

Univadis Canada

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Univadis Canada (www.univadis.ca) is one of a family of physician-oriented websites in different countries sponsored by the Merck pharmaceutical company. Some of the content is uniquely Canadian, whereas some is more international in nature. This article provides a tour of the more useful features of the site.

HOME PAGE

The home page offers 4 main sections: Search, News, Services and Learning. A Quick Links box (which appears after login) provides rapid access to specific resources. It also displays your local weather forecast.

SEARCH

The search page allows you to rapidly search all or selected resources on the website. It also searches MEDLINE using PubMed and the Internet using Google. A quick search link is available on the home page. Pull-down menus allow searches to be limited to specific sections. More options are available by clicking on the main Search tab. Both PubMed (www.pubmed.gov) and Google (www.google.ca) provide more detailed search options than are available on this website.

ELECTRONIC CPS

Selecting this resource in the search section allows you to search for drug information from the *Compendium of Pharmaceuticals and Specialties* produced by the Canadian Pharmacists Association. In this resource, the search engine recog-

nizes drug names better than medical conditions.

NEWS

A variety of medical and general news items are displayed on the home page, with Canadian news displayed first. The news display on the home page can be customized by adding and deleting sections, or by changing the order of the sections on the page. If you customize the home page, all news items are still available by clicking on the News tab.

SERVICES

The Services tab links to the local resources available on the website. Most of these are also available from the Quick Links menu. The most useful links are probably the *Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine*, the 3D Anatomy and the Image Library.

LEARNING

This section links to a series of online learning modules from BMJ Learning on a wide range of medical topics. A search window allows you to select courses by specialty, content type or language. Certificates of participation are provided after a module and a posttest case are completed.

3D ANATOMY

This resource displays 3-dimensional anatomy images. It is available from the Quick Links or Services menus. It is powerful but complex, so it would be worthwhile to view the introductory

video tutorials provided. Pictures can be printed or saved to a file.

IMAGE LIBRARY

The Image Library is organized by medical specialty. Pictures can be printed or saved to a PowerPoint slide set. In Windows, individual images can be saved to a local file by right-clicking on the image.

HARRISON'S PRINCIPLES OF INTERNAL MEDICINE

The full text of this standard textbook is available and can be searched using the Univadis search engine or the search engine provided in the book's home website (AccessMedicine). The AccessMedicine website also provides access to an American drug database, differential diagnoses, clinical practice guidelines and patient education handouts.

LIBRARY

The Univadis library of online textbooks also contains *Diabetes Mellitus: A fundamental and clinical text* by Derek LeRoith and several Merck manuals. The link to the Merck manuals takes you to the Merck home page. From there, you have to scroll down to the Merck Manuals link at the bottom of the page.

MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE

This section is a collection of monographs, lectures, clinical cases, electrocardiograms and echocardiograms. The lectures appear to be mainly on diabetes-related topics.

CONGRESS PLANNER

The Congress Planner searches for conferences by date, specialty, type, country and city. At the time of writing, only 27 Canadian events were listed in the next 3 months. For better Canadian conference information, go to the Doctor's Review website

(www.doctorsreview.com), which listed 96 Canadian conferences for the same period.

MEDICAL LINKS

The Links section is organized by medical specialty. Precedence is given to the areas of interest specified in a user's registration file.

TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

This section contains technology information, particularly about using Windows Vista and Microsoft Office 2007 (including Word, PowerPoint and Excel). There was no information about the newer Windows 7 operating system or Microsoft Office 2010.

Competing interests: None declared.

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