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Cancer / Oncology News

Useful Links

Researchers At The University Of Granada  
Collaborate In The Creation Of Multilingual  
Information System On Oncology

Main Category: Cancer / Oncology News

Article Date: 23 Jul 2006 - 0:00am (PDT)

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The research group OncoTerm, made up by  
researchers from the Universities of Granada,  
Malaga and Valladolid, and Virgen de las  
Nieves de Granada hospital, have designed  
an Internet-based information system  
specialised in oncology. The result is a  
database with hierarchical data consisting of  
1896 concepts related to cancer and 4033  
words in Spanish, English, and German.  
According to the project's leading researcher, Pamela-Blanchard Faber  
Benitez from the Department of Translation and Interpreting of the  
University of Granada, 'these terminological entries are very rich in  
information, apart from general contents, as they include other information  
like web links, articles, etc'.

Although there are links with a similar function, they are mainly in English.  
According to Pamela Faber, 'the fact that the language of our information  
system is Spanish and includes the equivalent terminology in English and  
German not only makes Spanish-speakers' access to the information  
easier but also contributes to a better understanding of servers in these  
languages'.

The conclusions of the project are very useful for health experts,  
researchers, patients and families, as well as translators and authors of  
specialised texts. In addition to this, it is a tool that contributes to make  
their work more efficient, as it 'guarantees quality and the access to the  
requested information in a short time, thanks to the search system and the  
concepts organization'.

As Dr. Faber explains, OncoTerm is an innovating project in the  
terminology field due to the information analysis, recuperation, and  
representation techniques that have been used. This has allowed  
researchers to improve some aspects found in other terminological  
resources in Internet.

Therefore, OncoTerm meets its most general objective- 'to make of cancer  
information a tool that allows families and patients who suffer from such  
disease to be better informed throughout all the stages'. The number of  
cancer cases in Spain is increasingly higher, thus the relevance of the  
transfer of knowledge, as 'understanding a disease does help to overcome  
the fear of it', Dr. Faber said.

PuertoTerm

The series of methodologies used to develop OncoTerm have allowed this  
research group to apply this new terminology resource to other fields. With  
this same purpose, they are currently working on the development of a  
computing application in the environment and engineering fields with the  
collaboration of the research group Grupo de Puertos y Costas of the  
University of Granada, whose main office is in Centro Andaluz de Medio  
Ambiente (CEAMA). This new database, called PuertoTerm, also includes  
a bank of images in which 'words can be displayed and linked to others,  
that is, there is a systematic connection between image and concept'. The  
latter 'has not been done with specialised words before', Dr. Palmer  
pointed out.

Researchers have applied for a project of excellence to the Andalusian  
Ministry of Innovation, Science and Enterprise in order to include French in  
the PuertoTerm information system. So far, the terminology is in Spanish,  
English and German.

About the ANDALUCÍA INVESTIGA

Andalusia's I+D+I public system includes over 18,000 researchers and  
more than 1,700 research groups. Together with Madrid and Cataluña,  
Andalusia has a great potential, with 14% of the nation's total scientific  
output. This privileged position has been possible thanks both to the  
regional government's financial support to the I+D+I and the aid of the  
private sector. Last January 9, the Andalusian Programme for the  
Spreading of Scientific Knowledge created the news agency InnovaPress  
in Spanish, with the aim of providing prompt information about scientific

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Medical Terms

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developments in the region. The project follows the European Commission's guidelines for the creation of a major scientific news agency that will enhance the spread of such information, and will serve as a new tool for the EU's economic reforms set out in Lisbon, as debated in Brussels last December 2004. Now, from April 3rd, InnovaPress will also be available in English, in an attempt to spread scientific developments and results to mass media, researchers, and universities. The Andalusian Programme for the Spreading of Scientific Knowledge is sponsored by the Andalusian Ministry of Innovation, Science and Enterprise. This is a pioneering project in Europe, which has managed to gather research, higher education and knowledge-based industry, I.T.s, and entrepreneurial, industrial and energy policies. With the interaction of all these agents in mind, the Andalusian Ministry of Innovation, Science and Enterprise intends to create a major social alliance that will enable an "innovation explosion" in Andalusia as exclusive guarantee of progress and welfare development. In this vein, the Andalusian Regional Government has increased its investment in I+D+I by 37% with regard to the previous year, when investment was also increased by 32%. This shows the government's commitment to double investment in this area in the course of the present term of office. Some of the actions carried out by the regional government include a brand new Multi-annual Plan for University Infrastructure Investment for the period 2006-2010, with a total budget of 480 million Euros for the ten Andalusian public universities. With this new Plan, investment in university infrastructure and equipmentmte agents in mind,ry policiesm groups. is increased by 32% with regard to the previous five-year period. Also, within five years, the Plan will match all investment made in the last 12 years (1994-2005), which amounted to 504 million Euros. Also, a new system of incentives has been established for Research Groups and Excellence Projects, reaching a total of 87 million Euros, which means an increase of 79 million with regard to the previous official announcement made by the regional government before the new system was in force. In the new system, 12 million Euros have been allocated as incentives to the work of 1731 research groups, and 30 million more have made it possible to start 219 excellence projects dealing with Life Sciences, Food and Agriculture, Information Technologies, etc. Through InnovaPress, the Andalusian Programme for the Spreading of Scientific Knowledge will channel this new sustainable economic and social model, based on the creation of social welfare, respect for the environment and equal opportunities, within the major framework of the second modernisation of Andalusia.

ANDALUCÍA INVESTIGA  
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