

## Recap of MeSH NLM Office Hours Special Listening Session January 18, 2023

On January 18, 2023, NLM welcomed 131 attendees to an online listening session to continue the conversation on how NLM and our users can work together to update the MeSH vocabulary. The session began by sharing highlights of 2023 MeSH changes, describing the MeSH production process, and reviewing how customers submit their ideas and suggestions to Library Operations at NLM.

Dianne Babski, Associate Director of NLM's Division of Library Operations, and Dan Cho, PhD, Content Lead and Project Coordinator for MeSH, opened the session by leading attendees through the MeSH update cycle. They provided high-level updates made since the previous listening session held in June 2022 and an overview of the 2023 MeSH changes including a special focus on updated MeSH population groups and minority terms. This was followed by a review of NLM Customer Service responses to MeSH suggestions and the "Changes to MeSH [Terminology for 2024 \(in Progress\)](#)" listed on What's New in MeSH page. Following these introductory remarks, the floor was opened to hear from the audience. Some points of interest voiced by attendees included:

- Understanding more about criteria and processes for updating MeSH vocabulary and reporting errors,
- Expanding efforts to engage diverse stakeholders outside of NLM, including staffing recommendations and partnering with other federal libraries and agencies, as part of the MeSH update cycle for population groups and minority terms,
- Measuring and evaluating the effectiveness of changes to MeSH terms,
- Improving reporting functionality through publicly available MeSH [data reports](#), and
- Updating terminology regarding obstetrics and persons with disabilities.

NLM reiterated the process for submitting suggestions for updates and stressed the value of including supporting information along with suggestions to help guide the review process. NLM shared that it is developing a new report feature to discover MeSH terms which have moved to a different MeSH tree node locations. NLM acknowledged that continuous updates to MeSH is an ongoing process where they seek input from PubMed/MEDLINE users, stakeholders, and subject matter experts.

### *Ways to Stay Involved*

- Participate in future NLM Office Hours, announced regularly in the NLM Technical Bulletin.
- Continue to share your feedback via [NLM Customer Service](#). When you write to the help desk, use "MeSH Listening Sessions" in the subject line. Please include your e-mail address so NLM can respond to you or follow up if we have more questions.

### *Useful Links*

- Slides and recording from the January 23 MeSH listening session: [https://www.nlm.nih.gov/oet/ed/mesh/2023/nlm-office-hours-special\\_mesh.html](https://www.nlm.nih.gov/oet/ed/mesh/2023/nlm-office-hours-special_mesh.html)
- NLM Customer Service: <https://support.nlm.nih.gov/support/create-case/>
- MeSH 2023 update: <https://datadiscovery.nlm.nih.gov/stories/s/MeSH-2023-Update-Overview/4ekx-rduw/>
- Subscribe to the NLM Technical Bulletin: [https://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/stay\\_current.html](https://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/stay_current.html)