

EDITORIAL

Oral Diseases and the Health InterNetwork

We wish to call our readers' attention to a unique opportunity now available, thanks to several major biomedical publishers, including our own, Blackwell. This is especially important for our colleagues from countries with a relatively low per capita GNP. To do this in this editorial we excerpt and summarize information from the *Health InterNetwork*.

Led by the World Health Organization (WHO), the *Health InterNetwork* (<http://www.healthinternetwork.org/>) has brought together public and private partners under the principle of ensuring equitable access to health information. The core elements of the project are content, Internet connectivity and capacity building. The *Health InterNetwork* has been described by the WHO Director-General as 'perhaps the biggest step ever taken towards reducing the health information gap between rich and poor countries'. Created to bridge the 'digital divide' in health, it ensures that relevant information – and the technologies to deliver it – are widely available and effectively used by health personnel: professionals, researchers and scientists, and policy makers.

In particular, the *Health InterNetwork* provides a vast library of the latest and best information on public health: more than 2000 scientific publications, one of the world's largest collections of biomedical literature. This collection is available through the efforts of WHO together with Blackwell and the other five biggest biomedical publishers: Elsevier Science, the Harcourt

Worldwide STM Group, Wolters Kluwer International Health & Science, Springer Verlag and John Wiley.

Health InterNetwork Access to Research Initiative

The *Health InterNetwork Access to Research Initiative* (HINARI) provides free or very low cost online access to *Oral Diseases* and other major journals in biomedical and related social sciences to local, non-profit institutions in eligible countries. Local, non-profit institutions in two groups of countries can register for access to the journals through HINARI: the country lists are based on GNP per capita (World Bank figures, 2001). Institutions in countries with GNP per capita below \$1000 are eligible for free access. Institutions in countries with GNP per capita between \$1000 and \$3000 pay a fee of \$1000 per year/institution. Eligible categories of institutions are: national universities, research institutes, professional schools (medicine, nursing, pharmacy, public health, dentistry), teaching hospitals, government offices and national medical libraries. All staff members and students at these institutions are entitled to access to the journals. If you wish to register your institution, use the online HINARI registration form at <http://www.healthinternetwork.org/src/eligibility.php> (see also <http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/dentistry/hinari/>).

**Bruce Baum
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