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THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE: AN INVESTMENT IN GOOD HEALTH

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) is the world's largest biomedical library and the source of trusted health information used by medical professionals, students, researchers, and the public to improve public health. Every day, NLM delivers more than a trillion bytes of data to millions of users to help researchers advance scientific discovery and accelerate its translation into new therapies; provide health practitioners with information that improves medical care and lowers its costs; and give the public access to resources and tools that promote wellness and disease prevention.

Working in partnership with the other parts of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other federal agencies, NLM is the key link in the chain that translates biomedical research into practice, making the results of research readily available worldwide.

NLM Resources Serve the Public, Care Providers, and Researchers

NLM manages more than **100 databases and online services** that are freely available through libraries and to anyone with Internet access. These resources support health care, public health, disease prevention and wellness, and biomedical research. **NLM's top six resources based on usage include:**

- **MedlinePlus, NLM's consumer Web site, is used by almost 600,000 people each day and**
 - Contains trusted information on more than **800 health topics** including symptoms, causes, treatment and prevention in English and Spanish;
 - Includes information on prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines, dietary supplements and herbal remedies, including dosages, special precautions, side effects, drug interactions, and more;
 - Delivers the same high-quality information to mobile devices through **Mobile MedlinePlus**.
- **PUBMED/MEDLINE, one of the most frequently consulted online scientific medical resources in the world, is searched more than 2.2 million times each day and**
 - Provides a convenient way to search the journal literature; and
 - Contains more than **20 million citations** to articles published from the 1940s to the present day.
- **PUBMED Central, NLM's Web-based repository of biomedical literature, provides free access to more than 2 million full-text journal articles and**
 - Serves over **420,000 different users who download more than 740,000 articles** on a typical day.
 - The Congressionally mandated NIH Public Access Policy is resulting in the **addition of tens of thousands of articles** reporting results from NIH-funded research to **PUBMED Central each year**, making it an even more valuable resource.
- **ClinicalTrials.gov, the world's largest clinical trial registry and results database, is used by some 50,000 different users per day and**
 - Provides information on more than **100,000 clinical trials** of treatments for a wide range of diseases;
 - Now accepts information summarizing trial results, including adverse events; and
 - Displays the results of more than **3,100 completed trials** have been added to the database to date with results of **220 additional trials submitted each month**.
- **GenBank[®], dbGaP, and a collection of other related databases and tools**
 - Organize the volumes of data that are needed to detect associations between genes and disease and translate that knowledge into better diagnosis and treatments; and
 - Are searched **millions of times each day** by researchers.
- **Genetics Home Reference** receives **10,000 visits per day** and provides users with consumer-friendly information about the effects of genetic variations on human health.

NLM Is an Investment in Good Health

MLA and AAHSL believe that authoritative, high quality health information underpins all aspects of improved health and health care. NLM's databases, networks, and information systems are critical infrastructure for clinical excellence, advancement of biomedical science, and education of the nation's healthcare consumers. Access to authoritative, timely, relevant health information supports evidence-based decision making, lowers costs, reduces waste, improves health care quality, reduces medical errors, and improves health literacy, thereby empowering patients to play a key role in managing their health care. Some additional NLM initiatives that are helping improve the nation's health and well-being include:

- **NIH MedlinePlus quarterly magazine**
 - Now in its third year, the magazine is placed in doctors' offices;
 - Provides trusted health information from NIH in **English and Spanish versions**;
 - Has a **readership of 5 million** nationwide.
- **Electronic Health Records (EHRs)**
 - NLM plays a critical role in advancing ongoing efforts to spur adoption and meaningful use of health information technology;
 - NLM supported much of the seminal research on electronic health records, clinical decision support, and health information exchange;
 - As the Health and Human Services coordinating body for clinical terminologies, NLM supports development, maintenance, and dissemination of key standards for interoperable electronic health records;
 - NLM's MedlinePlus Connect allows users of certified EHRs to connect directly to relevant educational materials related to their diagnoses, medications, or lab tests from MedlinePlus.

NLM Is a Leader in Global Disaster Preparedness and Response Support

NLM has a long history of programs and resources that support disaster preparedness and response initiatives. MLA and AAHSL see a clear role for NLM and the nation's health sciences libraries in disaster preparedness and response activities. NLM has established a Disaster Information Management Research Center to contribute to disaster management research, collect and organize disaster-related health information, and ensure effective use of libraries and librarians in disaster planning and response. As part of the Bethesda Hospitals' Emergency Preparedness Partnership, NLM is developing systems to help track patients, capture and exchange patient data among multiple hospitals, and locate missing persons during a disaster. These capabilities have been deployed in recent disasters in Japan and Haiti. In addition, working with libraries and American publishers, NLM made available free full-text articles from hundreds of biomedical journals and reference books for medical teams responding to these disasters.

For Fiscal Year 2012, MLA and AAHSL urge Congress to continue its commitment to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Library of Medicine (NLM) by increasing funding levels 12.9 percent to \$35 billion for NIH and \$402 million for NLM.

Organizational Bios

The Medical Library Association (MLA) is a nonprofit, educational organization with approximately 4,000 health sciences information professional members worldwide. Founded in 1898, MLA provides lifelong educational opportunities, supports a knowledgebase of health information research, and works with a global network of partners to promote the importance of quality information for improved health to the health care community and the public.

The Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries (AAHSL) is composed of the directors of the libraries of 116 accredited U.S. and Canadian schools as well 28 associate members. AAHSL's goals are to promote excellence in academic health sciences libraries and to ensure that the next generation of health practitioners is trained in information seeking skills that enhance the quality of healthcare delivery.