

News from EAHIL

News from the Pharmaceutical Information Group



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PHING will be meeting at the EAHIL Workshop in Stockholm on Wednesday 12th June 2013 at 10am. Further details of the event will be publicised on the EAHIL discussion lists closer to the time. Stockholm has a long pharmaceutical history, with the first pharmacy opening to the general public in 1572 and this lineage is celebrated in the History of Pharmacy Museum, parts of which can be viewed virtually at <http://www.swepharm.se/templates/SPTvaspaltsida.aspx?id=620>.

Membership of PHING is free to all members of EAHIL and brings together information professionals from across Europe and beyond with an interest in drug information. Members work in a variety of organisations, including pharmaceutical industry, higher education, health services and drug information units.

As with all our events it will be informative, as well as a chance to meet colleagues and relax before the main Workshop begins. As part of the meeting we will be looking for new officers, so if you would like to take an active role in taking this Group forward please do take this opportunity to find out more.

Looking forward to meeting you in Sweden.

News from the MeSH SIG MeSH speaks Norwegian in 2013!



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MeSH (Medical Subject Headings) will soon be available in Norwegian. This is made possible through a collaboration between Norwegian institutions, medical librarians and experts within health, science and terminology. The project is organized by The Norwegian Electronic Health Library (Helsebiblioteket.no). It has been a great challenge to raise money and understanding for the project. It was necessary to explain what MeSH

is, why it is useful to have a Norwegian translation and how to do the work when there is no research institution offering financial support. The poster *MeSH speaks Norwegian in 2013!* was presented at an international conference *Terminology – responsibility and awareness*, the 6th terminology Summit of The European Association for Terminology (EAFT). Oslo, October 2012. Our poster raised great interest and many questions from the participants.

Why translate MeSH to Norwegian?

First a little look back into history! When participating at an EAHIL conference in Prague September 1995, some of us were very surprised when we saw a librarian at the National Library of Medicine working with a translation of MeSH to Czech. “Why?” we asked; it was hard to understand. MeSH was an American thesaurus for the English language used for indexing English articles in Medline! I did not understand then that this was a bright idea, since most of the physicians had had their education in Russian and this assisted them a great deal with a vocabulary in their native language. In Norway almost everybody speaks English well, so it has been a great challenge to convince librarians and doctors that a translation of MeSH into Norwegian would be of great value for all health personnel, students and inhabitants of Norway as well. Working ten years as a librarian at a nursing school in the 1990’s convinced me that having a Norwegian MeSH translation would be of great value. We have no standardized vocabulary within medicine and health in Norway, only self-constructed vocabularies that do not interact. Instead of using a standard vocabulary in Norwegian, we have to think what terms to use each time we index a publication. This is time consuming and is not exactly a good quality of work when you lack time for the indexing work. Besides, when making a self-made vocabulary, it is extremely hard to get consensus for the meaning of a word. In addition, when the National Library of Medicine (NLM) already has done the work and are generous enough to give it free for everybody and willing to support us – still without asking for money – why should we not go for it?

How the translation is done

The National Library of Medicine has created a database named *MeSH Translation Maintenance System* (MTMS) free for anyone to use, so we had a great start with the translation! This database includes other language translations and NLM offered us the support we required. We had GunBrit Knutssön and Marie Monik as advisors at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden and Maurella Della Seta at ISS in Rome was also helpful. The main problem was to find enough money to employ people to do the translation and we also required experts to ensure a good quality of the translation. Worksheets are made by the translators with the English MeSH, suggestions for Norwegian MeSH and, as a help, Swedish and German translations are also included. Experts are paid for correcting and approving MeSH in accordance with the scope note for each MeSH. When experts have finished their work, the approved MeSH is authorized in the MTMS by the translators.

Norwegian MeSH is sought after!

In January 2013 we celebrated that 17,000 MeSH headings have been translated and NLM have approved 15,000 of them. They are included in the Swedish database SveMed+ (<http://svemedplus.kib.ki.se/>) much used by Norwegian health personnel since it contains articles from many Norwegian high quality journals. This will be of great benefit for Norwegians searching for literature in SveMed+. It is also important that the Norwegian Directorate of Health has decided to use Norwegian MeSH in their new health portal. Journals by the Norwegian Medical Association and the Norwegian Dental Association will use MeSH, including all libraries within the field of medicine and health in Norway. Our own institution will use it for indexing reports, procedures, guidelines and journals. Many people are now asking for the Norwegian MeSH so we are really very optimistic at the beginning of this year.