

NEWS FROM EAHIL SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Report from Public Health Information Group's Meeting

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Public Health Information Group (PHIG, <http://eahil.eu/sig-2/public-health-information-group/>) met on Tuesday 18th June at 13 - 13.50. Tomas Allen, Ana-Belen Escriva and Mala Mann co-chaired the meeting. We were happy to have seventeen participants, eager to discuss and share information and ideas. After the round of introductions, the meeting continued with the main topic from last year: HealthReach (<https://healthreach.nlm.nih.gov/>). HealthReach is a database by NLM and its goal is to enhance access to accurate multilingual and multicultural patient health information. In Cardiff 2018, we started to map the potential for collaboration between EAHIL members and HealthReach, to gather European materials to HealthReach. It was a pleasure to have Dianne Babski, Acting Head of the National Information Center on Health Services Research & Health Care Technology at the NLM, to join our meeting and give us an update from NLM. Dianne informed us that NLM is currently going through a reorganization. In that context, the variety of databases offered is evaluated and some of the overlapping services will be merged. It is yet to be decided whether HealthReach remains an independent database or is merged with an existing database e.g. to MedlinePlus. For this reason, there is no room for any bigger co-operation projects. However, it is useful for EAHIL members to spread the word about HealthReach and MedlinePlus in their own countries, especially to those working with minority groups. The main news from NLM is the renewal of PubMed: the new version is launched in September. It's worth checking PubMed Labs (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/labs/pubmed/>) to get a preview of the new PubMed.

Dianne's full presentation can be seen here: <https://www.slideshare.net/EAHILPHIG/nlm-update-by-dianne-babski-18th-june-2019>.

The other main topic of our meeting was updates from WHO. Tomas Allen told some good news: WHO will build a WHO Academy in Lyon, France. The Academy is still in an early stage, but the aim is to give high-quality education to health professionals, especially to professionals from low and middle-income countries. The WHO Academy will offer good learning environments, health emergencies simulation centre and collaboration spaces as well as e-learning opportunities. WHO will put a lot of emphasis on distance training in many different languages, to ensure life-long learning for health professionals around the world. More details on our meeting discussions can be read in the minutes of our meeting: <https://www.slideshare.net/EAHILPHIG/eahil-basel-2019-public-health-information-group-meeting>.