

## Report from MeSH Information Group Updated MeSH: what's new for 2015



**Alessandra Ceccarini and Maurella Della Seta**

Settore Documentazione, Istituto Superiore di Sanità,  
Rome, Italy  
maurella.dellaseta@iss.it;  
alessandra.ceccarini@iss.it

As already witnessed over the past years, MeSH update for 2015 focused on leading subject areas, introducing key terms in scientific research fields.

The rising interest for molecular biology has progressively shifted to neurobiology as a result of the increasing number of scientists who study the nervous system, therefore a significant number of new terms involves neuroscience and all related areas, from molecular and cellular to cognitive and behavioural neuroscience. The scope of neuroscience has broadened to include different approaches used to study all aspects of the nervous system.

In particular, in 2015 MeSH, Neuroanatomy content in the Central Nervous System tree [A08.186] was updated to reflect the current progress in neurobiomedical science and to accommodate search and retrieval of literature in brain connectome (<http://www.humanconnectomeproject.org/>) and related disciplines: 54 new terms were added with 281 Entry Terms (ET), 451 new Entry Terms were added to already existing neuroanatomy terms, for an increase of 786 terms. Accordingly, the translation was quite demanding and involved also other related areas such as, for instance, diagnostic imaging. A few new terms on behavioural sciences paved the way for future updating, as already noticed for the current translation year. This terminology is quite difficult to translate since in some cases refers to niche or emerging fields, and literature is published in English rather than other languages to maximize its spreading. Fortunately the ISS can count on a premier group of researchers who can help with revision also through a network of experts in the field.

Other changes are less challenging and reflect the trend towards indexing specificity. In some cases, a single concept existed before, but it is now represented by two or more specific concepts (e.g.: Absorption => Absorption, Physicochemical; Absorption, Physiological; Absorption, Radiation). Also, certain MeSH heading/subheading combinations, known as Entry Combinations, have been replaced with the new pre-coordinated MeSH heading (e.g.: Cornea/injuries => Corneal injuries). In summary, 310 descriptors were added, 25 descriptor terms were replaced with more up-to-date terminology and 4 descriptors were deleted.

The Italian translation now accounts for 54,648 terms, which includes 27,455 descriptors, 83 qualifiers and a number of entry terms that, hopefully, will increase at a fast rate in the near future.



**Fig. 1.** *The MeSH Information Group meeting in Estoril, 2010.*