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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 producer of trusted health information used by medical professionals, students, researchers, innovators, and the public to advance medicine and improve public health. Every day, NLM delivers more than a trillion bytes of data to millions of users to help researchers speed scientific discovery and develop new therapies; assist health practitioners to improve medical care and lower its cost; 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. Through continued research, innovation and technology, including mobile devices and apps, NLM makes a growing range of health information more readily accessible to a variety of users. Its resources are used every day by medical librarians across the country as they support the information needs of their users.

Because NLM is an investment in good health; because its resources serve the public, care providers, and researchers; and because NLM is a leader in global disaster preparedness and response support, *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 at least \$30.361 billion for NIH and \$381 million for NLM.*

NLM Resources Serve the Public, Care Providers, and Researchers

NLM has created and continues to enhance more than **200 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, biomedical research, and innovation. **NLM's most heavily used resources are:**

- **MedlinePlus, NLM's consumer health Web site, averages 1.2 million visits each day and**
 - Contains trusted information on more than **900 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** and to patient health records through **MedlinePlus Connect**.
- **PubMed/MEDLINE, one of the most frequently consulted online scientific medical resources in the world processes more than 3.5 million Web searches each day from more than 750,000 different users and**
 - Provides a convenient and comprehensive way to search high quality journal literature; and
 - Contains more than **23 million citations** to articles published from the 1800s to the present day with more than **760,000 citations** added last year alone.
- **PubMed Central, NLM's Web-based repository of full-text biomedical literature, provides free access to more than 43 million journal articles and**
 - Serves over **1 million different users each day who download more than 1.65 million articles**.
 - Supports the Congressionally mandated NIH Public Access Policy which results in the **addition of 80,000 articles** per year summarizing results of NIH-funded research.
- **ClinicalTrials.gov, the world's largest clinical trial registry and results database, is used by 55,000 different users per day and**
 - Provides information on more than **166,000 clinical studies** of drugs, biological products, medical devices, and other interventions for a wide range of diseases;
 - Accepts summary results data, including adverse event information; and
 - Contains summary results of more than **12,300 studies, with 400 results summaries added each month**.

- **GenBank[®], dbGaP, ClinVar 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 more than **45,000 visitors per day** and provides users with consumer-friendly information about the effects of genetic variations on human health. The **Genetic Testing Registry** offers information on direct-to-consumer genetic tests.

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 continually evolving set of databases, networks, and information systems are critical infrastructure for clinical excellence, advancement of biomedical science, development of new diagnostics and treatments, 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, 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 Magazine**
 - Now in its ninth year, this quarterly magazine is distributed freely through doctors' offices, community health centers, libraries and other locations; an online version is also available;
 - Provides trusted health information from NIH in **English and Spanish versions**;
 - Reaches more than **5 million readers nationwide, with more than 50,000 individual subscribers**.
- **Electronic Health Records (EHRs)**
 - NLM supported much of the seminal research that laid the foundation for today's electronic health records, clinical decision support, and health information exchange;
 - NLM continues to play a critical role in advancing ongoing efforts to spur the adoption and meaningful use of health information technology;
 - As the Health and Human Services coordinating body for clinical terminologies, NLM supports the development, maintenance, and dissemination of key standards for interoperable EHRs;
 - NLM's MedlinePlus Connect is used by several certified EHR systems to link patients directly to relevant educational materials related to their diagnoses, medications, or lab tests.

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. MLA and AAHSL see a clear role for NLM and the nation's health sciences libraries in disaster preparedness and response activities. NLM's Disaster Information Management Research Center contributes to disaster management research, collects and organizes disaster-related health information, and ensures effective use of libraries and librarians in disaster planning and response. Its Disaster Information Specialist Program is a collaborative effort with the Medical Library Association to promote the role of information specialists in the provision of disaster-related information resources to the workforce and communities. As part of the Bethesda Hospitals' Emergency Preparedness Partnership, NLM has developed systems to help track patients, capture and exchange patient data among multiple hospitals, and locate missing persons during a disaster. In cooperation with libraries and American publishers, NLM makes available free full-text articles from hundreds of biomedical journals and reference books for medical teams responding to disasters.

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) supports academic health sciences libraries and directors in advancing the patient care, research, education and community service missions of academic health centers through visionary executive leadership and expertise in health information, scholarly communication, and knowledge management.