

# Library Newsletter

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## Smart Medical Records

A new program, entitled *Medline Plus Connect*, links information from the *Medline Plus* database to patient portal and other applications. This allows patients to access health information from the National Library of Medicine regarding their condition. A request from the electronic health records program is sent to content in the *Medline Plus* database, which sends back hyperlinks and texts to the patient. The patient can then read information about his/her diagnosis, lab tests, medications, etc., associated with the condition. The match between the patient's record and the *Medline* content is done using medical codes and standardized medical terminology. For example, a patient looking at lab results can obtain information about what the test measures, as well as help in interpreting the test results. This program is now available in both English and Spanish.

## Library Catalog Complete

All of the titles in our library collection have now been cataloged and entered into the NWSC online catalog. You can search the catalog from any of the workstations in the Resource Room, as well as remotely via the [Library](#) pages on the NWSC web site.

## Library Hours

Library hours for fall will be Monday and Wednesday from 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. When I am not on campus, I can be reached at the following email address: [mbyrne@nwsc.edu](mailto:mbyrne@nwsc.edu). There are also forms in the library you can complete if you have a request. I will answer these when I am back on campus.

## Useful Drug Information Sites

Medical Assistants, Dental Assistants, and Pharmacy Technicians should all know how and where to locate reliable and accurate drug information. The following sites are products of the National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health and are good ones to become familiar with:

Drug Information Portal:

<http://druginfo.nlm.nih.gov>—This site includes information from the NLM as well as other governmental agencies such as the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control.

Daily Med:

<http://www.dailymed.nlm.nih.gov>— This database provides information on marketed drugs. It provides label information for the Food and Drug Administration labels and inserts for drugs on the current market.

Dietary Supplement Label Database:

<http://www.dsld.nlm.nih.gov>—This site provides label information for the many dietary supplement products marketed in the U.S.

Pillbox:

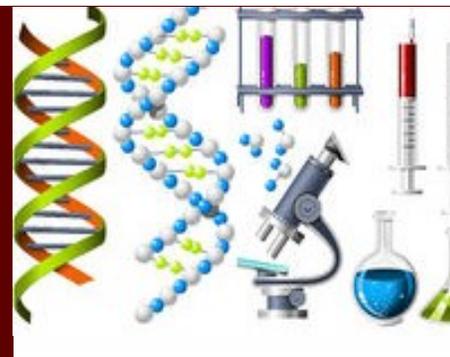
<https://pillbox.nlm.nih.gov>— Use this site to search drugs by name, manufacturer, as well as by physical appearance.

## Links Between Poverty & Disease

Research has linked poverty to the incidence of serious conditions such as stroke and heart disease. Limited access to health care and lifestyle habits such as smoking and obesity are factors in disease rates among those living in poverty. Beyond such factors, however, research has linked disease rates to the occurrence of chronic stress among the impoverished.

A recent study led by Harvard Medical School staff recorded stress levels via brain activity and linked these to inflammation in arteries and bone marrow. Such inflammation can lead to heart attacks and strokes. Participants living in the lowest income levels were found to have a four to five times greater risk of suffering a heart attack or stroke within the next five years than those living in higher income areas. The researchers concluded that the stress among those living in poverty could amount to 28% of the total effect of poverty on the occurrence of heart disease. More research needs to be conducted in order to study the link between poverty and the risk of heart disease.

Stress links poverty to inflammation and heart disease. (2019, July 9). *NIH Research Matters*. Retrieved from: <https://www.nih.gov/news>



## Genetic Diversity in Genome Research

As more treatments are specifically designed based upon the patient's genetic makeup, research on genetic traits is becoming increasingly important. Previous genetic research has by and large focused on the DNA of persons of European ancestry. Recent genetic studies of racial and ethnic minorities such as African Americans, Asians, Latinos, Pacific Islanders, and Native Americans, have led to genetic variants associated with a specific minority. For example, a genetic variant was associated with Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander persons who are daily smokers.

This research identified specific genetic variants among different groups. Such findings lead to better treatment programs for persons in these specific groups. The need to include DNA from persons of non-European origins will continue to improve genetic research and resulting treatment of disease.

Diversity enhances genomic analyses. (2019, July 9). *NIH Research Matters*. Retrieved from <https://www.nih.gov/news>