

## National Library of Medicine report for EAHIL



**Dianne Babski**

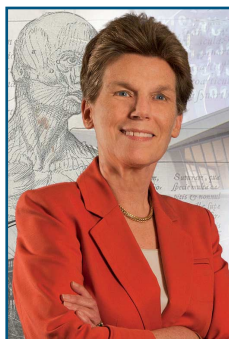
Deputy Associate Director, Library Operations  
National Library of Medicine  
National Institutes of Health  
US Department of Health and Human Services  
dianne.babski@nih.gov  
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/>

### Changes at the Library

The Director of the National Library of Medicine, Donald A.B. Lindberg, MD, retired on March 31, 2015 after 31 years of leading the world's largest medical library. He was the Library's longest serving director and one of the longest-serving leaders at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Library's parent organization. Hundreds of people from the library, the NIH, and from across the country gathered to pay tribute to him. His parting words to staff, "It's a wonderful place because of you. I've loved every day here. I think you'll continue to serve the country and the world well." We will honor his wishes!



*Dr. Lindberg at his farewell tribute*



*B.L. Humphreys*

Betsy L. Humphreys was appointed the NLM Acting Director effective April 1, 2015. She has served as NLM's deputy director since 2005, sharing responsibility with the Director for overall program development, program evaluation, policy formulation, direction and coordination of all Library activities. As Deputy Director, she coordinated NLM's extensive activities related to health data standards, serving as US Member and founding Chair of the General Assembly of the International Health Terminology Standards Organisation (IHTSDO). Ms. Humphreys has contributed to the development of policy on a range of matters, including health information technology, public access to research results, clinical trials registration and results reporting.

### A tribute to Marshall Nirenberg

Fifty years ago, Dr. Marshall W. Nirenberg (1927-2010) completed his first summary of the genetic code – one of the most significant documents in the history of twentieth-century science – a painstaking, handwritten chart of the discovery of how sequences of DNA, known as "triplets," direct the assembly of amino acids into the structural and functional proteins essential to life. In honor of the 50th anniversary of Nirenberg's Nobel Prize-winning work the NLM held "A Tribute to Marshall Nirenberg" on March 17, 2015. The event included a presentation of Nirenberg's Nobel medal and certificate to NLM, for permanent



display in the NLM Visitor Center. People who knew him well shared memories, including his widow, Dr. Myrna Weissman; former colleague Dr. Frank Portugal, who wrote a book about Nirenberg; and experts who have had a hand in assuring that the accomplishments of the NIH intramural program's and the federal government's first Nobel laureate will not be forgotten. The *Circulating Now* blog has a series of articles commemorating the anniversary of this scientific milestone: <http://circulatingnow.nlm.nih.gov/category/series/deciphering-the-genetic-code/>.

### NLM and disasters

NLM has a long history of providing health information for health professionals and first responders to prepare for and respond to all types of disasters, and has developed a number of tools and advanced information services designed for disaster and emergency response.

The Disaster Information Management Research Center (DIMRC), a part of the Specialized Information Services Division helps prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the adverse health effects of disasters. The DIMRC site hosts a variety of tools and information resources including, Emergency Response and Toxicology Tools and Apps, Subject Guides, and Disaster Medicine and Public Health Literature.



*Disaster Image Collage*

NLM has developed partnerships with participating publishers to provide free access to full-text from more than 650 biomedical journals and over 4,000 reference books and online databases to healthcare professionals and libraries affected by disasters through its Emergency Access Initiative (EAI). EAI serves as a temporary collection replacement and/or supplement for libraries affected by disasters that need to continue to serve medical staff and affiliated users. As of this writing EAI has been enacted seven times, with the most recent events being the Ebola outbreak in West Africa and the April 2015 earthquake in Nepal.

While EAI offers information for professionals, MedlinePlus, provides a consumer friendly resource with a specific Health Topic, Disaster Preparation and Recovery that covers links to resources such as preparing disaster plans and kits to returning home after a disaster. MedlinePlus offers reliable, up-to-date health information, anytime, anywhere, for free...and now it's completely mobile friendly.

### Stay up-to-date with NLM

It's hard to keep on top of everything going on at NLM, let alone the whole information world! Here are a few of my NLM news sources and links that I use regularly. I hope you'll find them useful as well.

NLM-Announces: weekly email with links to new and updated files on the NLM site

NLM Technical Bulletin: information on products and system changes that impact search and retrieval

NLM News: links to major events and happenings at the Library

Distance Education Resource Page: list of long or short training material about products and services

Social Media Options: a variety of choices to satisfy your social media needs