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## Grant gives whole new meaning to Web surfing

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First there was MEDLINE, the Reader's Guide for peer-reviewed medical information. Then came MEDLINEplus, a virtual encyclopedia for medical information for the consumer.

MEDLINEplus has an extensive collection of information that would take a Web surfer hours on their own to find. It was launched in October 1998 when librarians at the National Library of Medicine (NLM) realized the general public was searching MEDLINE for medical information and instead discovering a frustrating array of technical information. To curb the frustration and to assist the general public, MEDLINEplus was developed.

When it was launched, MEDLINEplus had about a dozen complete health sites. Within six months, there were about 70 completed topics and, by the end of the summer, the site should have nearly 300 health topics completed with links to other informative pages. Quadrupling the number of health topics available is a formidable task so the NLM offered a grant for completion of a comprehensive, massive Web search to locate, evaluate and catalog the hundreds of medical Web sites.

Peggy Richwine, MLS, director of outreach at the Ruth Lilly Medical Library, is the principal investigator for that \$75,000, one-year grant. She and five other Indiana librarians were engaged to complete the project by September. It is the team she assembled to do the job that Ms. Richwine says won them the grant.

"Our proposal was attractive because we had a team of people who are on the front lines (in library science and medicine) and who are very skilled at Internet searches," she said.

The other members of the team are Lydia Chuang, MLS, Wishard Hospital; Carol Simpson Davis, MLS, an Indianapolis-based consultant; Deborah Kellenburger, MLS, RN, PHN, a former public health nurse and Bloomington-based consultant; Elaine Skopelja, MLS, Indiana Hand Center; Lorna Springston, MLS, Memorial Hospital in Jasper.

All five women were trained at the NLM and are now engaged in the Web search. Each was assigned a number of health topics to research so there would be no duplication of effort. The sites are evaluated on several criteria including whether they are current, written on the consumer level, readability and viewability, and whether the group sponsoring the page has a board of medical directors. Most National Institutes of Health pages will qualify, as will Web pages posted by organizations such as the American Health Association and the Alzheimer's Disease Association.

In addition to the health topics with information on common diseases and conditions, MEDLINEplus readers will have direct access to medical dictionaries, search databases, directories for locating doctors and hospitals, on-line medical publications and news, organizations that provide information to consumers, and libraries for health consumers. Readers can also access MEDLINE from the MEDLINEplus home page.

With all the potentially fraudulent, often misleading and confusing health information on the Web, MEDLINEplus will serve as a port-in-the-storm for patients, their family members and others interested in viable health care information.

MEDLINEplus can be accessed at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/>.

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## BRIEFS

### Alumni weekend

The Spring Medical Alumni Weekend is just around the corner. Events begin Friday, May 14, and conclude the following day.

On Friday, the schedule includes a Continuing Medical Education course, a golf outing, walking tour of campus and a luncheon with Joseph Pursch, MD, ('59) speaking on "Treatment Adventures with Alcoholics, Addicts and Other Difficult Patients." An alumni reception is scheduled from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the University Place Hotel courtyard. Reunion receptions and dinners follow for members of classes graduating in the years ending with a 4 or a 9, along with the May and December classes from 1942.

Saturday's schedule begins with a 9 a.m. walking tour, followed by the Alumni Association Awards luncheon, more commonly known as the Strawberry Shortcake Luncheon. At 2 p.m., there will be the unveiling of the bust of Dean Allison Maxwell and additional walking tours.

Additional class reunion receptions and dinners are scheduled for the evening.

For additional information or to register, call 274-8828.

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## **Wordsmiths they ain't, or so it would appear in survey of patient charts**

Haste makes waste, or at the very least confusion.

According to an article in the Jan. 27 Wall Street Journal, haste can make for some funny notations in patient chart notes. The rub is, however, when an attorney gets a hold of those chart notes and builds a case showing that a doctor displays a pattern of sloppiness.

Gary P. Machnowski, senior risk manager at Frontier Healthcare, said imprecise notations by themselves may tickle the funny bone of a jury in a malpractice suit. But, when repeat offenses can lead to questions about the physician's overall care, then there can be a problem.

WSJ noted some examples taken from "Details in Professional Liability," a newsletter published by Frontier Healthcare, which insures about 12,000 physicians.

"The lab test indicated abnormal lover function."

"The baby was delivered, the cord clamped and cut, and handed to the pediatrician, who breathed and cried immediately."

"The skin was moist and dry."

"The patient had waffles for breakfast and anorexia for lunch."

"Bleeding started in the rectal area and continued all the way to Los Angeles."

"Exam of the genitalia was completely negative except for the right foot."

"When patient fainted, her eyes rolled around the room."

"The patient was to have a bowel resection. However, he took a job as stockbroker instead."

Need we say more.

## AOA inducts IUSM members

Recently inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Honorary Society, Indiana University Chapter, were the following members:

### **Class of 1999**

Karen Adkins, Eric Beachy, Michael Byers, Haritha Challapalli, Amy Criniti, Ruchik Desai, Kevin Doner, Michelle Elieff, Debbie Hall, Amy Hallal, Erin Heiskell, Kari Helms, Lori Houston, John Kitchens, Krista Lavonas, Aaron LeGrand, Kristin Mahan, Andrew Masica, Jeffrey McGowen, Beth Miller, Douglas Minnich, Daniel Moore, Robert Owen, Matthew Pisano, Bryan Popp, Richard Rodgers, Joseph Smucker, Laura Stitle, Ronald Suh, Djerrick Tan, T'zu-Jen Tan, Wendy Wilson and Christopher Wood.

### **Class of 2000**

Kenneth Bowman, Sara Cox, Karla Draft, Lisa Emrich, Gawain Gilkey, Jason Gutt, William Hinckley, Jonathan Honegger, Joseph Lodato, Robert Sloan and Jeffrey Yergler.

### **Honorary members**

**Alumni** - Mary Edwards-Brown, MD, and Joseph Fitzgerald, MD.

**Faculty** - Jerry Bergstein, MD

**House staff** - Burke Mamlin, MD, Christopher Peltier, MD, Clark Perry, DO.

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## FDA commissioner to speak at Senior Banquet

The Senior Banquet, an awards evening for graduating medical students, will be Friday, May 7, at the Indiana Roof Ballroom.

This year's speaker will be Jane Henney, MD, ('73) commissioner of Food and Drugs at the Food and Drug Administration. She is the guest of Lori Sieboldt Lowery, 1999 class president.

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## Free screenings offered May 5

Free screenings for anxiety disorders will be conducted from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 5, at IU

Hospital Adult Outpatient Psychiatry Clinic, room 3124. Appointments are not necessary.

Screenings will consist of a written self-test for anxiety and a brief screening interview with a mental health professional. Educational information also will be available. The entire screening takes about 30 minutes.

For additional information, call 274-7422.

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## **Submissions to Scope**

Scope wants your news items.

There are three easy ways to submit story ideas or information to SCOPE:

- -- fax the information to 278-3502;
- -- e-mail the information to [mhardin@iupui.edu](mailto:mhardin@iupui.edu);
- -- or mail the information to Mary Hardin, LO 401, IUPUI.

The deadline for copy is 8:30 a.m. Mondays, the week prior to publication.

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**<http://www.medicine.indiana.edu>**

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