n(C)c2c(n(C)cn2)c1=O)C  
c1(=O)n(C)c(=O)n(C)c2c1n(cn2)C  
Cn1(c(=O)n(C)c2c(c1=O)n(cn2)C)C  
O=c1n(C)c(=O)n(c2c1n(cn2)C)C  
O1(c(=O)c2c(ncn2C)n(c1=O)C)C  
c1(=O)c2c(ncn2C)n(C)c(=O)n1C  
Cn1c2c(n(C)c(=O)n(c2=O)C)nc1  
n1(C)c(=O)c2c(n(C)c1=O)ncn2C  
n1(C)c(=O)n(C)c2c(c1=O)n(C)cn2  
Cn1c2c(c(=O)n(C)c1=O)n(cn2)C  
n1(C)c(=O)n(C)c2c(n(C)cn2)c1=O  
n1(c2c(n(C)cn2)c(=O)n(C)c1=O)C  
n1(C)c(=O)n(c(=O)c2c1ncn2C)C  
c1(=O)n(c(=O)n(c2c1n(cn2)C)C)C  
c1(=O)n(c(=O)n(c2c1n(C)cn2)C)C  
n1(C)c2c(nc1)n(c(=O)n(C)c2=O)C  
Cn1c(=O)n(C)c2c(c1=O)n(C)cn2  
O=c1n(c2c(c(=O)n1C)C)ncn2C  
n1(C)c2c(n(c(=O)n(c2=O)C)C)nc1  
n1(C)c(=O)n(C)c2c(c1=O)n(cn2)C  
n1(C)c2c(nc1)n(C)c(=O)n(C)c2=O  
n1(C)c2c(n(cn2)C)c(=O)n(c1=O)C  
n1(C)c(=O)n(c2c(c1=O)n(cn2)C)C  
n1(C)c2c(c(=O)n(C)c1=O)n(cn2)C  
n1(c(=O)n(c2c(n(C)cn2)c1=O)C)C  
n1(c(=O)n(c2c(c1=O)n(C)cn2)C)C  
n1(C)c2c(n(C)cn2)c(=O)n(C)c1=O  
n1(C)c2c(c(=O)n(c1=O)C)ncn2  
n1(C)c2c(n(c(=O)n(C)c2=O)C)nc1  
n1(C)c2c(nc1)n(c(=O)n(c2=O)C)C

# What about SMILES as a standard?

C([C@@H]1[C@H]([C@@H]([C@H]([C@H](O1)O)O)O)O)O

- **SMILES is a popular line notation**
  - But not a published standard
- **Every vendor has its own implementation**
  - Differences in aromaticity models can lead to structure corruption
- **Cannot reliably compare strings**
  - Different software packages can make different strings for same structure
- **No structure normalization**
  - Different structural representations can yield different strings



**Too many “standards” actually  
slow things down and make  
getting to the information you  
want and need take a lot longer  
time and effort than it would take  
with InChI**





**E Pluribus Unum**  
**Out of many, One**



**InChI**

**172 SMILES representations**

**InChI** is the worst computer readable structure representation except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time.

**With apologies to Sir Winston Churchill  
(House of Commons speech on Nov. 11, 1947)**

# InChI Characteristics

1. Easy to generate (It will use existing software.)
2. Expressive (It will contain structural information.)
3. Unique/Unambiguous
4. Easy to search for structure via Internet search engines (Google, Yahoo, Bing, Blekko etc.) using the InChI (hash) Key.

# InChI as a web index for molecules

**“We have now discovered, serendipitously, that these InChIs have been comprehensively and accurately indexed by the Google search engine. From preliminary exploration it appears that every known document in which an InChI appears has been indexed and that all are retrievable by standard queries with virtually 100% precision. This means that standard Web-based indexers, without any alteration, are capable of acting as completely precise chemical search engines. Although we have many years of developing chemistry on the web, this was an unexpected and very welcome finding”**

**Murray-Rust et al. 2004 <http://lists.w3.org/Archives/Public/public-swls-ws/2004Oct/att-0019/>**



# Where are InChIs?

**PubChem ~ 50 million**

**ChemSpider ~ 30 million**

**Reaxys ~ 30 million**

**PubChem from patents (all sources) ~ 15 million**

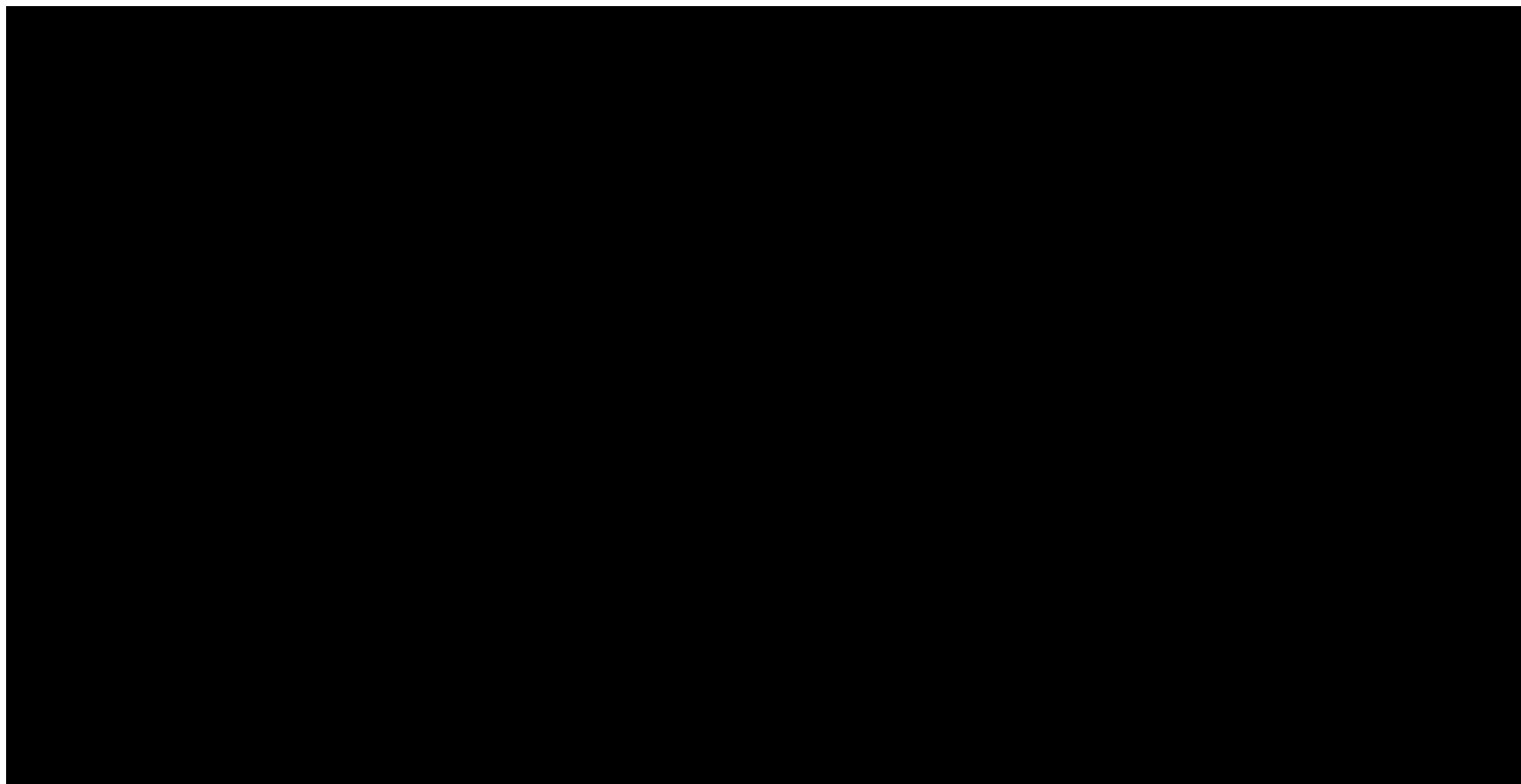
**PubChem journal sources (PubMed + ChEMBL) ~ 1 million**

**SciFinder ~ 60 million (estimated as input for searches)**

**Web sources outside the above (no idea)**

**Chris Southan BioIT 2014 lecture**

# The Googleable InChIKey



**InChI is an international computer readable standard not just for chemists, but rather has very wide technical and non-technical use for **linking** and connecting information in many areas of scientific and everyday activities - -**

abstracting services  
biochemistry  
biology/genomics databases  
bio-activity databases  
books  
chemical biology  
chemical spills  
chemistry databases  
clinical trials  
company annual reports  
drug discovery  
drug information  
drug overdoses  
electronic books  
environmental information  
food additives  
lawsuits  
magazines  
medicinal chemistry  
medical information  
medical records  
metabolomics  
newspapers  
patents  
packages/bottles/transportation labels/ everyday product labels  
pharmacology  
scientific journals  
toxicology  
toxicological information



# Using InChI to link to information

# InChI characteristics

**Consensus**

**Technical competence**

**Political and technical cooperation**

**Precompetitive collaboration**

**No competition with commercial products**

**No mission creep**

**IUPAC blessing/endorsement & rapid IUPAC acceptance**

**Excellent understanding of what the Internet and how it can be effectively used in Chemical Information**

***Vision of the future***

**While InChI is an Open Source, public domain, system for creating a unique computer-readable identifier (“name”) it is NOT a registry system. InChI’s are created only by those who choose to adopt and use the **algorithm**. Registry systems which index the literature are complementary to any InChI databases that anyone creates. Of course if one wants to create a chemical registration system, InChI along with other notations can be used.**

# Critical words/phrases for InChI

**Link**

**Addition; not replacement**

**Algorithm**

**Synonym**

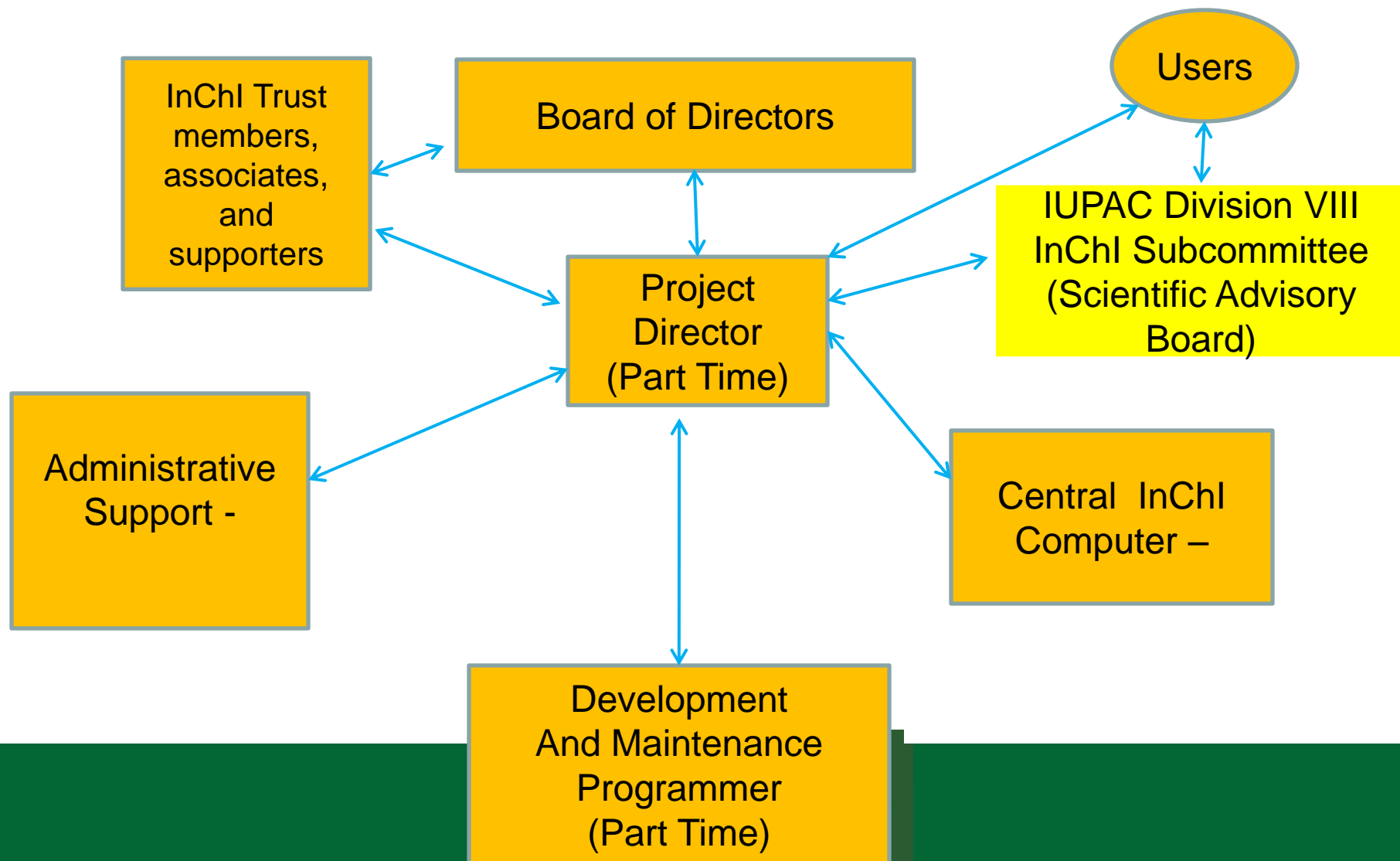
**No bureaucracy**

# The InChI Trust

**To function and succeed, InChI had to become personality independent. InChI had to be “institutionalized”. If the work of this project was to be enduring it needed to be turned over to an entity that would ensure its ongoing activities and be acceptable to the community. It was concluded that a not-for-profit organization would best fit the ongoing and future project needs. Thus the decision to create and incorporate the "InChI Trust" as a UK charity.**



# InChI Trust Organization



**Total number of Members,  
Associate Members, and (non  
paying) Supporters ~60**

**(Please consider joining !!)**

# InChI Staff and Collaborators

**The InChI project has had the unusual perfect “good storm” of cooperation and support. It is a truly international project with programming in Moscow, computers in the cloud, incorporated in the UK, and a project director in the USA. Collaborators from over a dozen countries, from academia, Pharma, publishers, and the chemical information industry, have all offered senior scientific staff to develop the InChI standard.**

## Why InChI is a success

1. Organizations need a structure representation for their content (databases, journals, chemicals for sale, products, and so on) so that their content can be **LINKED** to and combined with other content on the Internet. InChI provides an excellent ROI (return on investment). InChI increases productivity!
2. InChI is a public domain **algorithm** that anyone, anywhere can freely use. And they sure use it!

**Success is uncoerced adoption**

# Bypassing IUPAC procedures

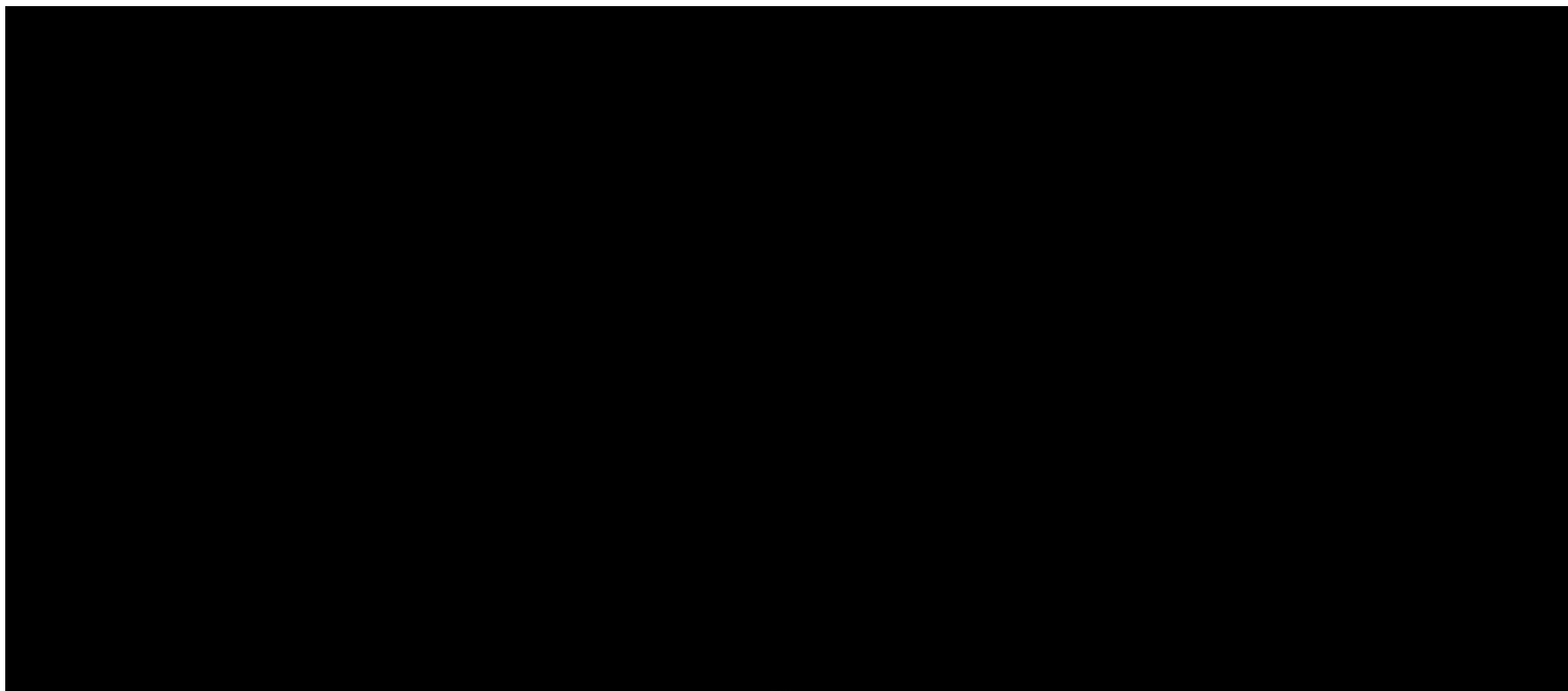
**The usual very, lengthy IUPAC approval process was hijacked and sped up by sending the IUPAC bureaucracy, not a white paper with InChI rules, but rather unreadable and unintelligible C code.**

## How did InChI succeed?

**This project was the perfect “good” storm. The project came about in 1999 when Steve Heller retired and his wife threatened him with divorce unless he found some to do. (Yes, behind every successful project is a woman.) IUPAC discovered that nomenclature was for 20<sup>th</sup>, not 21<sup>st</sup> century. NIST, the US standards agency, needed a way to represent and link the structures from its standard property databases. The Internet (web 2.0) was taking off enabling silos and islands of information to be linked and searched if only there was a linking element.**

**Publishers and database producers realized their information would be more valuable (i.e., they could sell more to more people) if only there was a way to link chemical structures from all the diverse resources on the Internet. With no funds to support the project, IUPAC needed the private sector to pay for the short and long term project needs. Lastly, the decentralized structure and hands-off management of the project enabled all the expert egos to be satisfied by putting everyone in charge of what they do best and giving them the final say - allowing for proper, scientific, bottom-up decisions.**

# Introduction to InChI video



# InChI layered structure design

The current InChI layers are:

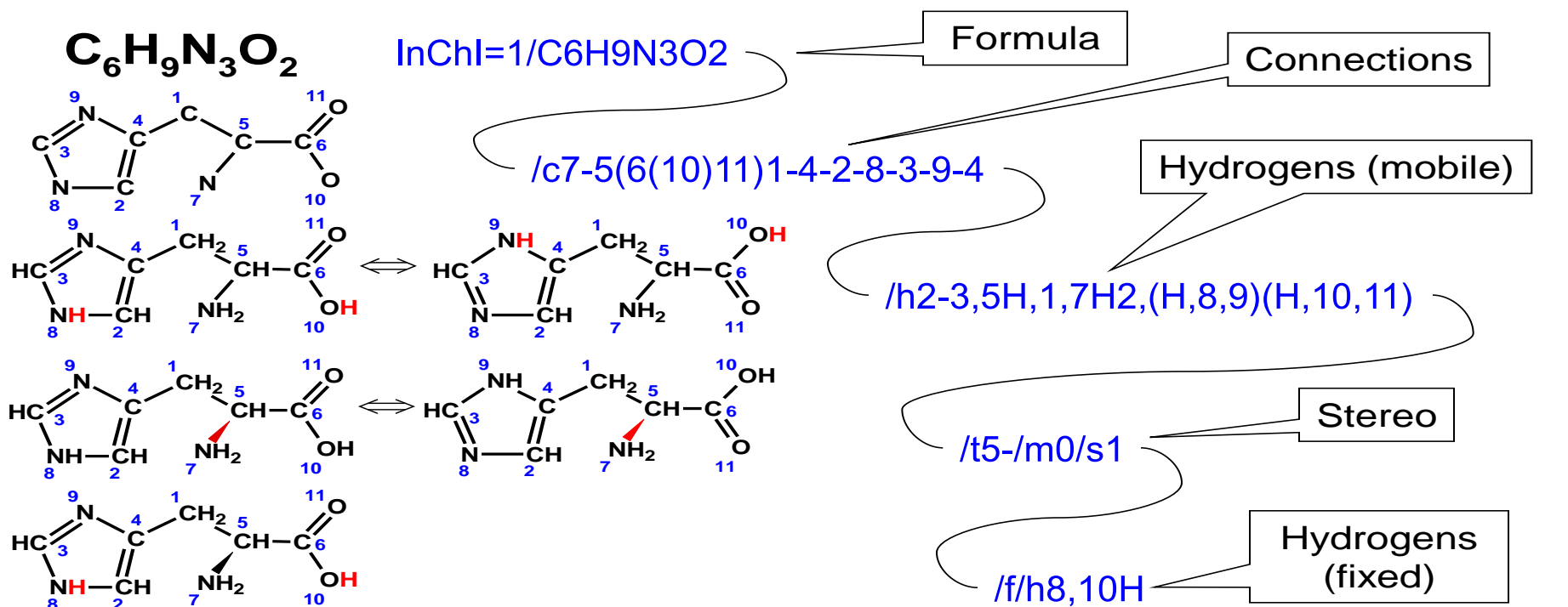
1. Formula
2. Connectivity (no formal bond orders)
  - a. disconnected metals
  - b. connected metals
3. Isotopes
4. Stereochemistry
  - a. double bond (*Z/E*)
  - b. tetrahedral (*sp*<sup>3</sup>)
5. Tautomers (on or off)

Charges are added to end of the string

The InChI Algorithm normalizes chemical representation and includes a “standardized” InChI, and the ‘hashed’ form called the InChIKey

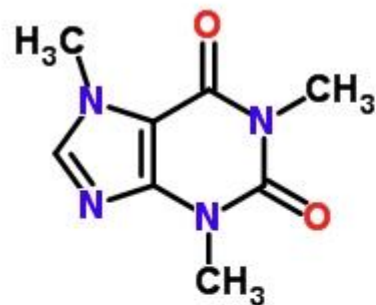


# InChI Layers: L-Histidine



**InChI=1/C6H9N3O2/c7-5(6(10)11)1-4-2-8-3-9-4/h2-3,5H,1,7H2,(H,8,9)(H,10,11)/t5-/m0/s1/f/h8,10H**

**InChIKey=HNDVDQJCIGZPNO-QLMCEAFFNA-N**      **InChIKey=HNDVDQJCIGZPNO-YFKPBYRVSA-N**



? 2D 3D Save Zoom

## Caffeine

ChemSpider ID: **2424**

Molecular Formula:  $C_8H_{10}N_4O_2$

Average mass: 194.190598 Da

Monoisotopic mass: 194.080383 Da

▼ Systematic name

1,3,7-Trimethyl-3,7-dihydro-1H-purine-2,6-dione

▼ SMILES and InChIs

### SMILES:

Cn1cnc2c1c(=O)n(c(=O)n2C)C

Copy

### Std. InChI:

InChI=1S/C8H10N4O2/c1-10-4-9-6-5(10)7(13)12(3)8(14)11(6)2/h4H,1-3H3

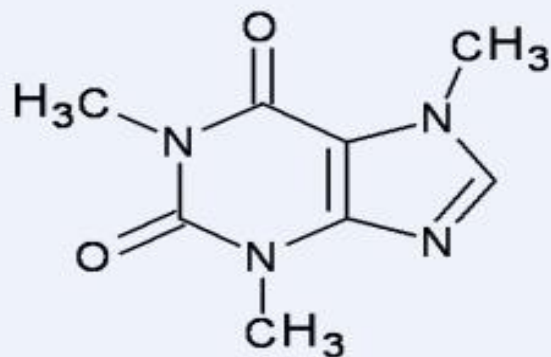
Copy

### Std. InChIKey:

RYYVLZVUVIJVGH-UHFFFAOYSA-N

Copy

**Caffeine from ChemSpider database**



InChI=1S/C8H10N4O2/c1-10-4-9-6-5(10)7(13)12(3)8(14)11(6)2/h4H.1-3H3 (caffeine)

InChIKey=RYYVLZVUVIJVGH-UHFFFAOYSA-N

character indicating the number of protons  
(‘N’ means neutral)

flag character for InChI version:  
‘A’ for version 1

flag character (‘S’) indicates  
standard InChIKey (produced out  
of standard InChI)

Second block (8 letters)

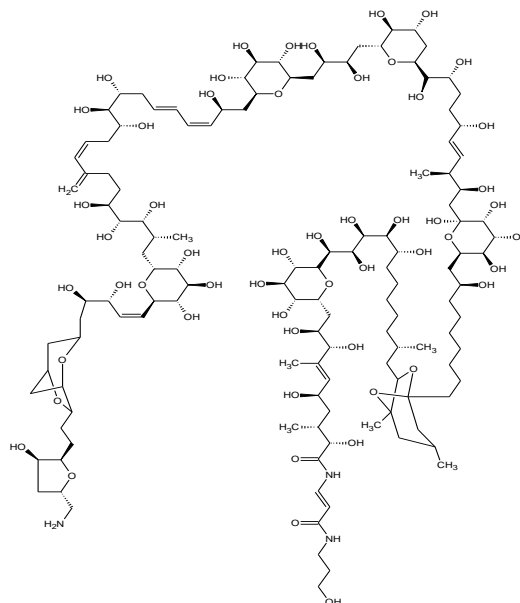
Encodes stereochemistry and isotopes

First block (14 letters)

Encodes molecular skeleton  
(connectivity)

InChI TRUST

# Really long InChI (Palytoxin)



## **Palytoxin**

Isolated from Hawaiian soft coral

One of the most toxic non-peptide substances

Contains >70 stereochemical elements

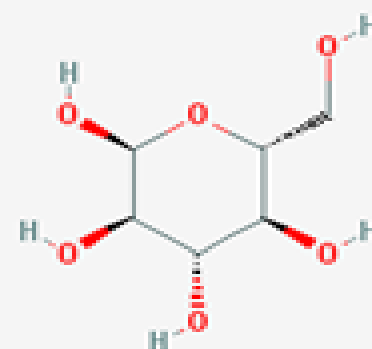
InChI=1S/C129H223N3O54/c1-62(29-33-81(143)108(158)103(153)68(7)47-93-111(161)117(167)110(160)91(180-93)36-35-76(138)82(144)51-73-50-74-53-92(178-73)90(177-74)38-37-89-85(147)52-75(61-130)179-89)23-20-28-78(140)105(155)77(139)26-18-13-16-25-70(135)48-94-112(162)118(168)113(163)97(181-94)55-84(146)83(145)54-95-107(15)7)87(149)57-96(182-95)106(156)80(142)34-32-69(134)31-30-65(4)88(150)60-129(176)125(174)123(173)115(165)99(184-129)49-71(136)24-15-10-9-11-19-40-128-59-64(3)58-127(8,186-128)100(185-128)44-63(2)22-14-12-17-27-79(14)1)109(159)116(166)120(170)122(172)124-121(171)119(169)114(164)98(183-124)56-86(148)102(152)66(5)45-72(137)46-67(6)104(154)126(175)132-42-39-101(151)131-41-21-43-133/h13,16,18,20,23,25,30-31,35-36,39,42,45,63-65,67-100,102-125,133-150,152-174,176H,1,9-12,14-15,17,19,21-22,24,26-29,32-34,37-38,40-41,43-44,46-61,130H2,2-8H3,(H,131,151)(H,132,175)/b18-13+,23-20-,25-16-,31-30+,36-35-,42-39+,66-45+/t63-,64?,65-,67+,68+,69+,70+,71-,72-,73?,74?,75-,76+,77+,78+,79+,80+,81-,82+,83+,84+,85+,86-,87+,88-,89+,90?,91+,92?,93+,94-,95+,96-,97+,98+,99+,100?,102+,103+,104-,105-,106?,107-,108+,109-,110+,111-,112-,113+,114-,115-,116-,117-,118+,119+,120+,121-,122-,123+,124?,125+,127?,128?,129-/m0/s1

InChIKey=CWODDUGJZSCNGB-DCBUCRFRSA-N

# InChI is a string

InChI=**1**S/**C6H12O6**/**c7-1-2-**  
**3(8)4(9)5(10)6(11)12-2**/**h2-11H,1H2**/**t2-**  
**,3-,4+,5-,6+/m1/s1**

Version/Type  
 Chemical formula  
 Connectivity  
 Charge/Proton  
 Stereochemical  
 Other (e.g., Isotopic)



alpha-D-Glucose

“layered” line notation

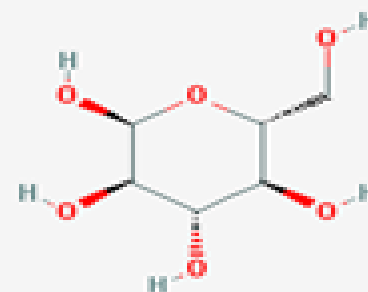
# InChIKey is a “hashed” InChI

- Search engine friendly InChI
- May allow for ‘secure’ lookup of a chemical

WQZGKKKJIJFFOK-DVKNGEFBSA-N

Chemical formula  
Connectivity  
Stereochemical  
Other (e.g., Isotopic)  
Type  
Version  
Charge/Proton

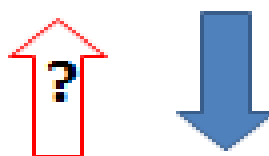
“layered” line notation



alpha-D-Glucose

# InChIKey can be a 'secret'

InChI=**1**S/C**6**H**12**O**6**/c7-1-2-3(8)4(9)5(10)6(11)12-  
2/h2-11H,1H2/t2-,3-,4+,5-,6+/m1/s1



WQZGKKKJIJFFOK-DVKNGEFBS**A**-N

There is no chemical information in an InChIKey ... if you do not know the InChI, you cannot convert the InChIKey back into a chemical structure

Slide from Evan Bolton/NIH/PubChem

# QA/QC - InChI Certification Suite

**The InChI certification suite is a software package designed to check that your installation of the InChI program has been performed correctly. The programs test your installation against a broad set of structures (which are provided with the Suite) to assure the InChIs and InChIKeys are correct and valid. Only this way is it possible to know that the InChIs have been generated properly and consistently.**

**Unlike other Trust products (software and documentation) the Certification Suite is NOT free, except to members and supporters who use for non-commercial activities. It costs \$5,000 per year.**



# Current IUPAC Working Groups & Projects

## **In Progress:**

Organometallics  
InChI Resolver

## **Completed:**

Revised FAQ's from Cambridge- Nick Day/Peter Murray-Rust  
InChI Certification Suite  
Version 1.04 released – 9/11  
Markush (contract to be signed when funded)  
Polymers/Mixtures  
RInChI – InChI for Reactions (contract to be signed when funded)  
New API

## **Started/To be started in 2013/2014:**

Electronic/Excited States  
QR codes for InChI  
InChI teaching/educational materials  
Large Molecules/Biopolymers/Macromolecules  
Material Science (MGI – Materials Genome Initiative)  
Inorganics  
Crystal/3D structures  
Redesign of Handling of Tautomerism

# The Future

**InChI has become mainstream for publishers, databases providers, and software developers. Over the next 5-10 years, publishers will use data mining to create both better abstracts, useful indexing, and concept terms. Search engines will be able to search for appropriate text and structures and direct users to the original (fee or free/Open Access/Open Data) sources.**

# Summary

**If you are not part of the  
solution; you are part of the  
precipitate**

# Acknowledgements

(Primarily members for the IUPAC InChI subcommittee and associated InChI working groups)

**Steve Bachrach, Colin Batchelor, John Barnard , Evan Bolton, Steve Boyer, Steve Bryant, Szabolcs Csepregi, Rene Deplanque, Jeremy Frey, Nicko Goncharoff, Jonathan Goodman, Guenter Grethe, Richard Hartshorn, Jaroslav Kahovec , Richard Kidd, Hans Kraut, Alexander Lawson , Peter Linstrom, Gary Mallard , Bill Milne, Gerry Moss, Peter Murray-Rust, Heike Nau , Marc Nicklaus, Carmen Nitsche, Matthias Nolte , Igor Pletnev, Josep Prous, Peter Murray-Rust, Hinnerk Rey, Ulrich Roessler, Roger Schenck , Martin Schmidt, Steve Stein, Peter Shepherd, Markus Sitzmann, Chris Steinbeck, Keith Taylor, Dmitrii Tchekhovskoi, Bill Town, Wendy Warr, Jason Wilde, Tony Williams, Andrey Yerin.**

**Special Acknowledgement: Ted Becker& Alan McNaught for their vision and leadership of the future of IUPAC nomenclature.**

# Have any questions?

If you think of a question later, email me:

[steve@inchi-trust.org](mailto:steve@inchi-trust.org)

