

## **A SELECTION OF CONSUMER HEALTH LINKS ON THE INTERNET**

**Donald M Mackay**

**Health Education Board for Scotland, Edinburgh**

The Internet contains a vast amount of health related sites aimed at health professionals and members of the public. Here are just a few, mainly UK based, sites that we have found useful when looking for information aimed at the general public.

Links to many of these sites and more can be found from our generic website HEBSWeb at:

<http://www.hebs.scot.nhs.uk>

or from our new website aimed specifically at workers in primary care, the HEBS Health Centre

<http://www.hebs.scot.nhs.uk/healthcentre>

Both these sites also provide access to useful full text publications and databases of support groups and leaflets.

### **Alcohol Concern**

<http://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk>

A national agency based in England and Wales. The home page is aimed at members of the public as well as health professionals and provides fact sheets, news and campaign information, publications, contact addresses, training information and much more

### **Institute of Alcohol Studies**

<http://www.ias.org.uk>

Provides information aimed at the general public and health professionals on a wide range of alcohol related issues. Includes fact sheets on topics such as advertising, drink driving, crime, the workplace and alcohol and the young.

### **Think About Drink**

<http://www.wrecked.co.uk/>

A site produced by the Health Education Authority. Information on drinking aimed at young people.

### **CancerBACUP**

<http://www.cancerbacup.org.uk>

A service providing clear and easy to read information about cancer and treatments for the general public and health care professionals. Covers a wide range of cancer-related topics.

### **CancerNet**

<http://www.ncc.go.jp/cnet.html>

A US based site from the National Cancer Institute. Organised in three sections – basic researchers, health professionals or the general public. A UK mirror can be found at CancerWEB

### **CancerWEB**

<http://www.graylab.ac.uk/cancerweb.html>

This cancer resource site has information available on many different aspects of cancer, investigation and treatment. Aimed at patients and their families as well as health care professionals and researchers.

### **Cancer Research Campaign**

<http://www.crc.org.uk>

### **Imperial Cancer Research Fund**

<http://www.icnet.uk>

News, information and research aimed at the general public, health care workers and researchers. The news section provides fact sheets and statistics on different types of cancer and information on reports, studies and clinical trials. Includes a section for children.

**HEBSWeb**

<http://www.hebs.scot.nhs.uk>

**Health Education Authority**

<http://www.hea.org.uk>

**Department of Health**

<http://www.open.gov.uk/doh/dhhome.htm>

**Health Advice for Travellers**

<http://www.open.gov.uk/doh/hat/>

Information from the Department of Health covering travel round the world as well as basic health tips, latest health updates and information about form E111

**Scottish Office**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk>

**Scotland Against Drugs**

<http://www.sad.org.uk>

**Royal College of General Practitioners**

<http://www.rcgp.org.uk>

**Take Care**

<http://www.takecare.co.uk>

An initiative funded by Lothian Health Board. Covers a wide range of topics such as sexuality, using condoms, sexual infections, HIV and AIDS and support agencies.

### **Avert**

<http://www.avert.org>

The AVERT AIDS site focuses on education about HIV infection, information for HIV positive people and UK statistics and news. Includes details of AVERT publications.

### **National AIDS Trust**

<http://www.nat.org.uk/nat/index.html>

AIDS Matters Briefings, news about the Trust, news releases and papers.

### **Terrence Higgins Trust**

<http://www.tht.org.uk>

Includes details of services for people living with HIV and AIDS and information about the organisation. Also provides full text leaflets about AIDS and HIV.

### **ASH**

<http://www.ash.org.uk>

### **Mental Health Foundation**

<http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk>

Includes information about the foundation as well as sections on sources of help, leaflets briefings etc.

### **Healthfinder**

<http://www.healthfinder.gov/default.htm>

Healthfinder is a gateway to consumer health and human services information web site from the US government.

### **OMNI**

<http://www.omni.ac.uk>

No list of sites would be complete without reference to this excellent source of quality assured Internet resources.



### **Consumer Health Information Page**

<http://www.nih.gov/health/consumer/conicd.htm>

A collection of the most requested National Institute of Health publications from the USA. Topics include ageing, alcohol abuse, eye care, cancer and diabetes.

### **Alzheimer's Disease Society**

<http://www.vois.org.uk/alzheimers/>

Information aimed at patients and carers on Alzheimer's and related conditions and topics such as sources of help and legal and financial arrangements.

### **Healthnet**

<http://www.healthnet.org.uk/main.html>

Fact sheets and other information aimed at the public on heart disease and other health topics. From the Coronary Prevention Group.

### **Leukaemia Research Fund**

<http://www.leukaemia.demon.co.uk/>

Information for researchers and members of the public. Details of research centres, current research programmes and a large numbers of full text information booklets and leaflets about leukaemia.

### **National Autistic Society**

<http://www.oneworld.org/autism.uk/>

### **British Epilepsy Association**

<http://www.epilepsy.org.uk/>

### **Health Site Database**

<http://cgi.bbc.co.uk/education/health/database/index.htm>

Try this database provided by the BBC to find organisations providing advice on a wide range of issues.

### **Contact a Family Directory of Specific Conditions and Rare Syndromes**

<http://www.cafamily.org.uk/dirworks.html>

Each entry contains a short medical description of the condition together with details of inheritance patterns and pre-natal diagnosis. This information is followed by details of the related support networks, their activities, publications and what they offer to families. Also provides details of *Contact a Family's* contact line service

### **CharitiesDirect**

<http://www.caritasdata.co.uk/index.htm>

CharitiesDirect is an information service for use by charities. Professional advisers and anyone else involved with or interested in the charity sector. The service covers around 5,000 of the UK's leading charities with information drawn from CaritasData's Charities Database.

### **Telephone Helplines Directory**

<http://www.helplines.org.uk>

This directory has over 900 national, regional and local telephone helplines throughout the UK

### **Quackwatch Your Guide to Health Fraud, Quackery, and Intelligent Decisions**

<http://www.quackwatch.com/>

An excellent guide on how to spot dodgy sites of all descriptions.

## **LINC PANEL MEETING**

### **Paul Moorbatch**

City University St Bartholomew School of Nursing & Midwifery,  
London

LINC is a forum where representatives of the various libraries offering services to health professionals meet. It includes Medical libraries, university libraries via SCONUL, the Department of Health, Library Association and Health Libraries and Libraries for Nursing and libraries of national importance such as RCN and King's Fund. There was a meeting in Cardiff on 13 October 1998.