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WEB TRAWL

Welcome to web trawl, a new feature examining some of the web sites quoted in articles appearing in this edition of the Postgraduate Medical Journal. This month's column features web sites dealing with angiogenesis and clinical trials.

- **http://www.angio.org** This is the web site of the Angiogenesis Foundation, and is a comprehensive, professionally produced web site covering many aspects of angiogenesis. From the home page, the visitor can follow links to pages for healthcare providers, researchers, patients, industry, government, and pet owners. Clicking on the link for healthcare providers will bring you to a page introducing the foundation and its philosophy (which is to provide information on the role of angiogenesis in disease and details of new treatments). From this page there are six specialty areas to choose from, each with detailed information about the role of angiogenesis in that particular disease area. The link for researchers again will bring the visitor to a page offering a number of links of particular interest to researchers. A “research toolbox” page lists laboratory techniques used in angiogenesis research, and may be of less interest to the clinician. The “library” page may be of more general interest, in addition to listings of books on angiogenesis (which are available for purchase), there are lists of drugs currently involved in clinical trials and a link to PubMed for those needing to look further afield for papers. The section for patients is currently under construction, but will provide information for patients in a number of specific disease areas. For anyone with an interest in angiogenesis, this seems a very useful web site. It is not apparent however when the web site was last updated, and it is possible, indeed probable, that the last update may have been some time ago. For this reason, if you are searching for up to the minute information on angiogenesis, it may be wise not to make this web site your only “port of call” in your search for data.

- **http://www.clinicaltrials.gov** This American web site provides information on clinical research currently underway, giving details of a trial’s purpose, who may be eligible to participate, and the location of trial centres. From the home page, a visitor may search for a specific trial using a number of keywords, including the condition being studied, the location, or the trial sponsor. Despite the site’s American origins, trials in countries outside of the USA may also be located, an attribute that is likely to increase the attractiveness of this web site to visitors from other parts of the world. Very detailed searches may also performed, looking for example, for phase I, II, or III trials, or the database may be searched by the age group or sex of the participants. From the home page, additional links are available, including links to what’s new section, and to a resources page. The what’s new page has details both of the latest trials to be started and of trials that have been recently published, or are newsworthy in some way. (This section was updated less than four weeks ago, so the information is quite clearly current). The resources page provides a variety of basic information on clinical trials, designed both for clinicians and for those interested in participating. A number of additional resources provided by the web site include links to Medline Plus and Genetics Home Reference—both of these web sites are designed for patient use, but may provide some useful information also for the clinician. Overall, this is a simple, easy to use web site providing a wealth of data about clinical trials currently taking place in different parts of the world. The information available seems to be up to the minute, and comprehensive. This is one site I will definitely be revisiting.

Robyn Webber
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