



CHRC News

Vol.2, No. 2, January 2000

A Service Funded by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners

Happy New Year to all Our Readers

The staff of the Treadwell Library wishes all CHRC News readers a very happy New Year. We hope you survived any Y2K incidents and are looking forward to helping you answer your patrons' health questions in this coming year.

CHRC Workshops for 2000

Mark your calendars now! CHRC will be joining with the Statewide Legal Reference Service (SLRS) to offer joint workshops on these dates:

- May 15th, 1-5 PM, WMRLS at Head Quarters
- May 16th, 12:30-4:30PM, NMRLS – Location to be decided.
- May 17th, 9:00AM-1:00PM, CMRLS at Head Quarters
- May 18th, 12:30-4:30PM, SEMLS at Middleboro Public Library
- May 19th, 9:00AM-1:00PM, MWRLS at Head Quarters

Remember, members of a regional library system can attend workshops in any location.

New England Region Consumer Health Information Coordinator

Pam White has recently joined the staff of the New England Regional office of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM) at University of Connecticut. As the new Consumer Health Information Coordinator, she will be working with health sciences libraries and public libraries in the New England region to improve and ensure access to consumer health resources. She may be contacted toll free at 800-338-7657 or reached directly at 860-679-8493. Her email address is pwhite@nso.uhc.edu Look for more information on the New England consumer health initiative in future issues of CHRC News.

Healthy People 2000

It's the year 2000, a highly appropriate time to take a look at *Healthy People 2000*, which defines health policy by setting national health targets, and the forthcoming *Healthy People 2010* initiative.

Healthy People 2000 was published in 1990 with three goals – to increase the years of healthy life for Americans, to reduce health disparities among Americans, and to achieve access to preventive services for all Americans.

The Healthy People 2000 web site at: <http://odphp.osophs.dhhs.gov/pubs/hp2000/> contains a wealth of statistical information including data sources, progress reviews and specific information on 22 priority health areas. For example, under the progress review for nutrition (one of the 22 priority areas) you can find out “the prevalence of overweight”, how many worksites offer weight management programs, how many servings of fruit and vegetables are consumed by different age groups and much more. You can also find health statistics on specific populations including Black Americans, People with Disabilities, People with Low Income and Hispanic Americans.

Healthy People 2010

The *Healthy People 2010* initiative, which sets broad, national health goals for the first decade of the new century, will be released in Washington, D.C. on January 25, 2000 at the *Partnerships for Health in the New Millennium* conference, a joint meeting of the Healthy People Consortium and the Partnerships for Networked Consumer Health Information. Watch the Healthy People website for more details:

<http://www.health.gov/healthypeople/>

Health Promotion Resources for 2000

In keeping with the above theme, here are some resources for health promotion activities this year:

- ◆ *Year 2000 National Health Observances Calendar*

Download the pdf version of the calendar from the National Health Information Center at:

<http://www.nhic.org/Pubs/2000healthobserv/2000nho.pdf>

Health observances are days, weeks, or months devoted to promoting particular health concerns. For instance, January is Cervical Cancer Month, National Birth Defects Prevention Month, National Eye Care Month and National Glaucoma Awareness Month. February is designated American Heart Month among others, and March observes National Nutrition Month and many more. May is by far the busiest month for health promotion activities with observances ranging from Asthma and Allergy Month to Childhood Depression Awareness Day (May 2) and National Running and Fitness Week (May 14-20).

The 18 page pdf version of the calendar provides contact details for obtaining promotional materials from a wide range of organizations. Health professionals, teachers, community groups, and others can use these to sponsor health promotion events, stimulate awareness of health risks, or focus on disease prevention. Materials available from sponsoring organizations range from a single flyer to packets of promotional materials.

The one page Year 2000 At a Glance listing of health observances is appended to this issue of *CHRC News*.

- ◆ *2000 Federal Health Information Centers and Clearinghouses*

<http://www.nhic.org/Pubs/2000healthobserv/clearghs.htm>

◆ **2000 Toll Free Numbers for Health Information**

<http://www.nhic.org/Pubs/2000healthobserv/toll.htm>

In addition to the *Health Observances Calendar*, the National Health Information Center has reorganized and updated its directory listings for health information clearinghouses and toll free numbers. These can be downloaded from the addresses above.

◆ **Good Health Tips for the New Millennium**

The American Medical Association issued the following health tips for the new millennium in December.

Children and Adolescents:

- Make your child's world a safe one.
- Open up a dialogue about the dangers of smoking, drinking alcohol and using drugs.
- Protect your kids from infection. Immunize!

Adults:

- Begin the millennium as a non-smoker and stay that way.
- Eat right and keep the pounds off.
- Be a cautious internet user.

Seniors (65+):

- Remember: Good health equals successful aging.
- Take your medication properly and as prescribed.

Elderly Adults and Their Caregivers:

- Protect your quality of life by taking precautions.

Explanations and more information on each tip are provided at the AMA website at: <http://www.ama-assn.org/>

◆ **Medem® Medical Empowerment**

In October, the AMA announced that it was joining with six other national physician associations to launch a high quality health information and communication site on the Internet. The associations have formed a new company, Medem® - standing for "medical empowerment" - which will make its Web site, **medem.com**, available in early 2000. Content consists of sites that exist separately elsewhere, such as the home pages of the AMA and the other participating associations.

Collection Development Resources on CHRC Web Page

New additions to the CHRC web page under **Internet Resources: Collection Development Resources** include:

CHRC Training Materials

Materials used in recent CHRC training session, specifically: an annotated list of sources for reviews of books, journals, audio-visual, and electronic resources; a selected list of popular consumer health journals, newsletters and magazines; and an annotated list of databases useful for answering consumer health queries.

Core Pediatric Materials

A core bibliography of pediatric consumer health information developed by Brenda Pfannenstiel, Kreamer Family Resource Center, Kansas City, MO. The bibliography includes books, journals, CD-ROMS, videos, and internet sites.

Special Health Library Coalition (SHLC) Massachusetts

What is the SHLC?

SHLC was established in 1996 as a collaborative effort involving the resource libraries of the Massachusetts Prevention Center in Boston, Beth Israel Deaconess Learning Center, AIDS Action Committee, Multicultural AIDS Coalition, ABCD, and John Snow, Inc. Since then the coalition has grown to include more than 30 members.

What does it do?

The Special Health Library Coalition (SHLC) aims to make health information more accessible to both providers and consumers in Massachusetts. Coalition members are health librarians and information specialists in Eastern Massachusetts who explore ways to improve health information services and increase public access to health resources.

Resource Directory

The SHLC has developed a detailed resource directory with information on member libraries, their services and collections. A print version of the directory is currently available for free upon request.

Web Page

SHLC is currently working on a web page which will be completed in 2000. The New England Regional office of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine has agreed to host SHLC's web site, which will include an on-line version of the group's resource directory. The on-line directory will be searchable by subject area and organization name. Visitors to the SHLC web site will also be able to use links in the directory to jump immediately to the web pages, e-mail addresses, and library catalogs (where available) for SHLC member libraries.

Who can join?

Membership of SHLC is free, and quarterly professional development programs are provided at no charge. New members are always welcome! **For more information about the coalition, contact Susan Wilson at 617/423-4337 or Anne Fladger at 617/667-1950.**

CHRC TIP: OMIM

Oh, man! There's a lot of material in **OMIM** – 10,000 entries, to be exact. **OMIM** is the trademarked acronym for **Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man**, a “catalog of human genes and genetic disorders authored and edited by Dr. Victor A. McKusick and his colleagues at Johns Hopkins and elsewhere, and developed for the World Wide Web by the National Center for Biotechnology and Information”, to quote the web site home page. **OMIM** is available at:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Omim/>

It's not the first place to go to look for information about rare, genetic diseases. As the web site states, "OMIM is intended for use primarily by physicians and other professionals concerned with genetic disorders, by genetics researchers, and by advanced students in science and medicine." But OMIM is the perfect place to find highly technical information for patrons who specifically ask for such information about rare, genetic diseases. If the information available in the National Organization for Rare Diseases, available through the Consumer Health Reference Center, is too general; if the technical information that Magalini's *Dictionary of Medical Syndromes* (Lippincott-Raven, 1997) or Buyse's *Birth Defects Encyclopedia* (Blackwell Scientific, 1990) provide is just not lengthy enough, then OMIM should be considered as the next step in the information-gathering process. For the most part, all you need to do is click on "Search the OMIM database" on the OMIM home page and type the name of the disease, disorder, or syndrome. A list will be generated, ordered from most relevant to least relevant, and you can choose from the list. For instance, the entry for the **Machado-Joseph Syndrome**, a neurologic disorder named for "affected families of Azorean extraction", many of whom live in New England, runs to 18 pages and includes many links to Medline citations.

New Resources

Cancer Incidence in Massachusetts

In November the Department of Public Health released *Cancer Incidence in Massachusetts 1990-1995: City/Town Supplement*. Each city and town in Massachusetts is listed alphabetically in the **tables** section with the expected number of cases, the observed number of cases, and standardized incidence ratios for twenty-three types of cancer and for all cancers combined. The report is online at:
<http://www.state.ma.us/dph/canind95.htm>

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Bartlett Hall Extension 1
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, MA 02114.**

<http://www.mgh.harvard.edu/library/chrcindex.html>