NLM Office Hours
MeSH Listening Session

June 30, 2022

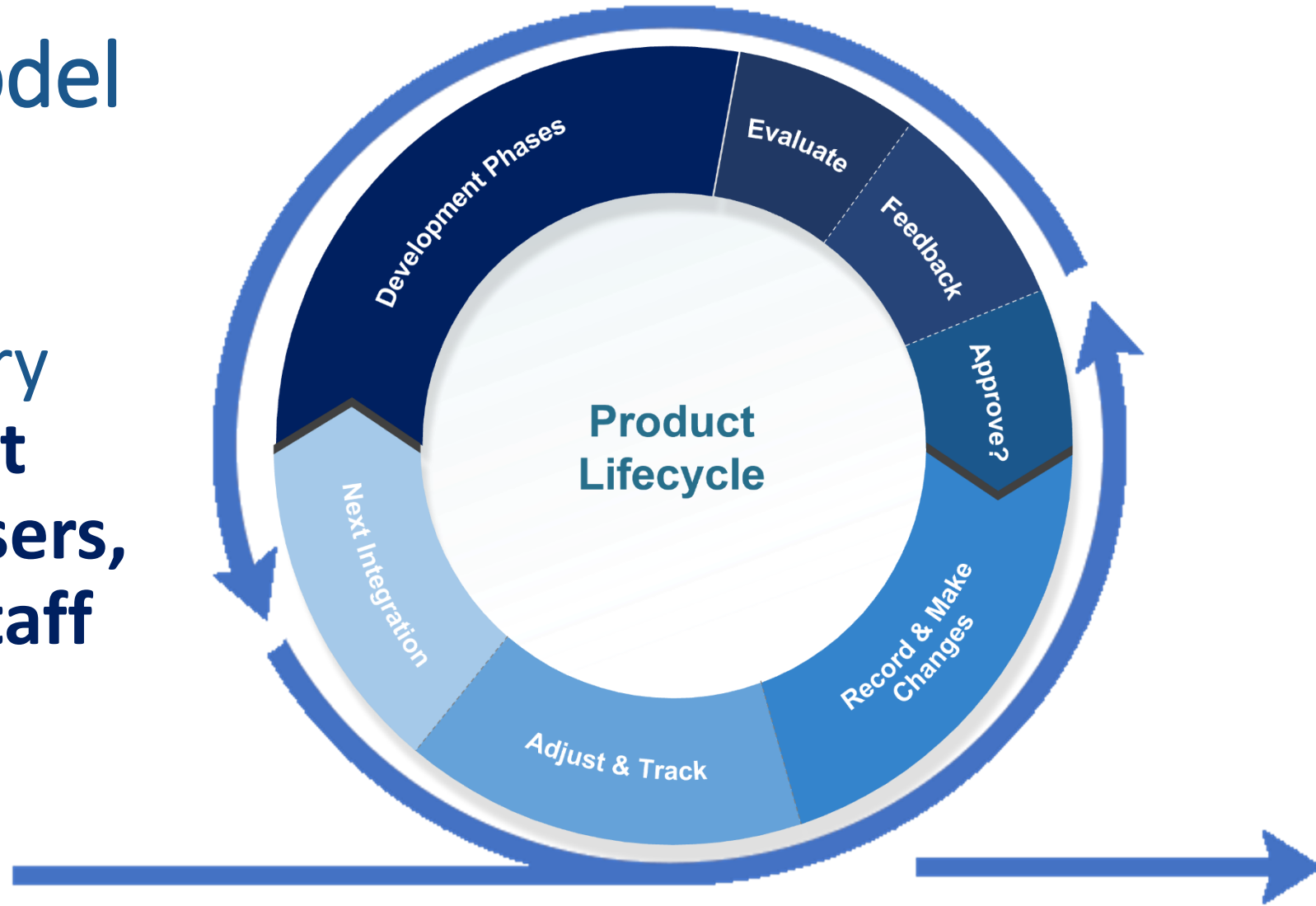National Library of Medicine
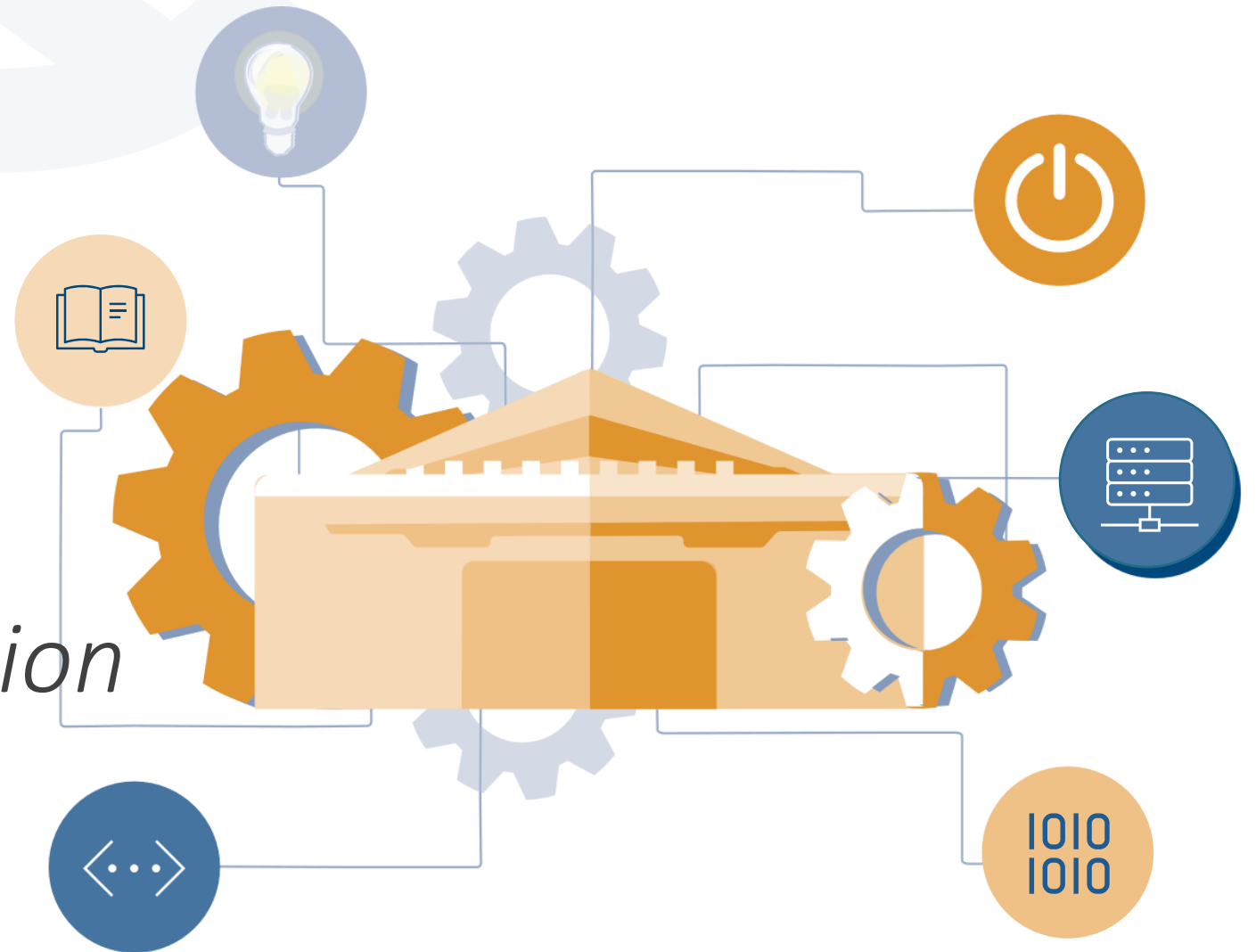
Agenda

- Welcome

- MeSH Product Life Cycle

- Proposed Changes

- Open Forum: Listening to Your Thoughts & Ideas

Our Product Model

Using data and incremental delivery to provide the **best experience for our users, stakeholders, and staff**

MeSH Components

- **30,194 Descriptors** covering topics, publication types, check tags, and geographic regions

- **318,184 SCRs** covering protocols, chemicals, diseases and organisms

- **Subheadings** or "qualifiers"

Component Update Cycles

- Descriptors (MH) and sub-headings (SH) are updated or released **annually** every fall.

- Supplementary Concept Record (SCRs) are created **daily** and distributed nightly Monday-Thursday.

- Users can access MeSH data through Web interfaces or receive downloadable data sets in XML, ASCII, MARC 21, and RDF from the NLM Data Distribution Program.
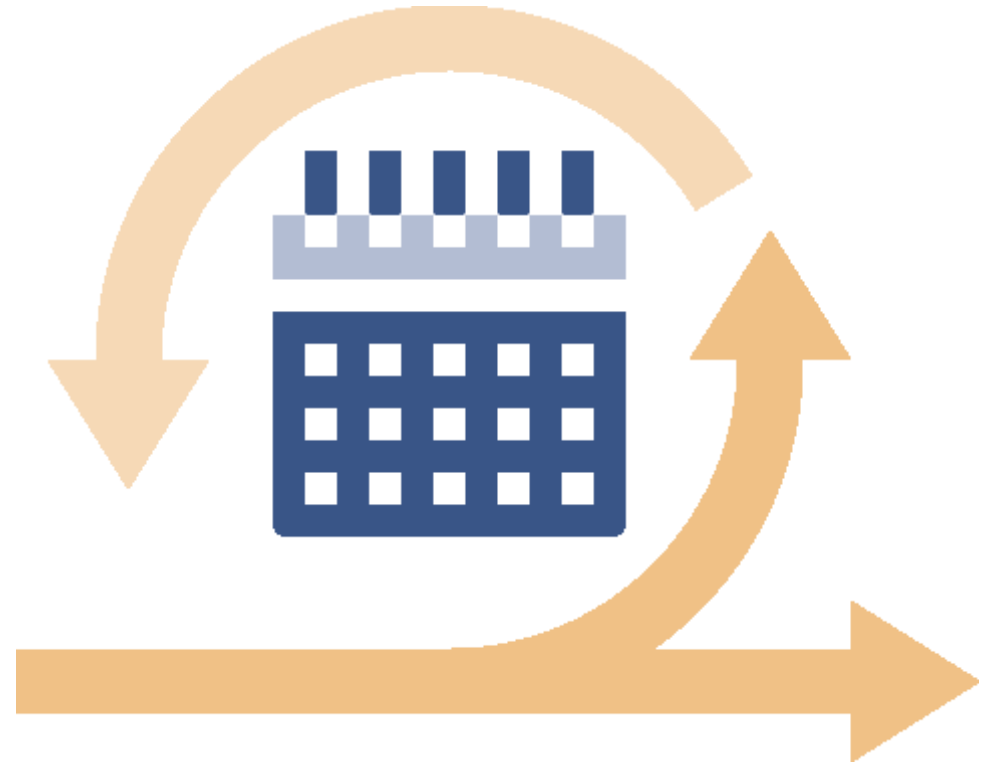
Review Process Principle

- NLM receives approximately **700 submissions** annually.

- **Seven review meetings** are scheduled throughout the annual MeSH production cycle.

- This process includes review of feedback and requests from internal and external stakeholders through MeSH suggestions

- Each MeSH request is assigned to a staff member who drafts recommendations for review by the MeSH Section.

Request received

↓

Request reviewed

↓

Feedback received

↓

Request assigned

↓

Recommendations reviewed

Review Process Principle

- Where there are gaps in knowledge, NLM engages across NIH/other federal agencies.

- The MeSH Section then determines whether to add or modify MeSH vocabulary based on various factors.

- Decision-making during review meetings is consensus-based.

- Updates are made via the MeSH webpage and the NLM Technical Bulletin.

Stakeholders
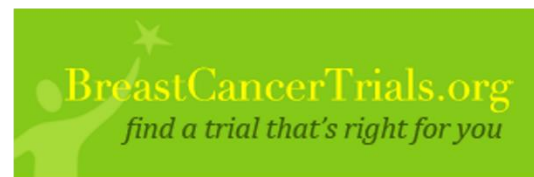
UNITE

U	N	I	T	E
Understanding	New Research	Improving Culture	Transparency	Extramural Research

Proposed Change

DRAFT

Persons [M01]
  Population Groups [M01.686]
    Racial Groups, US [M01.686.508]
      Black or African American [M01.686.508.100]
        African Americans [M01.686.508.100.100]
      American Native Continental Ancestry Group [M01.686.508.150]
      Asians [M01.686.508.200]
      Whites [M01.686.508.400]
      Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander [M01.686.508.600]
    Ethnicity [M01.686.754]
      Hispanic or Latino [M01.686.754.441]

Other Proposed Changes

- Follow OMB updates as they are made public

- Update Scope Notes

- Review online submission process

- Review processes and algorithms for any bias

- Expand listening sessions

DRAFT

Now, we are going to listen to you: What are your thoughts and comments?

Persons [M01]
    Population Groups [M01.686]
        Racial Groups, US [M01.686.508]
           Black or African American [M01.686.508.100]
               African Americans [M01.686.508.100.100]
           American Native Continental Ancestry Group [M01.686.508.150]
           Asians [M01.686.508.200]
           Whites [M01.686.508.400]
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Please continue to provide feedback!

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User Suggestions for Medical Subject Headings
Your Feedback is Welcome!

The NLM Customer Support Center provides a variety of help topics on NLM products. You can also select the Write to the help desk button to submit a request for a change or addition to MeSH vocabulary. Please review the guidelines below to ensure that your request is processed correctly.

MeSH vocabulary suggestions are reviewed for literary warrant and other criteria of usefulness, for reproducibility in use, and for understandability. Our mission is to produce a clear and concise vocabulary that is useful for indexing and retrieval of biomedical literature. Each entry term expression in MeSH is unique and carefully chosen to avoid expressions that are multimeaning. Although MeSH works closely with a variety of NLM departments that provide indexing, citation data, and publications we are not directly involved in these processes and cannot provide answers for questions related to these areas.

Please put "MeSH Listening Sessions" in the Subject Line.

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