

Resolution of Appreciation for



Donald West King, M.D.



*Adopted by the
Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine
February 10, 2009*

The NLM Board of Regents thanks Donald West King, M.D., NLM's former Deputy Director for Research and Education, for his dedicated service and outstanding contributions to the mission of the National Library of Medicine.

Dr. King was a superb leader with a broad and deep knowledge of biomedical research and the health professions that was a tremendous asset to the NLM Director and the Library as a whole. Dr. King's ability to foster collaboration and forge partnerships between HHS agencies, NIH Institutes, patient organizations, scientific, professional, and educational communities had a major positive impact – not only on the Library's research and education programs, but also on key NLM services and outreach initiatives.

The range of Dr. King's contributions is striking. Within months of his arrival at NLM in 2002, he played a key role in re-energizing and facilitating the final set of negotiations with the College of American Pathologists that resulted in the US-wide license for the SNOMED CT clinical terminology, an important milestone in Federal health IT policy.

As Acting Director of the Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications for more than a year, Dr. King supported and highlighted the high caliber of its research programs in knowledge representation, natural language processing, automated indexing, data capture, imaging, digital archiving, and communications. He recruited additional staff for the ClinicalTrials.gov team, preparing NLM to respond effectively to new legislative mandates. He expanded Profiles in Science significantly, recruiting additional eminent scientists to participate in it.

Dr. King oversaw the NLM implementation of revised NIH procedures for recruiting, hiring, and promoting intramural scientists, ensuring that NCBI and Lister Hill could attract and retain outstanding investigators. He represented NLM effectively in many NIH- and government-wide contexts.

Dr. King was a pioneering force in the formation and evolution of the NIH MedlinePlus magazine, a joint effort of the Friends of the National Library of Medicine, the National Institutes of Health, and the National Library of Medicine. It was Dr. King who had the original vision and who pulled together the editorial and production teams to make it possible. Since its creation in 2006, NIH MedlinePlus has seen its circulation rise to one-half a million, with a readership of nearly 5 million. To broaden our audience, Dr. King encouraged the NIH to join the National Library of Medicine, the National Alliance for Hispanic Health, and the Friends of the National Library of Medicine in launching a Spanish/English version of NIH MedlinePlus magazine in January, 2009.

Dr. King was responsible for successfully nurturing agreements between many prominent organizations and the NLM, including the American Pediatric Association, the American Osteopathic Association, the American Hospital Association, and the National Medical Association, and others, to participate in NLM's ongoing "InformationRx" project in which physician members write "prescriptions for information" leading their patients, families, and caregivers to MedlinePlus or Genetics Home Reference.

Highly supportive of NIH programs for recruitment, retention, and leadership development, Dr. King was instrumental in initiating new avenues for developing the nation's next cadre of scientists. Through seminars that bring some of the nation's top health researchers, scientists, and surgeons together with high school science students, Dr. King successfully sought to excite young people about possible future careers in science. Pilot seminars in Washington, DC, Texas, Chicago, and New York City, have led to requests for more seminars from other school systems and to the expansion of the seminar program to other parts of the country.

Throughout his tenure at the National Library of Medicine, Dr. King has served as a public health ambassador and advocate for NLM informational products and services, nurturing relationships with a diverse range of scientific and public health organizations and the library community and orchestrating many memorable events to highlight NLM's mission and achievements.

BE IT RESOLVED:

The Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine by this resolution applauds the many significant contributions Donald West King, M.D. has made to the NLM and recognizes him for the motivating force he has been in promoting and improving the dissemination of information that has enhanced medical research, education, and health care in the United States and around the world.