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EDITORIAL

“Who-mab's on first and what-cept's on second. I don't know—Third base”

Finally a great way around the bases of all the new biological therapeutics coming online at <http://biologics.clinimmsoc.org>



With all due respect to Abbot and Costello's most famous routine “Who's on First?”, there is an even more bewildering array of names given the explosion of biologic therapeutics coming online. It is simply impossible to keep them straight. Even worse, journals often publish the official name of the therapeutic, i.e., “who-mab” or “what-cept,” and don't mention the drug's specific target. That drove me crazy. It turns out I was not alone.

Initially, the good folks in the Division of Allergy, Immunology and Transplantation in the NIAID had put together an “in-house” interactive list of new biological therapeutics. The Clinical Immunology Society has now taken on that task and further developed this database as a great

public resource. Under the direction of Dr. Marc Natter, the chair of the CIS Communication Committee, the CIS has developed a spectacular web-based database that is the Wikipedia of these biologic therapies (<http://biologics.clinimmsoc.org>). It makes it possible to keep an online scorecard of the commercially available biologics and the agents in development and contains links and pertinent references for each entry. Naturally, all the content is searchable by name as well as by group and functional category. You'll also find quick tutorials on nomenclature and, yes, pronunciation of those tongue-twisting names. In the near future, CIS members will be able to sign up to receive e-mail alerts in specific content areas of their choosing. Given the rapid pace of change in the discipline, new and revised content is actively incorporated, with online submissions encouraged from the entire interested community at large (e-mail bio-info@clinimmsoc.org).

You can access this web site at <http://biologics.clinimmsoc.org>

While it is an urban legend that Abbott and Costello were inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, their famous skit is featured in the Baseball Hall of Fame Museum. Maybe the founders of this new site will be inducted into some future Immunology Hall of Fame. They have my vote. I know I am using the site frequently and they have my heartfelt thanks.

(And for those readers who have not heard this most famous routine or for those of you, who like me really enjoyed it in the past, you can listen to it by going to the audio link at <http://www.baseball-almanac.com/humor4.shtml> or what the video link at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Watf8_Rf58s.)

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