NLM Office Hours: Special Listening Session
January 18, 2023
Agenda

Topics:
• Process Review
  – Highlights of 2023 MeSH Changes
  – MeSH Production Process
• Customer Engagement
Welcome

Dianne Babski
Associate Director, Library Operations
National Library of Medicine
Why we are here and why MeSH vocabulary matters
Process Review

Dan-Sung Cho
Content Lead & Project Coordinator, MeSH
National Library of Medicine
Where MeSH changes come from:

- The literature and evolving science
- NIH/HHS priorities
- Users via MeSH Suggestions

CoronavirusStaffQuery@od.nih.gov
NLMTownHall@mail.nih.gov
Component Update Cycles

- Major heading (MH) descriptors and subheadings (SH) are updated or released **annually**
- Supplementary Concept Records (SCRs) are created **daily** and distributed nightly Monday through Thursday
- Users access MeSH data using web interfaces or receiving downloadable data sets in XML, ASCII, MARC 21, and RDF from the NLM Data Distribution Program
Review Process Principle

- 700 annual submissions
- Seven review meetings throughout the annual MeSH production cycle
- Review feedback and requests
- Each MeSH request is assigned to a staff member, who drafts recommendations for review by the MeSH Team
Do We Need It?

Does it have high posting in PubMed?

- 100 or more occurrences in **titles** of MEDLINE-indexed articles, *or*
- 20 or more recent occurrences in the last 5-10 years *and* significantly increasing
- Not a fad—multiple occurrences in recent years
- Not only in one journal or by a single set of authors
- Not only in a restricted, narrow field
- High for a commonly occurring disease
Other Updates to MeSH terms

MeSH works on special projects to harmonize data and represent underserved domains.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recent Projects:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Office of Rare Disease Research (ORDR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Medicinal Plants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• NCBI Taxonomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ethnic Minorities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outstanding Projects:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Population Minority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Patient-Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Anatomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Brain Research Through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies ® (BRAIN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Space Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Other Term [OT]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Highlights of 2023 MeSH Changes

• Promoted term: Long COVID to Post-Acute COVID-19 Syndrome
• Re-structuring and re-naming to keep up with science
  – Example: "Lactobacillus salivarius" changed to "Ligilactobacillus salivarius"
  – Example: Adjustments under "Aneurysm"
• New and revised terms for Population Groups
• New terms for 1,700+ tribal nations and ethnic communities

For more detailed information, see the recording of the 2023 MeSH Highlights webinar
2023 MeSH Population Groups

- African People +
- Asian People +
- Black People +
- Caribbean People +
- Central American People +
- European People +
- Middle Eastern and North Africans +
- North American People +
- Oceanians +
- South American People +
- White People +
MeSH Addition of Minority Terms

**Early Inclusion of Broad Spectrum of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs):**
- NIH scientists and researchers
- Librarians (NNLM)
- Scientists and Researchers outside

**Term Selection:**
- Primary Sources: Trusted/Familiar Sources
  - State Department
  - Census Bureau
  - Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
- Exclusion of terms: derogatory, caste, etc.
- Adoption of “people” ending
- Inclusion of self-described terms
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Continent</th>
<th># Type 5 SCR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia (Oceania)</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>798</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South America</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antarctica</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total (some terms have multiple HM)</td>
<td>1804</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

Request was made by the Australian Library & Australian Indigenous Communities via Journal of Health Information and Libraries Australasia (JHILA)

---

MeSH and Australian Indigenous Communities

The Australian Library & Australian Indigenous Communities urge the U.S. National Library of Medicine to update their MeSH term to reflect the Australian Indigenous population.

(National Library of Medicine response is included at the end of this article).

---

Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

The two groups of indigenous aboriginal peoples of Australia. They include Aboriginal Australians and Torres Strait Islanders. These are two distinct peoples with unique histories, languages, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs.

Year introduced: 2023
What's New in MeSH: Changes to MeSH in Progress

Dental Staff  
Dentistry, Operative  
Dexmedetomidine  
Diet, Plant-Based  
Dietary Approaches To Stop Hypertension  
Dietary Patterns  
Disability Nursing  
Disaster Planning  
Distance Counseling  
DOM 2,5-Dimethoxy-4-Methylamphetamine  
Endovascular Aneurysm Repair  
Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transition  
Erythrocytes  
Fluoroblation  
Granulocyte Colony-Stimulating Factor  
Histiocytosis, Langerhans Cell  
Immune System Exhaustion  
Immunoinformatics  
Inferior Olive Complex  
Influenza A H1N1, Variant Virus  
Intestinal Barrier Function  
Iodides  
Lysosomal Membrane Proteins  
Medecins Sais Frontieres  
Medicalization  
Melanogenesis  
Meliliosis  
Mental Health Teletherapy  
Microphysiological Systems  
Multimics  
Nicotine Replacement Therapy  
Niemann-Pick Diseases  
Olfactory Degeneration  
Olfactory Nucleus  
Open Waste Burning  
Persian Gulf Syndrome  
Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent  
Phase Separation  
Photomechanical Print  
Physical Distancing  
Physician Engagement
Submit Suggestions to MeSH

- Guidelines for submitting suggestions are available
- Suggestions should be submitted through the NLM Help Desk
We want to hear from you!
Thank you!