

CHILD ADOPTION

A MEDICAL DICTIONARY, BIBLIOGRAPHY,
AND ANNOTATED RESEARCH GUIDE TO
INTERNET REFERENCES



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FORWARD

In March 2001, the National Institutes of Health issued the following warning: "The number of Web sites offering health-related resources grows every day. Many sites provide valuable information, while others may have information that is unreliable or misleading."¹ Furthermore, because of the rapid increase in Internet-based information, many hours can be wasted searching, selecting, and printing. Since only the smallest fraction of information dealing with child adoption is indexed in search engines, such as **www.google.com** or others, a non-systematic approach to Internet research can be not only time consuming, but also incomplete. This book was created for medical professionals, students, and members of the general public who want to know as much as possible about child adoption, using the most advanced research tools available and spending the least amount of time doing so.

In addition to offering a structured and comprehensive bibliography, the pages that follow will tell you where and how to find reliable information covering virtually all topics related to child adoption, from the essentials to the most advanced areas of research. Public, academic, government, and peer-reviewed research studies are emphasized. Various abstracts are reproduced to give you some of the latest official information available to date on child adoption. Abundant guidance is given on how to obtain free-of-charge primary research results via the Internet. **While this book focuses on the field of medicine, when some sources provide access to non-medical information relating to child adoption, these are noted in the text.**

E-book and electronic versions of this book are fully interactive with each of the Internet sites mentioned (clicking on a hyperlink automatically opens your browser to the site indicated). If you are using the hard copy version of this book, you can access a cited Web site by typing the provided Web address directly into your Internet browser. You may find it useful to refer to synonyms or related terms when accessing these Internet databases. **NOTE:** At the time of publication, the Web addresses were functional. However, some links may fail due to URL address changes, which is a common occurrence on the Internet.

For readers unfamiliar with the Internet, detailed instructions are offered on how to access electronic resources. For readers unfamiliar with medical terminology, a comprehensive glossary is provided. For readers without access to Internet resources, a directory of medical libraries, that have or can locate references cited here, is given. We hope these resources will prove useful to the widest possible audience seeking information on child adoption.

The Editors

¹ From the NIH, National Cancer Institute (NCI): <http://www.cancer.gov/cancerinfo/ten-things-to-know>.

CHAPTER 1. STUDIES ON CHILD ADOPTION

Overview

In this chapter, we will show you how to locate peer-reviewed references and studies on child adoption.

Federally Funded Research on Child Adoption

The U.S. Government supports a variety of research studies relating to child adoption. These studies are tracked by the Office of Extramural Research at the National Institutes of Health.² CRISP (Computerized Retrieval of Information on Scientific Projects) is a searchable database of federally funded biomedical research projects conducted at universities, hospitals, and other institutions.

Search the CRISP Web site at http://crisp.cit.nih.gov/crisp/crisp_query.generate_screen. You will have the option to perform targeted searches by various criteria, including geography, date, and topics related to child adoption.

For most of the studies, the agencies reporting into CRISP provide summaries or abstracts. As opposed to clinical trial research using patients, many federally funded studies use animals or simulated models to explore child adoption.

The National Library of Medicine: PubMed

One of the quickest and most comprehensive ways to find academic studies in both English and other languages is to use PubMed, maintained by the National Library of Medicine.³

² Healthcare projects are funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMHSA), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDCP), Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), and Office of Assistant Secretary of Health (OASH).

³ PubMed was developed by the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) at the National Library of Medicine (NLM) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The PubMed database was developed in conjunction with publishers of biomedical literature as a search tool for accessing literature citations and linking to full-text

The advantage of PubMed over previously mentioned sources is that it covers a greater number of domestic and foreign references. It is also free to use. If the publisher has a Web site that offers full text of its journals, PubMed will provide links to that site, as well as to sites offering other related data. User registration, a subscription fee, or some other type of fee may be required to access the full text of articles in some journals.

To generate your own bibliography of studies dealing with child adoption, simply go to the PubMed Web site at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed>. Type "child adoption" (or synonyms) into the search box, and click "Go." The following is the type of output you can expect from PubMed for child adoption (hyperlinks lead to article summaries):

- **Child adoption in the seventeenth century: vignettes from Defoe and Pepys.**
Author(s): Williams AN.
Source: Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine. 2004 January; 97(1): 37-8.
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=14702369
- **Child adoption in the Western Highlands Province of Papua New Guinea.**
Author(s): Peters HR, Kemiki AD, Vince JD.
Source: P N G Med J. 2000 March-June; 43(1-2): 98-104.
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=11407625
- **Child adoption.**
Author(s): Forfar JO.
Source: The Practitioner. 1970 July; 205(225): 51-7.
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=5479577
- **Experiencing infertility--social work dilemmas in child adoption procedures.**
Author(s): Bevc V, Jerman J, Ovsenik R, Ovsenik M.
Source: Coll Antropol. 2003 December; 27(2): 445-60.
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=14746131
- **Families made by science. Arnold Gesell and the technologies of modern child adoption.**
Author(s): Herman E.
Source: Isis; an International Review Devoted to the History of Science and Its Cultural Influences. 2001 December; 92(4): 684-715.
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=11921680
- **Hazards of HBV infection following child adoption.**
Author(s): Chakravarty R, Chakraborty MS.
Source: J Assoc Physicians India. 2001 February; 49: 298. No Abstract Available.
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=11225159

- **The knowledge, attitude and practice of child adoption among infertile Nigerian women.**

Author(s): Ezugwu FO, Obi SN, Onah HE.

Source: Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology : the Journal of the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. 2002 March; 22(2): 211-6.

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=12521712

CHAPTER 2. DISSERTATIONS ON CHILD ADOPTION

Overview

In this chapter, we will give you a bibliography on recent dissertations relating to child adoption. We will also provide you with information on how to use the Internet to stay current on dissertations. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** When following the search strategy described below, you may discover non-medical dissertations that use the generic term “child adoption” (or a synonym) in their titles. To accurately reflect the results that you might find while conducting research on child adoption, we have not necessarily excluded non-medical dissertations in this bibliography.

Dissertations on Child Adoption

ProQuest Digital Dissertations, the largest archive of academic dissertations available, is located at the following Web address: <http://wwwlib.umi.com/dissertations>. From this archive, we have compiled the following list covering dissertations devoted to child adoption. You will see that the information provided includes the dissertation’s title, its author, and the institution with which the author is associated. The following covers recent dissertations found when using this search procedure:

- **AN EXPLORATORY STUDY OF THE IMPACT OF OLDER CHILD ADOPTION ON LARGE ADOPTIVE FAMILIES WITH BIOLOGICAL CHILDREN** by BERGEL, VIVIAN R., PHD from University of Maryland at Baltimore, 1990, 171 pages
<http://wwwlib.umi.com/dissertations/fullcit/9108017>
- **THE RELATIONSHIP OF SERVICES TO SUCCESS IN OLDER CHILD ADOPTION** by SMITH, EVE PEARLMAN, DSW from Yeshiva University, 1989, 328 pages
<http://wwwlib.umi.com/dissertations/fullcit/8920953>

Keeping Current

Ask the medical librarian at your library if it has full and unlimited access to the *ProQuest Digital Dissertations* database. From the library, you should be able to do more complete searches via <http://wwwlib.umi.com/dissertations>.

CHAPTER 3. PATENTS ON CHILD ADOPTION

Overview

Patents can be physical innovations (e.g. chemicals, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment) or processes (e.g. treatments or diagnostic procedures). The United States Patent and Trademark Office defines a patent as a grant of a property right to the inventor, issued by the Patent and Trademark Office.⁴ Patents, therefore, are intellectual property. For the United States, the term of a new patent is 20 years from the date when the patent application was filed. If the inventor wishes to receive economic benefits, it is likely that the invention will become commercially available within 20 years of the initial filing. It is important to understand, therefore, that an inventor's patent does not indicate that a product or service is or will be commercially available. The patent implies only that the inventor has "the right to exclude others from making, using, offering for sale, or selling" the invention in the United States. While this relates to U.S. patents, similar rules govern foreign patents.

In this chapter, we show you how to locate information on patents and their inventors. If you find a patent that is particularly interesting to you, contact the inventor or the assignee for further information. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** When following the search strategy described below, you may discover non-medical patents that use the generic term "child adoption" (or a synonym) in their titles. To accurately reflect the results that you might find while conducting research on child adoption, we have not necessarily excluded non-medical patents in this bibliography.

Patent Applications on Child Adoption

As of December 2000, U.S. patent applications are open to public viewing.⁵ Applications are patent requests which have yet to be granted. (The process to achieve a patent can take several years.) The following patent applications have been filed since December 2000 relating to child adoption:

⁴Adapted from the United States Patent and Trademark Office:
<http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/doc/general/whatis.htm>.

⁵ This has been a common practice outside the United States prior to December 2000.

- **Method and system for enabling viewer polling and election of prospective parents in broadcast child adoption proceedings**

Inventor(s): Geller, Uri; (Berkshire, GB)

Correspondence: Paul A. Guss; Paul A. Guss Attorney AT Law; 775 S 23rd ST First Floor Suite 2; Arlington; VA; 22202

Patent Application Number: 20020091564

Date filed: January 11, 2001

Abstract: A **child adoption** proceeding is conducted in the form of a television game show and online media event, wherein couples compete against each other to win legal custody of the child. Adoptive parents are selected using a vote-by-phone and/or Internet voting scheme, together with 24-hour surveillance of the prospective parents, which enables television viewers and Internet users to inspect prospective parent-contestants in detail before voting for the winning parents. The present invention overcomes inequities of state-run or private adoption agencies, permitting a fairer selection process while providing greater time and access to observe a pool of prospective parents.

Excerpt(s): This application claims priority from U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/248839 filed on Nov. 16, 2000 by Uri Geller, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference. The present invention relates to a method and system for interactive entertainment using television or other video console equipment in association with a telecommunications network and client-server system for receiving and collecting input from viewers. The invention also concerns a system by which viewers, through online voting or using a vote-by-phone method, can participate in the selection process of prospective parents in a television broadcast adoption proceeding. Interactive television is known in which viewers are able to actively participate in the unfolding of a drama by voting, using the telephone, Internet or user-input devices which connect to a video console or are made available to viewers in a studio audience. With such systems, as the drama is unfolding on the television or stage, viewers are able to influence the progression of the drama at various stages during viewing. Votes from multiple users, which are received by telephone, Internet or other user-input devices, are collected, stored and tabulated. Based on the majority outcome of such voting, a particular plot change or ending to the drama is made.

Web site: <http://appft1.uspto.gov/netahtml/PTO/search-bool.html>

Keeping Current

In order to stay informed about patents and patent applications dealing with child adoption, you can access the U.S. Patent Office archive via the Internet at the following Web address: <http://www.uspto.gov/patft/index.html>. You will see two broad options: (1) Issued Patent, and (2) Published Applications. To see a list of issued patents, perform the following steps: Under "Issued Patents," click "Quick Search." Then, type "child adoption" (or synonyms) into the "Term 1" box. After clicking on the search button, scroll down to see the various patents which have been granted to date on child adoption.

You can also use this procedure to view pending patent applications concerning child adoption. Simply go back to <http://www.uspto.gov/patft/index.html>. Select "Quick Search" under "Published Applications." Then proceed with the steps listed above.

CHAPTER 4. BOOKS ON CHILD ADOPTION

Overview

This chapter provides bibliographic book references relating to child adoption. In addition to online booksellers such as www.amazon.com and www.bn.com, excellent sources for book titles on child adoption include the Combined Health Information Database and the National Library of Medicine. Your local medical library also may have these titles available for loan.

Book Summaries: Online Booksellers

Commercial Internet-based booksellers, such as Amazon.com and Barnes&Noble.com, offer summaries which have been supplied by each title's publisher. Some summaries also include customer reviews. Your local bookseller may have access to in-house and commercial databases that index all published books (e.g. Books in Print®). **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Online booksellers typically produce search results for medical and non-medical books. When searching for "child adoption" at online booksellers' Web sites, you may discover non-medical books that use the generic term "child adoption" (or a synonym) in their titles. The following is indicative of the results you might find when searching for "child adoption" (sorted alphabetically by title; follow the hyperlink to view more details at Amazon.com):

- **Adopting a Child: A Guide for People Interested in Adoption** by Jenifer Lord; ISBN: 1903699061;
<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/1903699061/icongroupinterna>
- **Child adoption : trends and emerging issues : a study of adoption agencies** by Shalini Bharat; ISBN: 8185458553;
<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/8185458553/icongroupinterna>
- **Child Adoption: A Guidebook for Adoptive Parents and Their Advisors** by R. A. C. Hoksbergen, et al; ISBN: 1853024155;
<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/1853024155/icongroupinterna>
- **Keys to Adopting a Child (Barron's Parenting Keys)** by Kathy Lancaster; ISBN: 0812019253;
<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0812019253/icongroupinterna>

- **Older Child Adoption** by Grace Robinson; ISBN: 0824517075;
<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0824517075/icongroupinterna>
- **The Unofficial Guide to Adopting a Child** by Andrea DellaVecchio (Author); ISBN: 0028634942;
<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0028634942/icongroupinterna>

Chapters on Child Adoption

In order to find chapters that specifically relate to child adoption, an excellent source of abstracts is the Combined Health Information Database. You will need to limit your search to book chapters and child adoption using the “Detailed Search” option. Go to the following hyperlink: <http://chid.nih.gov/detail/detail.html>. To find book chapters, use the drop boxes at the bottom of the search page where “You may refine your search by.” Select the dates and language you prefer, and the format option “Book Chapter.” Type “child adoption” (or synonyms) into the “For these words:” box.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A. PHYSICIAN RESOURCES

Overview

In this chapter, we focus on databases and Internet-based guidelines and information resources created or written for a professional audience.

NIH Guidelines

Commonly referred to as “clinical” or “professional” guidelines, the National Institutes of Health publish physician guidelines for the most common diseases. Publications are available at the following by relevant Institute⁶:

- Office of the Director (OD); guidelines consolidated across agencies available at <http://www.nih.gov/health/consumer/conkey.htm>
- National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS); fact sheets available at <http://www.nigms.nih.gov/news/facts/>
- National Library of Medicine (NLM); extensive encyclopedia (A.D.A.M., Inc.) with guidelines: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/healthtopics.html>
- National Cancer Institute (NCI); guidelines available at <http://www.cancer.gov/cancerinfo/list.aspx?viewid=5f35036e-5497-4d86-8c2c-714a9f7c8d25>
- National Eye Institute (NEI); guidelines available at <http://www.nei.nih.gov/order/index.htm>
- National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI); guidelines available at <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/guidelines/index.htm>
- National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI); research available at <http://www.genome.gov/page.cfm?pageID=10000375>
- National Institute on Aging (NIA); guidelines available at <http://www.nia.nih.gov/health/>

⁶ These publications are typically written by one or more of the various NIH Institutes.

- National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA); guidelines available at <http://www.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/publications.htm>
- National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID); guidelines available at <http://www.niaid.nih.gov/publications/>
- National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS); fact sheets and guidelines available at <http://www.niams.nih.gov/hi/index.htm>
- National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD); guidelines available at <http://www.nichd.nih.gov/publications/pubskey.cfm>
- National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD); fact sheets and guidelines at <http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/>
- National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR); guidelines available at <http://www.nidr.nih.gov/health/>
- National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK); guidelines available at <http://www.niddk.nih.gov/health/health.htm>
- National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA); guidelines available at <http://www.nida.nih.gov/DrugAbuse.html>
- National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS); environmental health information available at <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/external/facts.htm>
- National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH); guidelines available at <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/practitioners/index.cfm>
- National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS); neurological disorder information pages available at http://www.ninds.nih.gov/health_and_medical/disorder_index.htm
- National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR); publications on selected illnesses at <http://www.nih.gov/ninr/news-info/publications.html>
- National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering; general information at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/becon/becon_info.htm
- Center for Information Technology (CIT); referrals to other agencies based on keyword searches available at http://kb.nih.gov/www_query_main.asp
- National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM); health information available at <http://nccam.nih.gov/health/>
- National Center for Research Resources (NCRR); various information directories available at <http://www.ncrr.nih.gov/publications.asp>
- Office of Rare Diseases; various fact sheets available at http://rarediseases.info.nih.gov/html/resources/rep_pubs.html
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; various fact sheets on infectious diseases available at <http://www.cdc.gov/publications.htm>

NIH Databases

In addition to the various Institutes of Health that publish professional guidelines, the NIH has designed a number of databases for professionals.⁷ Physician-oriented resources provide a wide variety of information related to the biomedical and health sciences, both past and present. The format of these resources varies. Searchable databases, bibliographic citations, full-text articles (when available), archival collections, and images are all available. The following are referenced by the National Library of Medicine:⁸

- **Bioethics:** Access to published literature on the ethical, legal, and public policy issues surrounding healthcare and biomedical research. This information is provided in conjunction with the Kennedy Institute of Ethics located at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/databases/databases_bioethics.html
- **HIV/AIDS Resources:** Describes various links and databases dedicated to HIV/AIDS research: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/aidsinfs.html>
- **NLM Online Exhibitions:** Describes “Exhibitions in the History of Medicine”: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/exhibition.html>. Additional resources for historical scholarship in medicine: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/hmd.html>
- **Biotechnology Information:** Access to public databases. The National Center for Biotechnology Information conducts research in computational biology, develops software tools for analyzing genome data, and disseminates biomedical information for the better understanding of molecular processes affecting human health and disease: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>
- **Population Information:** The National Library of Medicine provides access to worldwide coverage of population, family planning, and related health issues, including family planning technology and programs, fertility, and population law and policy: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/databases/databases_population.html
- **Cancer Information:** Access to cancer-oriented databases: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/databases/databases_cancer.html
- **Profiles in Science:** Offering the archival collections of prominent twentieth-century biomedical scientists to the public through modern digital technology: <http://www.profiles.nlm.nih.gov/>
- **Chemical Information:** Provides links to various chemical databases and references: <http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/Chem/ChemMain.html>
- **Clinical Alerts:** Reports the release of findings from the NIH-funded clinical trials where such release could significantly affect morbidity and mortality: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/databases/alerts/clinical_alerts.html
- **Space Life Sciences:** Provides links and information to space-based research (including NASA): http://www.nlm.nih.gov/databases/databases_space.html
- **MEDLINE:** Bibliographic database covering the fields of medicine, nursing, dentistry, veterinary medicine, the healthcare system, and the pre-clinical sciences: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/databases/databases_medline.html

⁷ Remember, for the general public, the National Library of Medicine recommends the databases referenced in MEDLINEplus (<http://medlineplus.gov/> or <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/databases.html>).

⁸ See <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/databases/databases.html>.

- **Toxicology and Environmental Health Information (TOXNET):** Databases covering toxicology and environmental health: <http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/Tox/ToxMain.html>
- **Visible Human Interface:** Anatomically detailed, three-dimensional representations of normal male and female human bodies:
http://www.nlm.nih.gov/research/visible/visible_human.html

The NLM Gateway⁹

The NLM (National Library of Medicine) Gateway is a Web-based system that lets users search simultaneously in multiple retrieval systems at the U.S. National Library of Medicine (NLM). It allows users of NLM services to initiate searches from one Web interface, providing one-stop searching for many of NLM's information resources or databases.¹⁰ To use the NLM Gateway, simply go to the search site at <http://gateway.nlm.nih.gov/gw/Cmd>. Type "child adoption" (or synonyms) into the search box and click "Search." The results will be presented in a tabular form, indicating the number of references in each database category.

Results Summary

Category	Items Found
Journal Articles	2929
Books / Periodicals / Audio Visual	669
Consumer Health	495
Meeting Abstracts	103
Other Collections	91
Total	4287

HSTAT¹¹

HSTAT is a free, Web-based resource that provides access to full-text documents used in healthcare decision-making.¹² These documents include clinical practice guidelines, quick-reference guides for clinicians, consumer health brochures, evidence reports and technology assessments from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), as well as AHRQ's Put Prevention Into Practice.¹³ Simply search by "child adoption" (or synonyms) at the following Web site: <http://text.nlm.nih.gov>.

⁹ Adapted from NLM: <http://gateway.nlm.nih.gov/gw/Cmd?Overview.x>.

¹⁰ The NLM Gateway is currently being developed by the Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications (LHNCBC) at the National Library of Medicine (NLM) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

¹¹ Adapted from HSTAT: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/hstat.html>.

¹² The HSTAT URL is <http://hstat.nlm.nih.gov/>.

¹³ Other important documents in HSTAT include: the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Consensus Conference Reports and Technology Assessment Reports; the HIV/AIDS Treatment Information Service (ATIS) resource documents; the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (SAMHSA/CSAT) Treatment Improvement Protocols (TIP) and Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (SAMHSA/CSAP) Prevention Enhancement Protocols System (PEPS); the Public Health Service (PHS) Preventive Services Task Force's *Guide to Clinical Preventive Services*; the independent, nonfederal Task Force on Community Services' *Guide to Community Preventive Services*; and the Health Technology Advisory Committee (HTAC) of the Minnesota Health Care Commission (MHCC) health technology evaluations.

Coffee Break: Tutorials for Biologists¹⁴

Coffee Break is a general healthcare site that takes a scientific view of the news and covers recent breakthroughs in biology that may one day assist physicians in developing treatments. Here you will find a collection of short reports on recent biological discoveries. Each report incorporates interactive tutorials that demonstrate how bioinformatics tools are used as a part of the research process. Currently, all Coffee Breaks are written by NCBI staff.¹⁵ Each report is about 400 words and is usually based on a discovery reported in one or more articles from recently published, peer-reviewed literature.¹⁶ This site has new articles every few weeks, so it can be considered an online magazine of sorts. It is intended for general background information. You can access the Coffee Break Web site at the following hyperlink: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Coffeebreak/>.

Other Commercial Databases

In addition to resources maintained by official agencies, other databases exist that are commercial ventures addressing medical professionals. Here are some examples that may interest you:

- **CliniWeb International:** Index and table of contents to selected clinical information on the Internet; see <http://www.ohsu.edu/clinweb/>.
- **Medical World Search:** Searches full text from thousands of selected medical sites on the Internet; see <http://www.mwsearch.com/>.

¹⁴ Adapted from <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Coffeebreak/Archive/FAQ.html>.

¹⁵ The figure that accompanies each article is frequently supplied by an expert external to NCBI, in which case the source of the figure is cited. The result is an interactive tutorial that tells a biological story.

¹⁶ After a brief introduction that sets the work described into a broader context, the report focuses on how a molecular understanding can provide explanations of observed biology and lead to therapies for diseases. Each vignette is accompanied by a figure and hypertext links that lead to a series of pages that interactively show how NCBI tools and resources are used in the research process.

APPENDIX B. PATIENT RESOURCES

Overview

Official agencies, as well as federally funded institutions supported by national grants, frequently publish a variety of guidelines written with the patient in mind. These are typically called “Fact Sheets” or “Guidelines.” They can take the form of a brochure, information kit, pamphlet, or flyer. Often they are only a few pages in length. Since new guidelines on child adoption can appear at any moment and be published by a number of sources, the best approach to finding guidelines is to systematically scan the Internet-based services that post them.

Patient Guideline Sources

The remainder of this chapter directs you to sources which either publish or can help you find additional guidelines on topics related to child adoption. Due to space limitations, these sources are listed in a concise manner. Do not hesitate to consult the following sources by either using the Internet hyperlink provided, or, in cases where the contact information is provided, contacting the publisher or author directly.

The National Institutes of Health

The NIH gateway to patients is located at <http://health.nih.gov/>. From this site, you can search across various sources and institutes, a number of which are summarized below.

Topic Pages: MEDLINEplus

The National Library of Medicine has created a vast and patient-oriented healthcare information portal called MEDLINEplus. Within this Internet-based system are “health topic pages” which list links to available materials relevant to child adoption. To access this system, log on to <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/healthtopics.html>. From there you can either search using the alphabetical index or browse by broad topic areas. Recently, MEDLINEplus listed the following when searched for “child adoption”:

Adoption

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/adoption.html>

Child Abuse

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/childabuse.html>

Child Day Care

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/childdaycare.html>

Child Sexual Abuse

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/childsexualabuse.html>

Parenting

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/parenting.html>

You may also choose to use the search utility provided by MEDLINEplus at the following Web address: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/>. Simply type a keyword into the search box and click "Search." This utility is similar to the NIH search utility, with the exception that it only includes materials that are linked within the MEDLINEplus system (mostly patient-oriented information). It also has the disadvantage of generating unstructured results. We recommend, therefore, that you use this method only if you have a very targeted search.

Healthfinder™

Healthfinder™ is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and offers links to hundreds of other sites that contain healthcare information. This Web site is located at <http://www.healthfinder.gov>. Again, keyword searches can be used to find guidelines. The following was recently found in this database:

- **Adopting a Child With Special Needs**

Summary: This article addresses the problems and concerns of parents or would-be parents who are thinking of adopting a child

Source: National Adoption Information Clearinghouse, Administration for Children and Families

<http://www.healthfinder.gov/scripts/recordpass.asp?RecordType=0&RecordID=4728>

- **Subsidized Adoption: A Source of Help for Children with Special Needs and Their Families**

Summary: This fact sheet presents details about financial assistance available to adoptive families who are considering adopting a child or children with special needs but are unable to afford the costs of

Source: National Adoption Information Clearinghouse, Administration for Children and Families

<http://www.healthfinder.gov/scripts/recordpass.asp?RecordType=0&RecordID=4742>

The NIH Search Utility

The NIH search utility allows you to search for documents on over 100 selected Web sites that comprise the NIH-WEB-SPACE. Each of these servers is “crawled” and indexed on an ongoing basis. Your search will produce a list of various documents, all of which will relate in some way to child adoption. The drawbacks of this approach are that the information is not organized by theme and that the references are often a mix of information for professionals and patients. Nevertheless, a large number of the listed Web sites provide useful background information. We can only recommend this route, therefore, for relatively rare or specific disorders, or when using highly targeted searches. To use the NIH search utility, visit the following Web page: <http://search.nih.gov/index.html>.

Additional Web Sources

A number of Web sites are available to the public that often link to government sites. These can also point you in the direction of essential information. The following is a representative sample:

- AOL: <http://search.aol.com/cat.adp?id=168&layer=&from=subcats>
- Family Village: <http://www.familyvillage.wisc.edu/specific.htm>
- Google: http://directory.google.com/Top/Health/Conditions_and_Diseases/
- Med Help International: <http://www.medhelp.org/HealthTopics/A.html>
- Open Directory Project: http://dmoz.org/Health/Conditions_and_Diseases/
- Yahoo.com: http://dir.yahoo.com/Health/Diseases_and_Conditions/
- WebMD®Health: http://my.webmd.com/health_topics

Finding Associations

There are several Internet directories that provide lists of medical associations with information on or resources relating to child adoption. By consulting all of associations listed in this chapter, you will have nearly exhausted all sources for patient associations concerned with child adoption.

The National Health Information Center (NHIC)

The National Health Information Center (NHIC) offers a free referral service to help people find organizations that provide information about child adoption. For more information, see the NHIC’s Web site at <http://www.health.gov/NHIC/> or contact an information specialist by calling 1-800-336-4797.

Directory of Health Organizations

The Directory of Health Organizations, provided by the National Library of Medicine Specialized Information Services, is a comprehensive source of information on associations. The Directory of Health Organizations database can be accessed via the Internet at

<http://www.sis.nlm.nih.gov/Dir/DirMain.html>. It is composed of two parts: DIRLINE and Health Hotlines.

The DIRLINE database comprises some 10,000 records of organizations, research centers, and government institutes and associations that primarily focus on health and biomedicine. To access DIRLINE directly, go to the following Web site: <http://dirline.nlm.nih.gov/>. Simply type in "child adoption" (or a synonym), and you will receive information on all relevant organizations listed in the database.

Health Hotlines directs you to toll-free numbers to over 300 organizations. You can access this database directly at <http://www.sis.nlm.nih.gov/hotlines/>. On this page, you are given the option to search by keyword or by browsing the subject list. When you have received your search results, click on the name of the organization for its description and contact information.

The Combined Health Information Database

Another comprehensive source of information on healthcare associations is the Combined Health Information Database. Using the "Detailed Search" option, you will need to limit your search to "Organizations" and "child adoption". Type the following hyperlink into your Web browser: <http://chid.nih.gov/detail/detail.html>. To find associations, use the drop boxes at the bottom of the search page where "You may refine your search by." For publication date, select "All Years." Then, select your preferred language and the format option "Organization Resource Sheet." Type "child adoption" (or synonyms) into the "For these words:" box. You should check back periodically with this database since it is updated every three months.

The National Organization for Rare Disorders, Inc.

The National Organization for Rare Disorders, Inc. has prepared a Web site that provides, at no charge, lists of associations organized by health topic. You can access this database at the following Web site: <http://www.rarediseases.org/search/orgsearch.html>. Type "child adoption" (or a synonym) into the search box, and click "Submit Query."

APPENDIX C. FINDING MEDICAL LIBRARIES

Overview

In this Appendix, we show you how to quickly find a medical library in your area.

Preparation

Your local public library and medical libraries have interlibrary loan programs with the National Library of Medicine (NLM), one of the largest medical collections in the world. According to the NLM, most of the literature in the general and historical collections of the National Library of Medicine is available on interlibrary loan to any library. If you would like to access NLM medical literature, then visit a library in your area that can request the publications for you.¹⁷

Finding a Local Medical Library

The quickest method to locate medical libraries is to use the Internet-based directory published by the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM). This network includes 4626 members and affiliates that provide many services to librarians, health professionals, and the public. To find a library in your area, simply visit <http://nmlm.gov/members/adv.html> or call 1-800-338-7657.

Medical Libraries in the U.S. and Canada

In addition to the NN/LM, the National Library of Medicine (NLM) lists a number of libraries with reference facilities that are open to the public. The following is the NLM's list and includes hyperlinks to each library's Web site. These Web pages can provide information on hours of operation and other restrictions. The list below is a small sample of

¹⁷ Adapted from the NLM: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/psd/cas/interlibrary.html>.

libraries recommended by the National Library of Medicine (sorted alphabetically by name of the U.S. state or Canadian province where the library is located)¹⁸:

- **Alabama:** Health InfoNet of Jefferson County (Jefferson County Library Cooperative, Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences), <http://www.uab.edu/infonet/>
- **Alabama:** Richard M. Scrushy Library (American Sports Medicine Institute)
- **Arizona:** Samaritan Regional Medical Center: The Learning Center (Samaritan Health System, Phoenix, Arizona), <http://www.samaritan.edu/library/bannerlibs.htm>
- **California:** Kris Kelly Health Information Center (St. Joseph Health System, Humboldt), <http://www.humboldt1.com/~kkhic/index.html>
- **California:** Community Health Library of Los Gatos, <http://www.healthlib.org/orgresources.html>
- **California:** Consumer Health Program and Services (CHIPS) (County of Los Angeles Public Library, Los Angeles County Harbor-UCLA Medical Center Library) - Carson, CA, <http://www.colapublib.org/services/chips.html>
- **California:** Gateway Health Library (Sutter Gould Medical Foundation)
- **California:** Health Library (Stanford University Medical Center), <http://www-med.stanford.edu/healthlibrary/>
- **California:** Patient Education Resource Center - Health Information and Resources (University of California, San Francisco), <http://sfghdean.ucsf.edu/barnett/PERC/default.asp>
- **California:** Redwood Health Library (Petaluma Health Care District), <http://www.phcd.org/rdwdlib.html>
- **California:** Los Gatos PlaneTree Health Library, <http://planetreesanjose.org/>
- **California:** Sutter Resource Library (Sutter Hospitals Foundation, Sacramento), <http://suttermedicalcenter.org/library/>
- **California:** Health Sciences Libraries (University of California, Davis), <http://www.lib.ucdavis.edu/healthsci/>
- **California:** ValleyCare Health Library & Ryan Comer Cancer Resource Center (ValleyCare Health System, Pleasanton), <http://gaelnet.stmarys-ca.edu/other.libs/gbal/east/vchl.html>
- **California:** Washington Community Health Resource Library (Fremont), <http://www.healthlibrary.org/>
- **Colorado:** William V. Gervasini Memorial Library (Exempla Healthcare), <http://www.saintjosephdenver.org/yourhealth/libraries/>
- **Connecticut:** Hartford Hospital Health Science Libraries (Hartford Hospital), <http://www.harthosp.org/library/>
- **Connecticut:** Healthnet: Connecticut Consumer Health Information Center (University of Connecticut Health Center, Lyman Maynard Stowe Library), <http://library.uchc.edu/departm/hnet/>

¹⁸ Abstracted from <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/libraries.html>.

- **Connecticut:** Waterbury Hospital Health Center Library (Waterbury Hospital, Waterbury), <http://www.waterburyhospital.com/library/consumer.shtml>
- **Delaware:** Consumer Health Library (Christiana Care Health System, Eugene du Pont Preventive Medicine & Rehabilitation Institute, Wilmington), http://www.christianacare.org/health_guide/health_guide_pmri_health_info.cfm
- **Delaware:** Lewis B. Flinn Library (Delaware Academy of Medicine, Wilmington), <http://www.delamed.org/chls.html>
- **Georgia:** Family Resource Library (Medical College of Georgia, Augusta), http://cmc.mcg.edu/kids_families/fam_resources/fam_res_lib/frl.htm
- **Georgia:** Health Resource Center (Medical Center of Central Georgia, Macon), <http://www.mccg.org/hrc/hrchome.asp>
- **Hawaii:** Hawaii Medical Library: Consumer Health Information Service (Hawaii Medical Library, Honolulu), <http://hml.org/CHIS/>
- **Idaho:** DeArmond Consumer Health Library (Kootenai Medical Center, Coeur d'Alene), <http://www.nicon.org/DeArmond/index.htm>
- **Illinois:** Health Learning Center of Northwestern Memorial Hospital (Chicago), http://www.nmh.org/health_info/hlc.html
- **Illinois:** Medical Library (OSF Saint Francis Medical Center, Peoria), <http://www.osfsaintfrancis.org/general/library/>
- **Kentucky:** Medical Library - Services for Patients, Families, Students & the Public (Central Baptist Hospital, Lexington), <http://www.centralbap.com/education/community/library.cfm>
- **Kentucky:** University of Kentucky - Health Information Library (Chandler Medical Center, Lexington), <http://www.mc.uky.edu/PatientEd/>
- **Louisiana:** Alton Ochsner Medical Foundation Library (Alton Ochsner Medical Foundation, New Orleans), <http://www.ochsner.org/library/>
- **Louisiana:** Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center Medical Library-Shreveport, <http://lib-sh.lsuhscc.edu/>
- **Maine:** Franklin Memorial Hospital Medical Library (Franklin Memorial Hospital, Farmington), <http://www.fchn.org/fmh/lib.htm>
- **Maine:** Gerrish-True Health Sciences Library (Central Maine Medical Center, Lewiston), <http://www.cmmc.org/library/library.html>
- **Maine:** Hadley Parrot Health Science Library (Eastern Maine Healthcare, Bangor), <http://www.emh.org/hll/hpl/guide.htm>
- **Maine:** Maine Medical Center Library (Maine Medical Center, Portland), <http://www.mmc.org/library/>
- **Maine:** Parkview Hospital (Brunswick), <http://www.parkviewhospital.org/>
- **Maine:** Southern Maine Medical Center Health Sciences Library (Southern Maine Medical Center, Biddeford), <http://www.smmc.org/services/service.php3?choice=10>
- **Maine:** Stephens Memorial Hospital's Health Information Library (Western Maine Health, Norway), <http://www.wmhcc.org/Library/>

- **Manitoba, Canada:** Consumer & Patient Health Information Service (University of Manitoba Libraries), <http://www.umanitoba.ca/libraries/units/health/reference/chis.html>
- **Manitoba, Canada:** J.W. Crane Memorial Library (Deer Lodge Centre, Winnipeg), http://www.deerlodge.mb.ca/crane_library/about.asp
- **Maryland:** Health Information Center at the Wheaton Regional Library (Montgomery County, Dept. of Public Libraries, Wheaton Regional Library), <http://www.mont.lib.md.us/healthinfo/hic.asp>
- **Massachusetts:** Baystate Medical Center Library (Baystate Health System), <http://www.baystatehealth.com/1024/>
- **Massachusetts:** Boston University Medical Center Alumni Medical Library (Boston University Medical Center), <http://med-libwww.bu.edu/library/lib.html>
- **Massachusetts:** Lowell General Hospital Health Sciences Library (Lowell General Hospital, Lowell), <http://www.lowellgeneral.org/library/HomePageLinks/WWW.htm>
- **Massachusetts:** Paul E. Woodard Health Sciences Library (New England Baptist Hospital, Boston), http://www.nebh.org/health_lib.asp
- **Massachusetts:** St. Luke's Hospital Health Sciences Library (St. Luke's Hospital, Southcoast Health System, New Bedford), <http://www.southcoast.org/library/>
- **Massachusetts:** Treadwell Library Consumer Health Reference Center (Massachusetts General Hospital), <http://www.mgh.harvard.edu/library/chrcindex.html>
- **Massachusetts:** UMass HealthNet (University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester), <http://healthnet.umassmed.edu/>
- **Michigan:** Botsford General Hospital Library - Consumer Health (Botsford General Hospital, Library & Internet Services), <http://www.botsfordlibrary.org/consumer.htm>
- **Michigan:** Helen DeRoy Medical Library (Providence Hospital and Medical Centers), <http://www.providence-hospital.org/library/>
- **Michigan:** Marquette General Hospital - Consumer Health Library (Marquette General Hospital, Health Information Center), <http://www.mgh.org/center.html>
- **Michigan:** Patient Education Resource Center - University of Michigan Cancer Center (University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center, Ann Arbor), <http://www.cancer.med.umich.edu/learn/leares.htm>
- **Michigan:** Sladen Library & Center for Health Information Resources - Consumer Health Information (Detroit), <http://www.henryford.com/body.cfm?id=39330>
- **Montana:** Center for Health Information (St. Patrick Hospital and Health Sciences Center, Missoula)
- **National:** Consumer Health Library Directory (Medical Library Association, Consumer and Patient Health Information Section), <http://caphis.mlanet.org/directory/index.html>
- **National:** National Network of Libraries of Medicine (National Library of Medicine) - provides library services for health professionals in the United States who do not have access to a medical library, <http://nnlm.gov/>
- **National:** NN/LM List of Libraries Serving the Public (National Network of Libraries of Medicine), <http://nnlm.gov/members/>

- **Nevada:** Health Science Library, West Charleston Library (Las Vegas-Clark County Library District, Las Vegas), http://www.lvcld.org/special_collections/medical/index.htm
- **New Hampshire:** Dartmouth Biomedical Libraries (Dartmouth College Library, Hanover), <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~biomed/resources.html#conshealth.html#d/>
- **New Jersey:** Consumer Health Library (Rahway Hospital, Rahway), <http://www.rahwayhospital.com/library.htm>
- **New Jersey:** Dr. Walter Phillips Health Sciences Library (Englewood Hospital and Medical Center, Englewood), <http://www.englewoodhospital.com/links/index.htm>
- **New Jersey:** Meland Foundation (Englewood Hospital and Medical Center, Englewood), <http://www.geocities.com/ResearchTriangle/9360/>
- **New York:** Choices in Health Information (New York Public Library) - NLM Consumer Pilot Project participant, <http://www.nypl.org/branch/health/links.html>
- **New York:** Health Information Center (Upstate Medical University, State University of New York, Syracuse), <http://www.upstate.edu/library/hic/>
- **New York:** Health Sciences Library (Long Island Jewish Medical Center, New Hyde Park), <http://www.lij.edu/library/library.html>
- **New York:** ViaHealth Medical Library (Rochester General Hospital), <http://www.nyam.org/library/>
- **Ohio:** Consumer Health Library (Akron General Medical Center, Medical & Consumer Health Library), <http://www.akrongeneral.org/hwlibrary.htm>
- **Oklahoma:** The Health Information Center at Saint Francis Hospital (Saint Francis Health System, Tulsa), <http://www.sfh-tulsa.com/services/healthinfo.asp>
- **Oregon:** Planetree Health Resource Center (Mid-Columbia Medical Center, The Dalles), <http://www.mcmc.net/phrc/>
- **Pennsylvania:** Community Health Information Library (Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, Hershey), <http://www.hmc.psu.edu/commhealth/>
- **Pennsylvania:** Community Health Resource Library (Geisinger Medical Center, Danville), <http://www.geisinger.edu/education/commlib.shtml>
- **Pennsylvania:** HealthInfo Library (Moses Taylor Hospital, Scranton), <http://www.mth.org/healthwellness.html>
- **Pennsylvania:** Hopwood Library (University of Pittsburgh, Health Sciences Library System, Pittsburgh), http://www.hsls.pitt.edu/guides/chi/hopwood/index_html
- **Pennsylvania:** Koop Community Health Information Center (College of Physicians of Philadelphia), <http://www.collphyphil.org/kooppg1.shtml>
- **Pennsylvania:** Learning Resources Center - Medical Library (Susquehanna Health System, Williamsport), <http://www.shscars.org/services/lrc/index.asp>
- **Pennsylvania:** Medical Library (UPMC Health System, Pittsburgh), <http://www.upmc.edu/passavant/library.htm>
- **Quebec, Canada:** Medical Library (Montreal General Hospital), <http://www.mghlib.mcgill.ca/>

- **South Dakota:** Rapid City Regional Hospital Medical Library (Rapid City Regional Hospital), <http://www.rcrh.org/Services/Library/Default.asp>
- **Texas:** Houston HealthWays (Houston Academy of Medicine-Texas Medical Center Library), <http://hhw.library.tmc.edu/>
- **Washington:** Community Health Library (Kittitas Valley Community Hospital), <http://www.kvch.com/>
- **Washington:** Southwest Washington Medical Center Library (Southwest Washington Medical Center, Vancouver), <http://www.swmedicalcenter.com/body.cfm?id=72>

ONLINE GLOSSARIES

The Internet provides access to a number of free-to-use medical dictionaries. The National Library of Medicine has compiled the following list of online dictionaries:

- ADAM Medical Encyclopedia (A.D.A.M., Inc.), comprehensive medical reference:
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/encyclopedia.html>
- MedicineNet.com Medical Dictionary (MedicineNet, Inc.):
<http://www.medterms.com/Script/Main/hp.asp>
- Merriam-Webster Medical Dictionary (Inteli-Health, Inc.):
<http://www.intelihealth.com/IH/>
- Multilingual Glossary of Technical and Popular Medical Terms in Eight European Languages (European Commission) - Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish: <http://allserv.rug.ac.be/~rvdstich/eugloss/welcome.html>
- On-line Medical Dictionary (CancerWEB): <http://cancerweb.ncl.ac.uk/omd/>
- Rare Diseases Terms (Office of Rare Diseases):
<http://ord.aspensys.com/asp/diseases/diseases.asp>
- Technology Glossary (National Library of Medicine) - Health Care Technology:
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/nichsr/ta101/ta10108.htm>

Beyond these, MEDLINEplus contains a very patient-friendly encyclopedia covering every aspect of medicine (licensed from A.D.A.M., Inc.). The ADAM Medical Encyclopedia can be accessed at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/encyclopedia.html>. ADAM is also available on commercial Web sites such as drkoop.com (<http://www.drkoop.com/>) and Web MD (http://my.webmd.com/adam/asset/adam_disease_articles/a_to_z/a).

Online Dictionary Directories

The following are additional online directories compiled by the National Library of Medicine, including a number of specialized medical dictionaries:

- Medical Dictionaries: Medical & Biological (World Health Organization):
<http://www.who.int/hlt/virtuallibrary/English/diction.htm#Medical>
- MEL-Michigan Electronic Library List of Online Health and Medical Dictionaries (Michigan Electronic Library): <http://mel.lib.mi.us/health/health-dictionaries.html>
- Patient Education: Glossaries (DMOZ Open Directory Project):
http://dmoz.org/Health/Education/Patient_Education/Glossaries/
- Web of Online Dictionaries (Bucknell University):
<http://www.yourdictionary.com/diction5.html#medicine>

CHILD ADOPTION DICTIONARY

The definitions below are derived from official public sources, including the National Institutes of Health [NIH] and the European Union [EU].

Antigen: Any substance which is capable, under appropriate conditions, of inducing a specific immune response and of reacting with the products of that response, that is, with specific antibody or specifically sensitized T-lymphocytes, or both. Antigens may be soluble substances, such as toxins and foreign proteins, or particulate, such as bacteria and tissue cells; however, only the portion of the protein or polysaccharide molecule known as the antigenic determinant (q.v.) combines with antibody or a specific receptor on a lymphocyte. Abbreviated Ag. [EU]

Arteries: The vessels carrying blood away from the heart. [NIH]

Base: In chemistry, the nonacid part of a salt; a substance that combines with acids to form salts; a substance that dissociates to give hydroxide ions in aqueous solutions; a substance whose molecule or ion can combine with a proton (hydrogen ion); a substance capable of donating a pair of electrons (to an acid) for the formation of a coordinate covalent bond. [EU]

Branch: Most commonly used for branches of nerves, but applied also to other structures. [NIH]

Chronic: A disease or condition that persists or progresses over a long period of time. [NIH]

Clinical trial: A research study that tests how well new medical treatments or other interventions work in people. Each study is designed to test new methods of screening, prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of a disease. [NIH]

Computational Biology: A field of biology concerned with the development of techniques for the collection and manipulation of biological data, and the use of such data to make biological discoveries or predictions. This field encompasses all computational methods and theories applicable to molecular biology and areas of computer-based techniques for solving biological problems including manipulation of models and datasets. [NIH]

Contraindications: Any factor or sign that it is unwise to pursue a certain kind of action or treatment, e. g. giving a general anesthetic to a person with pneumonia. [NIH]

Coronary: Encircling in the manner of a crown; a term applied to vessels; nerves, ligaments, etc. The term usually denotes the arteries that supply the heart muscle and, by extension, a pathologic involvement of them. [EU]

Coronary Thrombosis: Presence of a thrombus in a coronary artery, often causing a myocardial infarction. [NIH]

Databases, Bibliographic: Extensive collections, reputedly complete, of references and citations to books, articles, publications, etc., generally on a single subject or specialized subject area. Databases can operate through automated files, libraries, or computer disks. The concept should be differentiated from factual databases which is used for collections of data and facts apart from bibliographic references to them. [NIH]

Diagnostic procedure: A method used to identify a disease. [NIH]

Direct: 1. Straight; in a straight line. 2. Performed immediately and without the intervention of subsidiary means. [EU]

Environmental Health: The science of controlling or modifying those conditions, influences, or forces surrounding man which relate to promoting, establishing, and maintaining health. [NIH]

Family Planning: Programs or services designed to assist the family in controlling reproduction by either improving or diminishing fertility. [NIH]

Governing Board: The group in which legal authority is vested for the control of health-related institutions and organizations. [NIH]

Id: The part of the personality structure which harbors the unconscious instinctive desires and strivings of the individual. [NIH]

Indicative: That indicates; that points out more or less exactly; that reveals fairly clearly. [EU]

Infarction: A pathological process consisting of a sudden insufficient blood supply to an area, which results in necrosis of that area. It is usually caused by a thrombus, an embolus, or a vascular torsion. [NIH]

Infection: 1. Invasion and multiplication of microorganisms in body tissues, which may be clinically unapparent or result in local cellular injury due to competitive metabolism, toxins, intracellular replication, or antigen-antibody response. The infection may remain localized, subclinical, and temporary if the body's defensive mechanisms are effective. A local infection may persist and spread by extension to become an acute, subacute, or chronic clinical infection or disease state. A local infection may also become systemic when the microorganisms gain access to the lymphatic or vascular system. 2. An infectious disease. [EU]

Infertility: The diminished or absent ability to conceive or produce an offspring while sterility is the complete inability to conceive or produce an offspring. [NIH]

Intracellular: Inside a cell. [NIH]

Kb: A measure of the length of DNA fragments, 1 Kb = 1000 base pairs. The largest DNA fragments are up to 50 kilobases long. [NIH]

Library Services: Services offered to the library user. They include reference and circulation. [NIH]

Localized: Cancer which has not metastasized yet. [NIH]

Lymphatic: The tissues and organs, including the bone marrow, spleen, thymus, and lymph nodes, that produce and store cells that fight infection and disease. [NIH]

MEDLINE: An online database of MEDLARS, the computerized bibliographic Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System of the National Library of Medicine. [NIH]

MI: Myocardial infarction. Gross necrosis of the myocardium as a result of interruption of the blood supply to the area; it is almost always caused by atherosclerosis of the coronary arteries, upon which coronary thrombosis is usually superimposed. [NIH]

Molecular: Of, pertaining to, or composed of molecules : a very small mass of matter. [EU]

Myocardium: The muscle tissue of the heart composed of striated, involuntary muscle known as cardiac muscle. [NIH]

Necrosis: A pathological process caused by the progressive degradative action of enzymes that is generally associated with severe cellular trauma. It is characterized by mitochondrial swelling, nuclear flocculation, uncontrolled cell lysis, and ultimately cell death. [NIH]

Need: A state of tension or dissatisfaction felt by an individual that impels him to action toward a goal he believes will satisfy the impulse. [NIH]

Pharmacologic: Pertaining to pharmacology or to the properties and reactions of drugs. [EU]

Practice Guidelines: Directions or principles presenting current or future rules of policy for the health care practitioner to assist him in patient care decisions regarding diagnosis, therapy, or related clinical circumstances. The guidelines may be developed by government agencies at any level, institutions, professional societies, governing boards, or by the

convening of expert panels. The guidelines form a basis for the evaluation of all aspects of health care and delivery. [NIH]

Progression: Increase in the size of a tumor or spread of cancer in the body. [NIH]

Public Policy: A course or method of action selected, usually by a government, from among alternatives to guide and determine present and future decisions. [NIH]

Refer: To send or direct for treatment, aid, information, de decision. [NIH]

Screening: Checking for disease when there are no symptoms. [NIH]

Social Work: The use of community resources, individual case work, or group work to promote the adaptive capacities of individuals in relation to their social and economic environments. It includes social service agencies. [NIH]

Specialist: In medicine, one who concentrates on 1 special branch of medical science. [NIH]

Sterility: 1. The inability to produce offspring, i.e., the inability to conceive (female s.) or to induce conception (male s.). 2. The state of being aseptic, or free from microorganisms. [EU]

Subacute: Somewhat acute; between acute and chronic. [EU]

Subclinical: Without clinical manifestations; said of the early stage(s) of an infection or other disease or abnormality before symptoms and signs become apparent or detectable by clinical examination or laboratory tests, or of a very mild form of an infection or other disease or abnormality. [EU]

Systemic: Affecting the entire body. [NIH]

Telecommunications: Transmission of information over distances via electronic means. [NIH]

Toxic: Having to do with poison or something harmful to the body. Toxic substances usually cause unwanted side effects. [NIH]

Toxicology: The science concerned with the detection, chemical composition, and pharmacologic action of toxic substances or poisons and the treatment and prevention of toxic manifestations. [NIH]

Toxins: Specific, characterizable, poisonous chemicals, often proteins, with specific biological properties, including immunogenicity, produced by microbes, higher plants, or animals. [NIH]

Unconscious: Experience which was once conscious, but was subsequently rejected, as the "personal unconscious". [NIH]

Vascular: Pertaining to blood vessels or indicative of a copious blood supply. [EU]

Veterinary Medicine: The medical science concerned with the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases in animals. [NIH]

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