

Letters to the Editor

Diabetic care on the Internet

Dear Sir,

The internet was created in 1969, when the Advanced Research Projects Agency of the United States Department of Defense fired up an experimental network consisting of only four computers. Over the past five years there has been an exponential explosion in the number of computers added to this network. It is estimated that Internet traffic doubles every 100 days with more than 300 million people worldwide now on-line.¹ The Internet is so vast and practically every aspect of human interest is represented in some form or fashion. As of February 1999, the Web contained about 800 million pages of information, up from 320 million in December 1997.^{1,2} From recreation to applied science and technology, and from diabetes and metabolic disease case scenarios to digitized radiology images and pathology specimens, the Internet has become increasingly useful for medical endocrinological practitioners. The Internet in general, holds great promise for all clinicians because of its ability to access and consolidate large amounts of knowledge quickly and easily. As a result, information overload is occurring and physician users are finding it necessary to use creative and selective methods to digest this data. There are no well-known web resources better equipped to assist endocrinological physicians in many of their daily tasks. In an attempt to overcome this issue this article presents a

list of some of the very informative diabetic care and other metabolic disorder sites and applications that will be useful for endocrinologists. These sites are important sources of information related to application of artificial intelligence in medical diagnosis and therapy, diabetic medical consultations systems based on introduction of questions, database collection of related images and clinical cases etc. The web sites with their brief description and URL (Uniform Resource Locator) web address are listed below. The list also includes some gopher and listserv discussion group addresses for metabolic disorders.

- National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases [http://www.niddk.nih.gov/]
- Kidney Development Database [http://mb.sig2sbc.man.ac.uk/kidbase/kidhome.html]
- Diabetes-FAQs [http://www.cis.ohio-state.edu/hypertext/faq/usenet/diabetes/top.html]
- Diabetes Knowledgebase [http://www.biostat.wisc.edu/diaknow/index.htm]
- Diabetes Research Institute [http://drinet.med.Miami.edu/1]
- Misc.health.diabetes-diabetes news [news: misc.health.diabetes]
- Endocrinology and Metabolism [gopher://oac.hsc.uth.tmc.edu:3300/11/publications/em]
- Renal Parameter Database [gopher://gopher.nih.gov/11/renalnet]
- RENALNET [gopher://ns.gamewood.net/11/renalnet]
- NephOn Line Emory [http://www.cc.emory.edu/RENAL/home.html]
- Renal Failure-International Society of Nephrology.

- [<http://synapse.uah.ualberta.ca/synapse/000p0035.htm>]
- Clinical Alerts [<gopher://gopher.uic.edu/11/library/clinaler>]
- Clinical Decision Making Group [<http://medg.lcs.mit.edu/>]
- Hormone Research Institute [<http://hri.ucsf.edu/>]
- GO ASK ALICE! Medical Question and Answer Service [<http://www.Columbia.edu/cu/healthwise/>]
- Alt.Support.Diabetes.Kids [news:alt.Support.diabetes.kids]
- Critical Care Medicine [listserv:ccm-request@eja.anes.hscsyr.edu]
- Critical Care Medicine-Home Page [<http://www.pitt.edu/~crippen/index.Html>]
- LensNet-Lens and Cataract Research [<http://128.173.4.202/lensnet.html>]
- Internet Ophthalmology [<http://ubvms.cc.buffalo.edu:80/~oopraym/ophthal.html>]
- General Internal Medicine Medical Center Wisconsin [<http://gimserver.intmed.mcw.edu/>]
- General Internal Medicine Univ. of California [<http://dgim-www.ucsf.edu:80/>]
- Intern on-call hand book [<http://www.hsu.edu/intindx.html>]
- MEDIC Medical Education [<http://hyrax.med.uth.tmc.edu:80/>]
- Medical Education [<http://www.primenet.cam/~gwa/med.ed/med.ed.html>]

- Medical Gopher [<gopher://gopher.Med.nyu.edu>]
- Medical Gopher Newyork University [<gopher://gopher.med.nyu.edu>]
- MEDICINE on the Internet [<gopher://peg.cwis.uci.edu:7000/11/gopher:welcome/peg/MEDICINE>]
- MEDLINE [<http://atlas.nlm.nih.gov:5700/entrezFORMsmquery.html>]
- MENSEARCH America [<gopher://gopher.medsearch.com:9001>]
- Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report [<gopher://cwis.usc.edu/11/The-Health-Sciences-Campus/Periodicals/mmwr>]

References

1. Lawrence S, Lee Giles C. Searching the World Wide Web. Science Magazine v 280, April 3, 1998, pp 98-100.
2. Lawrence S, Lee Giles C. Accessibility and distribution of information on the Web. Nature 400 (670):107-109, July 8, 1999.

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