



INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL
INTERPRETERS ASSOCIATION
Leading the advancement of professional interpreters

The IMIA Launches Terminology Resources Database

Medical interpreters work in a highly technical environment. IMIA has been working over the past few years to empower interpreters to have the tools they need in order to perform at high standards. The validated national job analysis done in 2009 revealed that medical interpreters work in many and diverse medical settings, and the results of the analysis demonstrated that medical terminology is a large component of the knowledge base of practicing medical interpreters. Hence, knowledge of specialized terminology is essential to be able to interpret accurately in specialized environments such as medical settings.

Over the last two years, the IMIA Terminology Committee has worked diligently to put together a Medical Terminology Resources Database for interpreters. This tool will be available free of charge to IMIA members and the public at large. The database will enable interpreters, trainers, translators, and researchers to search for existing terminology resources available in their field of work. The search is simple but the results are detailed and provide all the bibliographic details and resource features of each resource, to be able to locate and, in the case of online resources, to hyperlink to the resource. *"This is a great tool for not only medical interpreters, but also for providers who wish to search for existing resources in their second language of practice. We hope that the IMIA membership embraces this tool as their own and that medical interpreters and translators not only consult the database when preparing for their assignments but also contribute new resources to the database,"* reported Nelida Chan, Chair of the IMIA Terminology Committee.

The IMIA Terminology Resources Database, often referred to by its acronym ITRD, is being launched at the IMIA International Conference for Medical Interpreters in Houston Texas on January 16, 2014. The database can be consulted at www.imiaweb.org/resources/TerminologyDatabase.asp. Come and give it a try.

"I have been accessing the Medical Terminology Database lately when preparing for my medical interpreting assignments because I have found it very useful. There are links to online encyclopedias pertaining to human anatomy and healthcare, as well as glossaries and dictionaries of medical terms. A month ago, I had an assignment at a Rehabilitation Clinic and one of the resources, in particular, the Spanish Pain Description Glossary was very helpful."

Amelia Lauer
English-Spanish Interpreter

"The new IMIA Terminology Resource Database, (aka) ITRD is the way to go! I just need to log into the IMIA site and the ITRD is one click away. The search is simple and gives me access to medical or healthcare terminology much faster than wading through thousands of hits in Google or Bing. The database is updated continuously, so I just keep this ITRD site open all the time in my PC, phone and tablet anywhere I go."

Yuka Lysiuk
Japanese-English Medical Interpreter /Patient Advocate