

News from EAHIL

News from the Pharmaceutical Information Group



Michelle Wake

Group Co-Chair PHING
UCL School of Pharmacy, London WC1N 1AX
Contact: m.wake@ucl.ac.uk

PHING will be meeting at the EAHIL Workshop in Stockholm on Wednesday 12th June 2013 at 10am. Further details of the event will be publicised on the EAHIL discussion lists closer to the time. Stockholm has a long pharmaceutical history, with the first pharmacy opening to the general public in 1572 and this lineage is celebrated in the History of Pharmacy Museum, parts of which can be viewed virtually at <http://www.swepharm.se/templates/SPTvaspaltsida.aspx?id=620>.

Membership of PHING is free to all members of EAHIL and brings together information professionals from across Europe and beyond with an interest in drug information. Members work in a variety of organisations, including pharmaceutical industry, higher education, health services and drug information units.

As with all our events it will be informative, as well as a chance to meet colleagues and relax before the main Workshop begins. As part of the meeting we will be looking for new officers, so if you would like to take an active role in taking this Group forward please do take this opportunity to find out more.

Looking forward to meeting you in Sweden.

News from the MeSH SIG MeSH speaks Norwegian in 2013!



Sigrun Espelien Aasen

Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services,
The Norwegian Electronic Health Library.
Contact: Sigrun.Espelien.Aasen@kunnskapssenteret.no

MeSH (Medical Subject Headings) will soon be available in Norwegian. This is made possible through a collaboration between Norwegian institutions, medical librarians and experts within health, science and terminology. The project is organized by The Norwegian Electronic Health Library (Helsebiblioteket.no). It has been a great challenge to raise money and understanding for the project. It was necessary to explain what MeSH

is, why it is useful to have a Norwegian translation and how to do the work when there is no research institution offering financial support. The poster *MeSH speaks Norwegian in 2013!* was presented at an international conference *Terminology – responsibility and awareness*, the 6th terminology Summit of The European Association for Terminology (EAFT). Oslo, October 2012. Our poster raised great interest and many questions from the participants.

Why translate MeSH to Norwegian?

First a little look back into history! When participating at an EAHIL conference in Prague September 1995, some of us were very surprised when we saw a librarian at the National Library of Medicine working with a translation of MeSH to Czech. “Why?” we asked; it was hard to understand. MeSH was an American thesaurus for the English language used for indexing English articles in Medline! I did not understand then that this was a bright idea, since most of the physicians had had their education in Russian and this assisted them a great deal with a vocabulary in their native language. In Norway almost everybody speaks English well, so it has been a great challenge to convince librarians and doctors that a translation of MeSH into Norwegian would be of great value for all health personnel, students and inhabitants of Norway as well. Working ten years as a librarian at a nursing school in the 1990’s convinced me that having a Norwegian MeSH translation would be of great value. We have no standardized vocabulary within medicine and health in Norway, only self-constructed vocabularies that do not interact. Instead of using a standard vocabulary in Norwegian, we have to think what terms to use each time we index a publication. This is time consuming and is not exactly a good quality of work when you lack time for the indexing work. Besides, when making a self-made vocabulary, it is extremely hard to get consensus for the meaning of a word. In addition, when the National Library of Medicine (NLM) already has done the work and are generous enough to give it free for everybody and willing to support us – still without asking for money – why should we not go for it?

How the translation is done

The National Library of Medicine has created a database named *MeSH Translation Maintenance System* (MTMS) free for anyone to use, so we had a great start with the translation! This database includes other language translations and NLM offered us the support we required. We had GunBrit Knutssön and Marie Monik as advisors at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden and Maurella Della Seta at ISS in Rome was also helpful. The main problem was to find enough money to employ people to do the translation and we also required experts to ensure a good quality of the translation. Worksheets are made by the translators with the English MeSH, suggestions for Norwegian MeSH and, as a help, Swedish and German translations are also included. Experts are paid for correcting and approving MeSH in accordance with the scope note for each MeSH. When experts have finished their work, the approved MeSH is authorized in the MTMS by the translators.

Norwegian MeSH is sought after!

In January 2013 we celebrated that 17,000 MeSH headings have been translated and NLM have approved 15,000 of them. They are included in the Swedish database SveMed+ (<http://svemedplus.kib.ki.se/>) much used by Norwegian health personnel since it contains articles from many Norwegian high quality journals. This will be of great benefit for Norwegians searching for literature in SveMed+. It is also important that the Norwegian Directorate of Health has decided to use Norwegian MeSH in their new health portal. Journals by the Norwegian Medical Association and the Norwegian Dental Association will use MeSH, including all libraries within the field of medicine and health in Norway. Our own institution will use it for indexing reports, procedures, guidelines and journals. Many people are now asking for the Norwegian MeSH so we are really very optimistic at the beginning of this year.

MeSH speaks Norwegian in 2013!

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Sigrun Espelien Aasen, Åse Sofie Skjerdal and Katrine Rutgeron, the Norwegian Electronic Health Library¹

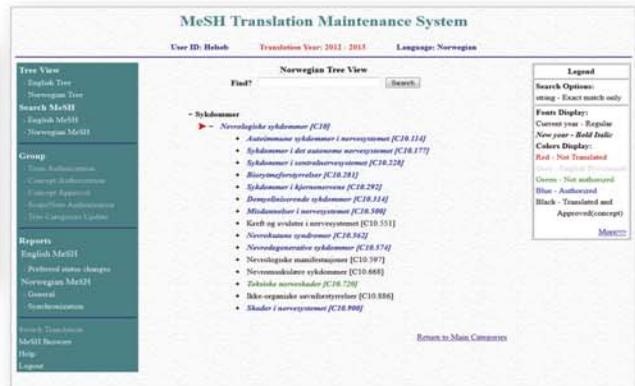
WHAT IS MeSH?

- A controlled vocabulary developed by the National Library of Medicine since 1960.
- Contains more than 26 500 topics and approx. 200,000 terms in medicine and related disciplines.
- Defines one preferred term for each topic, and allows up to 29 alternative terms.
- Each MeSH has a unique identifier, a numeric code, which combines a definition with all synonyms and concepts within the MeSH. Linguistic changes of the identifier do not necessitate re-indexing.
- Widely used for indexing of literature, e.g. in databases as PubMed / Medline, Cochrane Library, CINAHL and SveMed+ and websites like the Health On the Net Foundation (HON), the French health portal CISMef and the patient portal MedlinePlus. Used by Norwegian medical libraries for cataloging of literature.
- Translated to 24 languages (per October 2012).



HOW TO DO THE TRANSLATION WORK?

- Working tool is "MeSH Translation Maintenance System" (MTMS), owned and run by National Library of Medicine (NLM). They give free support!
- The translation work is done by librarians and linguists, helped by dictionaries and reference books. All suggested Norwegian MeSH-terms and definitions are put into worksheets where they can be compared to the corresponding terms in English, Swedish and German.
- Experts within each subject go through the worksheets with the suggested translations and correct them when necessary.
- The terms are finally authorized in MTMS.
- Each November, NLM approves the translations and corrections of the year.
- By the end of 2012 we will have translated 17 000 MeSH out of totally 26 500 MeSH.



WHY MeSH IN NORWEGIAN?

The main objective for translation of MeSH into Norwegian is to get a controlled Norwegian conceptual vocabulary for medicine and health sciences. This will provide:

- Improved indexing and retrieval of health information.
- A standardized terminology, which will facilitate a more accurate communication in the whole spectrum of health information, from patient brochures to websites for professional communication.
- A common terminology for all health professionals.
- An educational tool for students and health professionals - MeSH shows the keywords both in a contextual hierarchy, and in the wider system of various medical professional terminologies.
- A multilingual dictionary of definitions and a reference book containing both professional and popular terms, helpful for patients, health professionals and journalists.
- A possibility to do international information searches using Norwegian MeSH.
- A quality assurance for Norwegian medical terminology.
- A Norwegian contribution to the development and improvement of the MeSH vocabulary on an international basis.

Worksheet for expert

MeSH-termdato	Engelsk	Norsk	Svensk	Tysk
C10	Nervous System Diseases Nervous System Disorders Neurologic Disorders	Nervologiske sykdommer Sykdommer i nervesystemet Nervesyktiske sykdommer Neurologiske forstyrrelser	Nervsystemets sjukdomar Nervsjukdomar Neurologiska sjukdomar	Nervensystemerkrankheiten Neurologische Störungen
C10.114	Autoimmune Disorders of the Nervous System Autoimmune Diseases, Nervous System Autoimmune Disorders, Neurologic Autoimmune Disorders of the Nervous System Autoimmune Nervous System Diseases Nervous System Autoimmune Diseases Neurologic Autoimmune Diseases	Autoimmune sykdommer i nervesystemet Autoimmune nervesykdommer Autoimmune neurologiske sykdommer Neurologiske autoimmune sykdommer Restatymmer Autoimmune neurologiske forstyrrelser	Autoimmune nervsjukdomar	Autoimmunkrankheiten des Nervensystems Nervensystem, Autoimmunkrankheiten
	Immune Disorders, Nervous System Immune Diseases, Nervous System Nervous System Immune Diseases Nervous System Immune Disorders	Immunologiske sykdommer i nervesystemet Immunologiske immunologiske sykdommer Neurologiske immunesykdommer		Immunstörungen, Nervensystem

PARTNERS

- The Norwegian Electronic Health Library – www.helsebiblioteket.no – established the project in 2009.
- Support by the Norwegian Language Council, University Libraries, SIRUS and KITH.
- Professional support by The Journal of the Norwegian Medical Association since 2010.
- Financial support by the Norwegian Directorate of Health in 2012.
- International support by National Library of Medicine U.S., Karolinska Institute in Sweden, Istituto Superiore di Sanità in Italy and the health portal CISMef in France.



¹www.helsebiblioteket.no - The Norwegian Electronic Health Library, PO Box 7004 St. Olavs plass N-0130 Oslo, Norway.