

## *Surf Report... August, 2004*

**Accreditation**..... The word has taken on a new meaning in our laboratory, its more practical meanings (I'm sure Kevin can check his dictionary for the many meanings. (*OUCH! KG*)) have disappeared and new much more sinister implications have surfaced. Primarily "WHY" and followed very closely by "WHY ME". But how to check the myriad of facts, guidelines and well known but hard to source guidelines, seminal reviews or that half remembered reference that you need for the Lab manual.

Searching for articles listed in MEDLINE is relatively easy particularly with tight search terms and practical approaches to limits.

[PubMed](#) is a free search engine for scientific articles and is easy to use. Searches can be done in terms of authors, journals or just keywords. More practical is the limit function allowing you to restrict your search to just reviews or specific age groups. A function I recently stumbled across was PubMed's [Clinical Queries](#) tool. By using this tool, searches can focus on different aspects of clinical care (including therapy, diagnosis, aetiology and prognosis) or on systematic reviews. The systematic review tool is very useful for weeding out those non-relevant articles that always pop up and waste time.

Happy surfing  
Graham