WRAPIN
a next-generation search application

General

With the coming of the age of the Information Society and particularly its most celebrated vector, the "Internet", citizens worldwide, naturally think that medical information is altogether more abundant, more available, more accessible, maybe more comprehensible, but also more reliable.

In fact, the situation today is more complex than in the past. More than ever before it is necessary to sort out the good from the bad. Faced with a profusion of information coming from diverse sources, some of which are purely commercial, while others represent the views of religious sects in some cases, one must be able to choose intelligently even if one lacks a technical appreciation or level of competence to deal comfortably with the subject. This paradigm is true for all citizens, including medical doctors themselves, although the latter are -for the most part - in a far better position to judge, due to their training, practice and professional experience.

WRAPIN is a natural offshoot of this observation.

WRAPIN, its main functions

WRAPIN, the project

An acronym for “Worldwide online Reliable Advice to Patients and Individuals”, WRAPIN is a project financed by the Commission of the European Union (European Project: IST-2001-33260). The different partners in this project, initiated by the former president of HON, come from laboratories specialising in the domain of medical informatics; they contribute with their tools and know-how.

WRAPIN will be freely available to all at no cost.

WRAPIN’s functions

The WRAPIN project aims at making available a system allowing to:

- Retrieve medical information using a query expressed in the user’s natural language. WRAPIN compares this with scientific information from selected medical databases (currently eight) chosen for their editorial quality.

- Validate information found on the Web, by determining whether the information exists in the published literature. Reading the answer is made easier with an automated synthesis of the contents of the result, making use of
  - the colour outlining of significant words
  - the automatic identification of the conclusions or the “contextualisation” of the query in the results

- Perform a query in one’s own mother tongue and access medical databases written in other languages.

- The interface offers the opportunity to reformulate one’s query using a medical dictionary (used to correct possible mispellings) relative to the contents of the different medical databases.
Next-generation search application:
- Automatically determines the reliability of medical and health documents
- Multilingual research tool in six languages

WRAPIN, example:

Check an URL or submit free text

• Appropriate scientific knowledge based on related medical and health information.
• Presents results in context and pinpoints pertinent information to help citizens make informed decisions.