Step-by-Step Searching in PubMed

This help sheet will walk you through a sample Medical Subject Heading (MeSH) search in **PubMed**. For detailed information, consult the **Using PubMed** help sheet (*http://www.utoledo.edu/library/mulford/pdf/pubmed.pdf*) or ask a librarian.

UT
UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

1
Access

- Access PubMed through the UT Libraries website: *http://www.utoledo.edu/library*
- You can find PubMed in the **Research Databases by Name** or **Subject** pages under the **Quick Links** menu on the left side of the page

---

2
Starting the search

- <u>**Sample topic**</u>: **treating hypertension in elderly patients with diabetes**
- Click on **MeSH Database** under **More Resources** or choose **MeSH** from the drop-down menu at the top of the page
- Type *hypertension* in the search box and click **Search**
- Click on the link to the MeSH term **Hypertension**
- Below the definition of Hypertension is a list of **subheadings**; select ☑ diet therapy ☑ drug therapy and ☑ therapy
- Under the subheadings, check the box for **Restrict to MeSH Major Topic** to limit the search to citations with Hypertension as a main concept
- Leave unchecked the box that says **Do not include MeSH terms found below this term in the MeSH Hierarchy** (this will allow PubMed to search for the main term of Hypertension plus any narrower terms, i.e. Malignant Hypertension, Renal Hypertension, etc.)

3
Combining MeSH terms in the Search Builder

- Add Hypertension to the **PubMed Search Builder** by clicking [Add to search builder]
- Next, type *diabetes* in the search box at the top and click **Search**
- Click on the link to the MeSH term **Diabetes Mellitus**
- Check the box for **Restrict to MeSH Major Topic** and leave unchecked the **Do not include MeSH terms found below this term in the MeSH Hierarchy** box
- To combine Diabetes Mellitus with Hypertension, click [Add to search builder] again and make sure [AND ▼] is selected from the menu:
- Click [Search PubMed] to view search results

4
Limits

- To narrow and refine your search results, click **Limits** at the top of the screen
- Under **Ages**, check the box for **Aged: 65+ years** to limit to citations on the elderly
- Choose other limits as necessary
- After selecting your limits, click **Search**

5
Full-text

- Click the title of an article to look for the full-text. You may see the following links:

  [Find It! @ UT]
  To check for electronic access to full text from the UT Library.

  [Free Full Text at PMC/Publisher]
  To access Free Full Text from PMC or the journal publisher

- Is the article from a journal we don't have electronically? Check and see if we have it in print, check for access through Google Scholar, or request a copy from another library by clicking on the Find It @ UT button**.**