Report from the Special Interest Group on MeSH 16th EAHIL Conference Cardiff, Wales, July 13th 2018

Maurella Della Seta and Rosaria Rosanna Cammarano

Scientific Knowledge and Communication Service/Documentation
Istituto Superiore di Sanità/Italian National Institute of Health
Rome, Italy
Contact: maurella.dellaseta@iss.it

The Special Interest Group (SIG) on Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) met on July 13, 2018 at 8:30 a.m., in the magnificent Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. In spite of the hour and the fact that the Gala dinner was held the night before, the 2018 SIG on MeSH was attended by about fifteen delegates from the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Jordan and the United States. Some of the participants in the meeting were MeSH translators, others information specialists and librarians interested in PubMed, medical terminologies, and more generally in National Library of Medicine (NLM) electronic resources. The attendance by our colleagues from NLM made the meeting more interesting and full of expectations.

After a brief welcome introduction by Maurella Della Seta, Chair of the SIG on MeSH, who invited the participants to present themselves, Dianne Babski, Deputy Associate Director, Library Operations, US National Library of Medicine, took the floor to explain various innovations planned in the near future. David Gillikin, current Acting Head of the Medical Subject Headings Section at the US National Library of Medicine (NLM), recently (June 2018) announced by an e-mail to all MeSH translators, that the NLM will discontinue the MeSH Translation Management System (MTMS) and close down the NLM FTP site that housed translated versions of MeSH after December 14, 2018. This was cause of concern among translators in various countries, since the MTMS proved to be very useful in the past fifteen years. Dianne Babski explained that the MTMS is built on unsupported legacy software and the system no longer meets current US federal government IT security standards.

MeSH and its translations will continue to be available to download via the Unified Medical Language System (UMLS). Secure protocols will be announced going forward for transmitting translations of MeSH to the UMLS.

NLM will continue to assist the translation partners through the close of MeSH 2019. Within the EAHIL community, there are many resources and experts in the area of data use and needs. These resources may join to create a new translation system for the next two decades.

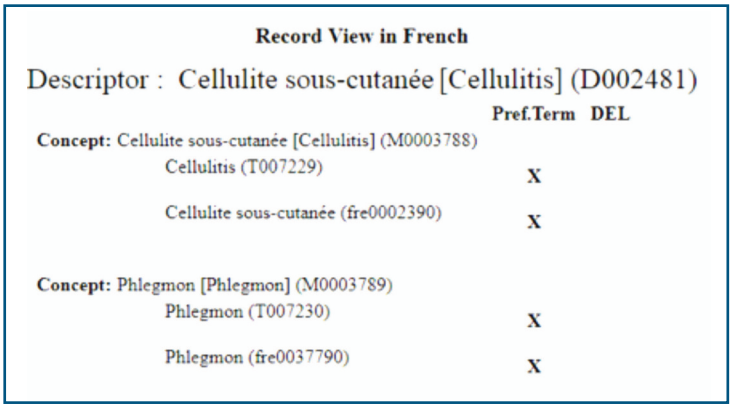
Sigrun Aasen from Norway commented on an important feature allowed by the MTMS: the possibility of displaying the translation of a term in the languages supported by the system. This feature, very useful for translators, as highlighted by, is available also in the interface Health Ontology developed by CISMEF (CHU of Rouen, France) at the link https://www.hetop.eu/hetop/?rr=MSH_D_ARBO&tab=1 (see Fig. 1, 2).

In addition to the discontinuation of the MTMS, NLM is reviewing many of its resources and services to ensure they align with the recently released 2017-2027 Strategic Plan, *A Platform for Biomedical Discovery and Data-Powered Health.*

In May 2018, NLM announced that it will discontinue PubMed Health at the end of October 2018.The majority of information it provides is available in more heavily used NLM resources, such as PubMed, Bookshelf, and MedlinePlus. The NLM will focus its attention on these highly used platforms, in order to better serve users and meet their needs for access to quality health and medical information.

The NLM wants your input as we refresh the PubMed interface. We are experimenting with a new PubMed search algorithm, as well as a mobile-first user interface, and want to know what you think. Please try out these experimental elements at PubMed Labs.

The participants had the time to ask a few questions, in the short time available. The discussion can continue online on EAHIL discussion lists. It is important that other colleagues interested in the topic could join the group and bring their contribution to the study of issues related to medical terminology.



Record View in French

Descriptor : Cellulite sous-cutanée [Cellulitis] (D002481)

	Pref.Term	DEL
Concept: Cellulite sous-cutanée [Cellulitis] (M0003788)		
Cellulitis (T007229)	X	
Cellulite sous-cutanée (fre0002390)	X	
Concept: Phlegmon [Phlegmon] (M0003789)		
Phlegmon (T007230)	X	
Phlegmon (fre0037790)	X	

Fig. 1. *French translation of MeSH Cellulitis in MTMS (NLM).*

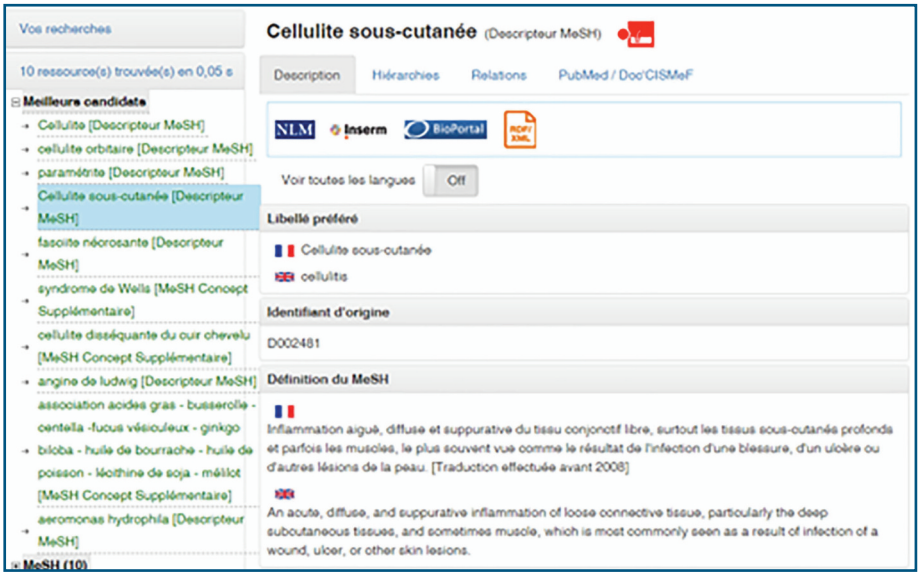


Fig. 2. *CHU Rouen MeSH interface. Translation available in various languages.*