

Research Advocacy Network

Advancing Patient-Focused Research

In your role as a patient advocate, you often hear or read terms that are not familiar to you. To increase your understanding of terms used in medicine and research, we have compiled a list of resources for you to use. Many of these sites are so rich in information you may find yourself clicking on hyperlinks to gain a deeper understanding of not just the words but also the concepts.

On-Line Medical Dictionary, Dept. of Medical Oncology, University of Newcastle upon Tyne—Different definitions for the same term are given based on the context in which the term is used. This site also has extensive hyperlinking to related terms and is one of the most helpful sites on this list.

<http://cancerweb.ncl.ac.uk/cgi-bin/omd?action=Home&query>

Talking Glossary of Genetic Terms, The National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI)—This is a wonderful resource. In addition to a definition, you get the term's pronunciation, audio information, images and additional links to related terms.

<http://www.genome.gov/glossary.cfm>

MedicineNet.com—An online healthcare media publishing company runs this excellent site. It has a good search function and hyperlinks to related terms. Looking up the term "gene" you get a simple definition, an "official definition", definitions of related terms on the same page, and a very short "history of the gene".

<http://www.medterms.com/script/main/hp.asp>

Birgid Schlindwein's, Hypermedia Glossary Of Genetic Terms—Although not updated since 6/2002, this is a very good resource. In addition to more lengthy definitions, it lists related terms on the same page and has hyperlinks to the related terms.

<http://www.weihenstephan.de/~schlind/genglos.html>

Merriam-Webster Medical Dictionary, Aetna IntelHealth—In spite of all the ads, this is a good site. Terms are easy to search for and definitions are thorough. Some definitions have hyperlinks to related terms and illustrations

<http://www.intelihealth.com/IH/ihtIH/WSIHW000/9276/9276.html?k=navx408x9276>

Dictionary of Genetic Terms, Genomics and Its Impact on Science and Society, The Human Genome Project and Beyond—Despite a good collection of terms and hyperlinks to related terms, this site does not have a search feature.

http://www.ornl.gov/sci/techresources/Human_Genome/publicat/primer2001/glossary.shtml

Cancer.gov Dictionary, NCI—This site has a comprehensive list of terms. However, definitions are short and there are no hyperlinks to related terms.

http://www.cancer.gov/dictionary/db_alpha.aspx?expand=%23

Dictionary.com, Lexico Publishing Group, LLC—Provides definitions from several sources and is useful if you want a "dictionary" definition. However, this is also a rich site that can be 'mined' for specific glossaries and dictionaries.

<http://dictionary.reference.com/>

Yahooligans! Reference: American Heritage® Dictionary

This site has traditional definitions for terms including pronunciation, part of speech and etymology. Easy to search but it has no hyperlinks to related terms.

<http://yahooligans.yahoo.com/reference/dictionary/index.html>