The terminology begins with a general terms section, then proceeds to parts of the body and terms used for planes, lines and regions. The rest of the terminology is divided into systems.

Terms are laid out in three columns, with each term in Latin accompanied by a term in current usage in English speaking countries. Alongside each pair of terms is a unique identifying number.

Where a structure is sexually dimorphic, the same unique number is used but the female homologue is identified by ♀ and the male homologue by ♂. Where it is not obvious that structures are unique to one sex, these symbols are also used.

The order of terms follows the anatomy naturally through each system. Often the full form of a term requires part of the names of previous mentioned structures. For example in the list of terms:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A13.3.05.001</td>
<td>Nodi lymphoidei membri inferioris/ Lymph nodes of lower limb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A13.3.05.011</td>
<td>Nodi poplitei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A13.3.05.013</td>
<td>Nodi profundi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Using Nodi profundi alone is not complete, the full name is Nodi lymphoidei poplitei profundi, and in English Deep nodes alone is not enough, the term is Deep popliteal lymph nodes.

Indenting and styles of heading are used to indicate the relationship of one term to another.

Footnotes are provided to explain the choice of term or its origin where appropriate. The committee has not tried to explain every term that is in common usage. Footnoted terms are identified with the symbol *.

The terminology itself forms an index, arranged in the classical cascade descending from the general to the particular but following the anatomy. The indexes of Latin and of English terms, however, are respectively hybrid and completely adjectival indexes beginning with the particular. These and the Index of Eponyms provide alternative approaches to finding the correct numbers and terms in the terminology.

People in English speaking countries are fully at liberty to use the formal Latin terms in preference to their English equivalents.
Spelling in either UK English or American English form is considered by the committee to be equally correct. Terms which include an alternative spelling are identified with the symbol ▲. Alternative spelling for American English:

- Caecum   Cecum
- Centre    Center
- Coeliac  Celiac
- Fibre  Fiber
- Grey  Gray
- Oesophagus Esophagus
- Taenia  Tenia

Abbreviations for the Latin terminology used in this terminology:

- A. = Arteria    Artery
- Aa. = Arteriae  Arteries
- Lig. = Ligamentum  Ligament
- Ligg. = Ligamenta  Ligaments
- M. = Musculus  Muscle
- Mm. = Musculi  Muscles
- N. = Nervus  Nerve
- Nn. = Nervi  Nerves
- R. = Ramus  Branch
- Rr. = Rami  Branches
- V. = Vena  Vein
- Vv. = Venae  Veins

Where two or more alternative terms are separated by; the first term is that preferred by the committee.

Different styles of brackets have different meanings:

- ( ) are used to enclose terms for structures which are inconstant.
- [ ] enclose numbers used for structures. For example [VII] for the facial nerve or [T 1] for the first thoracic vertebra.
- { } enclose directions. For example {vide paginam} {see page}