



# CHRC News

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## Introduction

This issue focuses on a few selected, high quality web-based medical and scientific news sources for consumers. Due to the events of September 11, we are devoting this space to web sites designed to assist adults in talking to children about terrorism.

**Finding Consumer Health News** continues on page 4.

## Helping Children Cope with Terrorism

### Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation

<http://www.talkingwithkids.org/television/wk-news.html>

This non-profit, national health care philanthropy site includes links to specially selected web resources on terrorism.

### Nemours Foundation

[http://www.kidshealth.org/breaking\\_news/tragedies.html](http://www.kidshealth.org/breaking_news/tragedies.html)

This site includes age-appropriate articles for both children and adolescents.

### Public Television's Sesame Street

<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/parents/advices/article/0,4125,49560,00.html>

This site includes an age-appropriate bibliography.

**In Print** features several new acquisitions in our consumer health collection. Please let us know what topics you'd like to see featured in the future. Contact information is on the last page of this issue.

## CHRC Annual Report

The CHRC's Annual Report for FY01 has been submitted to the Mass. Board of Library Commissioners. The following statistics may be of interest to CHRC libraries:

Treadwell Library received a grand total of 702 queries from 288 libraries. This represents an increase of 170 questions over last year. Public libraries accounted for 84% of queries; special libraries for 12% of queries, and the remainder came from academic, school and law libraries, and regional library offices.

The Southeast Region and Metrowest together accounted for just over half the queries, while the rest of the regions and Boston accounted for the remainder.

Like last year, the most frequently asked query involved delivery of health care (representing a wide range of medical questions about diagnoses, health insurance, and hospital and nursing home information). This was followed by questions about cancer and cancer treatment; drugs and

medications; health care professionals' credentials and contact information; neurological disorders; and recommendations (books, journals, internet sites).

### **Treadwell Staff News**

Since August, Tufts University Health Sciences Library has been enriched by the addition of Kate Kelly, formerly CHRC's Project Manager and Senior Librarian for Outreach Services at Treadwell. Kate is advancing her career as Head of Information Services, Associate Librarian. Her expertise in all aspects of the CHRC will be greatly missed. We are, however, delighted to welcome Julia Whelan to fill this position and assume CHRC responsibilities. Julia is currently Head of Reference at Sheppard Library, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Allied Health Sciences, where she developed and taught classes and also created a variety of web pages. She has received and administered grants relating to herbal medicine, complimentary/alternative medicine, and pediatric holistic medicine.

### **In the News**

#### **Treadwell's newest database**

**Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database** is the latest addition to Treadwell Library's alternative and complementary medicine databases that can be searched for MBLC members. This database is a resource for evidence-based, clinical information on natural medicines. Updated daily, it includes clinical data on natural medicines, herbal medicines, and dietary

supplements used in the western world. Products receive both safety and effectiveness ratings. Searches can be done by scientific or brand name to find the use, adverse effects, interactions, safety and effectiveness of each natural medicine. Searches can be modified to include or exclude concepts such as mechanism of action; interactions, including those with food, laboratory tests, disease, other herbals, or drugs; dosage information, etc.

#### **Enfoque Latino**

<http://www.wunitv.com/enfoquecu.html>

MassHealth, managed by the Commonwealth's Division of Medical Assistance, pays for health care for certain low- and medium-income people living in Massachusetts who are under age 65 and who are not living in nursing homes or other long-term-care facilities. MassHealth also sponsors a weekly health segment in Spanish on **Enfoque Latino** and coordinates the speakers. This half-hour community affairs show airs on Univision (Channel 27) on Sundays at 6:00 p.m. Peter Droese, MassHealth's Health Librarian Consultant in the Cultural Competency Resource Center, seeks librarians who would be willing to appear as guests or provide further assistance. He can be reached at 617-210-5354 or <pdroese@nt.dma.state.ma.us>.

#### **Breaking the Language Barrier**

Martha Stone, Treadwell Library's Coordinator for Reference Services, presented "Accessing Patient Information in Languages other than English" at Mass. General Hospital's Nursing Grand Rounds

on September 13 attended by nurses, librarians, and other MGH employees. Please let us know if you would like a copy of the handout.

## **Web Sites in the News**

### **General Pediatrics.com**

<http://www.generalpediatrics.com/>

**General Pediatrics.com** is partially funded by a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant. The Foundation is the largest in the U. S. devoted to improving the health and health care of all Americans. The web site's goal is to provide a starting point for entry into general pediatrics and identify high quality general pediatrics web sites. On the home page, click on any of the 200 topics in **Search A-Z for Patients**, or scroll down to the bottom of the home page and click on **Common Problems for Patients and Families**. For instance, click on **Birth Defects/Genetics** to find links to **Rare Genetic Diseases in Children** sponsored by the New York University Medical School, as well as a half dozen other important sites.

### **Health Info Iowa**

<http://www.healthinfoiowa.org/librarians/>

**Health Info Iowa** is a result of a grant provided by the National Network of Libraries, Greater Midwest Region. The grant provided funds to support access to electronic health information for the public. This excellent, comprehensive site has links to **Collection Development Tools** such as the Brandon-Hill lists; CHOICES in Health Information: The New York Public Library

Consumer Health Reference List; links to tools for educating staff and patrons, including guidelines on handling medical questions in the public library; and more.

### **Merck Manual**

<http://www.merckhomeedition.com/>

This new Merck site includes printable radiographic images (e.g. the lung, as seen by x-ray, magnetic resonance image, computed tomography scan, and nuclear lung scan), clearly drawn pictures (e.g. cochlear implant), animations, videos and audio. For those who prefer, the site is still available text-only. The print equivalent is **The Merck manual of medical information** / Home ed. / **Robert Berkow, editor-in-chief** / Whitehouse Station, NJ : Merck Research Laboratories, 1997.

### **Multiple Sclerosis.com**

<http://www.multiplesclerosis.com/>

Medical professionals at major institutions comprise the editorial board of this new site. Click on **MS for Professionals** for information about clinical trials; click on **News** for current information from both popular and scientific literature; click on **Resources** for a chat room, a message board, and links to organizations including support groups and advocacy organizations.

### **Provider's Guide to Quality and Culture**

<http://erc.msh.org/quality&culture>

Supported in part by the U. S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Bureau of Primary Health Care, and developed by Management Sciences for

Health, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the improvement of global health, this site is designed to assist health care organizations throughout the U. S. in providing high quality, culturally competent services to multi-ethnic populations. Highly relevant contextual links are provided. Click on **Additional Topics** to find links related to broad areas such as “Common Health Problems in Selected Minority, Ethnic, and Cultural Groups.” One of the links at that site is to **Achieving Cultural Competence: A Guidebook for Providers of Services to Older Americans and Their Families**, at <http://www.aoa.gov/minorityaccess/guidbook2001/default.htm#contents>.

## **Finding Consumer Health News**

### **Health News**

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

It is often difficult to track down the primary source of medical news that a patron may have seen on TV or mentioned in a news article. At CHRC’s **Health News**, we have collected some of the most comprehensive health news sites. Below are sites for more specific medical and health news.

### **Cancer News**

#### **National Cancer Institute (NCI)**

<http://cis.nci.nih.gov/news/new.html>

There are a number of highly reputable web sites offering cancer news. However, the NCI’s site differs in that it contains not only links to information from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) but also

other Federal agencies. Information is provided on cancer issues in the media, advances in research, as well as news about cancer prevention, detection, diagnosis, and treatment. Click on “**Press Releases.**” You can search news releases by date or by topic. For example, type **leukemia** in the topic box. The first press release listed, about complete remissions in a clinical trial, is from a report in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The full citation is given, as well as links to photos of the articles’ authors, a schematic drawing, and an interview with the study’s authors.

## **Drug News**

### **Doctor’s Guide to the Internet**

<http://www.docguide.com>

This is a commercial site from P\S\L NuMedia, a member company of P\S\L Group, a global organization dedicated to putting information at the service of medicine. The medical and drug news comes from a variety of top quality medical and scientific sources including national association meetings and medical journals. The home page always features “**Today’s News.**” Articles are written by Doctor’s Guide staff and the full source of the information is given. You can search for a drug name or for a disease. For instance, type **thalidomide** in the search box and choose to search the default, “Doctor’s Guide.” About two dozen articles are listed, with sources ranging from the FDA’s clearance to treat leprosy, to reports from ASCO’s (American Society of Clinical Oncology) annual meeting describing

thalidomide's use in cancer treatment. When appropriate, citations to the medical literature are given.

## **World Health News**

### **Center for Health Communication**

**<http://worldhealthnews.harvard.edu>**

A very timely online news digest comes from the Center for Health Communication at the Harvard School of Public Health. It offers a combination of original reporting and a digest of news stories and commentaries from newspapers and magazines worldwide on pressing issues in public health. You can sign up to receive weekly e-mails detailing the updated content. Since a search engine is not available, you can use your browser's "find" command to look for a word. When you click on the story of interest, you leave the World Health News site. For instance, choose "Many children won't be the same" (*Dallas Morning News, Sept. 16, 2001*) to see the full text of the article.

## **In Print**

**Adult leukemia : a comprehensive guide for patients and families / Barbara Lackritz** / Cambridge [Mass.] : O'Reilly, 2001. Well known as "Granny Barb" to readers who have consulted her web site <http://www.acor.org/leukemia/storydir/barb.html>, the author is a survivor of CLL (chronic lymphocytic leukemia). This book describes many types of leukemia in an understandable style, as well as tests, treatment options, signs and symptoms, and prognosis. There is also a chapter on how to

carry out research, including Medline search strategies and web sites. O'Reilly & Associates' *Patient-Centered Guides*, <http://www.patientcenters.com/>

are high quality, attractive, understandable books for consumers, with useful appendices.

**Lung cancer : making sense of diagnosis, treatment, and options / Lorraine Johnston** / Cambridge [Mass.] : O'Reilly, 2001. There are many different types of lung cancer, and this guide covers diagnosis and staging; how to find the right specialist; interacting with medical personnel; a broad overview of lung cancer including statistics; and information on prognosis and treatment. Much of the more general information on clinical trials, insurance, and stress, can be applied to other diagnoses.

**Tourette's Syndrome : finding answers & getting help / Mitzi Waltz** / Cambridge [Mass.] : O'Reilly, 2001. With an international (English-speaking) view, Waltz has pulled together a remarkable amount of information on diagnosis and treatment of Tourette's Syndrome (TS). Of particular interest is the section on school issues, as well as medical information on treatment, diagnosis, and diagnostic tests for TS and TS-related disorders. There are extensive, annotated bibliographies and web sites.

**Consumer health : a guide to Internet resources / compiled by Cecilia Durkin** / Chicago : Medical Library Association, 2001. The late Cecilia Durkin was well known in medical librarianship for her depth and breadth of knowledge. This book, seventh in the Medical Library Association's BibKit Series, is comprehensive and clearly



written. It is accompanied by a diskette and is divided into chapters covering topics such as Diseases and Conditions; Family Health Issues; Health Materials in Multiple Languages; Mental Health and Substance Abuse; and Surviving Internet Overload. Each entry's URL is followed by a lengthy annotation including the site's sponsoring organization. There's also a comprehensive bibliography. *Consumer Health* is an excellent source of information.

Tracking down consumer health news from print, media, or electronic sources can be frustrating and time-consuming. Don't hesitate to ask us for assistance on this or any other subject. Please let us know if there's a topic you'd like to see covered in the *CHRC News*.

### **CHRC Contact Information**

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