

## Terminologia Histologica Preface

This book on histological terminology is part of a series dealing with anatomical terminologies. It follows *Terminologia Anatomica* published in 1998 by Thieme, Stuttgart and New York, and will be followed by *Terminologia Embryologica*. The books are the joint creation of the Federative International Committee on Anatomical Terminology (FICAT) and the now 60 Member Associations of the International Federation of Associations of Anatomists (IFAA). The IFAA is the only international body representing all aspects of anatomy and anatomical associations.

The objective of the terminologies was defined at the General Assembly of the Federative World Congress of Anatomy, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in August 1989, when the FCAT (now FICAT) was created. The stated aim was:

*“To present the official terminology of the anatomical sciences after consultation with all the members of the International Federation of Associations of Anatomists, thus ensuring a democratic input to the terminology.”*

Anatomical terminologies are the foundation of medical terminology and it is important that doctors and scientists throughout the world use the same name for each structure.

The present volume contains the terminologies of Cytology, General Histology, and Special Histology (i.e., Microscopic Anatomy). In contrast to the well-established Latin gross anatomical terms used in *Terminologia Anatomica*, many structures, or structural components in the field of histology, had no official Latin term and, hence, a new Latin term had to be created (e.g., Vesicula transferrens enzymata lysosomatica/Vesicle transporting lysosomal enzymes). Some chemical/biochemical terms are included where they are structurally relevant, but it was difficult to decide which should be included. Also, commonly used abbreviations (e.g., MALT, GFAP filament) are included. A few eponyms have been retained, as they are so widely used (e.g., Complexus Golgiensis).

FICAT has met on several occasions since the publication of *Terminologia Anatomica* in 1998:

- Cardiff, Wales, UK, 13 March 1999
- Cagliari, Sardinia, Italy, 5 September 1999
- St Petersburg, Russia, 11 June 2000
- Awaji, Japan, 12 September 2000
- Orlando, Florida, USA, 29 March 2001
- Sun City, South Africa, 18 July 2001
- Maastricht, The Netherlands, 8 April 2002
- Timisoara, Romania, 6 September 2002

- St Maarten, The Netherlands Antilles, 10 February 2003
- Jackson, Mississippi, USA, 24 August 2003
- Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, 16 February 2004
- Kochi, Japan, 22 September 2004
- Brussels, Belgium, 30 March 2005
- Stanford, California, USA, 22 August 2005

As with *Terminologia Anatomica*, FICAT has reviewed and revised the existing Latin histological terms, with the addition of a list of English terms in common usage. The FICAT has tried to avoid unnecessary change and has adopted many alternatives in common usage in order to encompass the variable way in which the terminology is used in different countries. During 2003, a final draft of *Terminologia Histologica* was sent to all the Member Associations of the IFAA for comment. The present work incorporates changes suggested by these Member Associations. FICAT is continuing work on *Terminologia Embryologica* and hopes to publish this work soon. Future plans include a revision of *Terminologia Anatomica*, with particular reference to use of anatomical terms in the clinical environment and electronic forms of medical languages.

The terms are laid out in three columns, with each Latin term accompanied by a term in current usage in English-speaking countries. Alongside each pair is a unique identifying number. The order in which the terms are set out tends to follow the anatomy naturally through each system. When this was not possible, terms are listed alphabetically. Indentation and heading styles are used to indicate the relationship of one term to another. The book is completed by a comprehensive index of Latin and English terms and an index of eponyms that identifies the number of the appropriate noneponymous term.

Only the Latin list of terms should be used as the basis for creating lists of equivalent terms in other languages. English equivalents are given in this list because English is spoken in many countries. It is not the basis for terminology in other languages.

The Committee invites constructive comments from all quarters for consideration for future editions. Comments may be sent by postcard or Email to: [stedmans@lww.com](mailto:stedmans@lww.com).

Having been adopted by the IFAA, this terminology supersedes the *Nomina Histologica*.

October 2005

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