

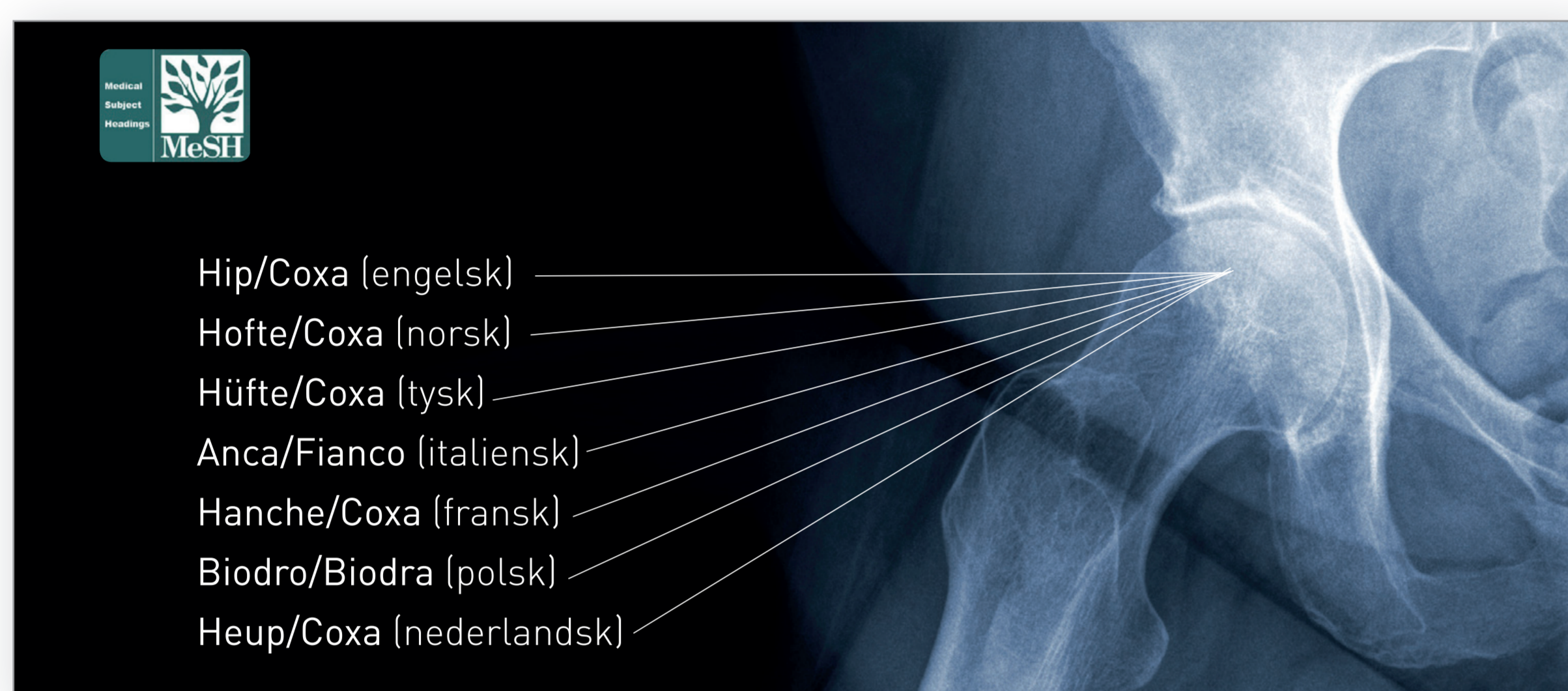
# MeSH speaks Norwegian in 2013!

MeSH (Medical Subject Headings) will soon be available in Norwegian. This is made possible through a collaboration between Norwegian institutions, medical librarians and experts within health, science and terminology. The project is organized by The Norwegian Electronic Health Library (Helsebiblioteket.no).

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## WHAT IS MeSH?

- A controlled vocabulary developed by the National Library of Medicine since 1960.
- Contains more than 26 500 topics and approx. 200,000 terms in medicine and related disciplines.
- Defines one preferred term for each topic, and allows up to 29 alternative terms.
- Each MeSH has a unique identifier, a numeric code, which combines a definition with all synonyms and concepts within the MeSH. Linguistic changes of the identifier do not necessitate re-indexing.
- Widely used for indexing of literature, e.g. in databases as PubMed / Medline, Cochrane Library, CINAHL and SveMed+ and websites like the Health On the Net Foundation (HON), the French health portal CISMef and the patient portal MedlinePlus. Used by Norwegian medical libraries for cataloging of literature.
- Translated to 24 languages (per October 2012).



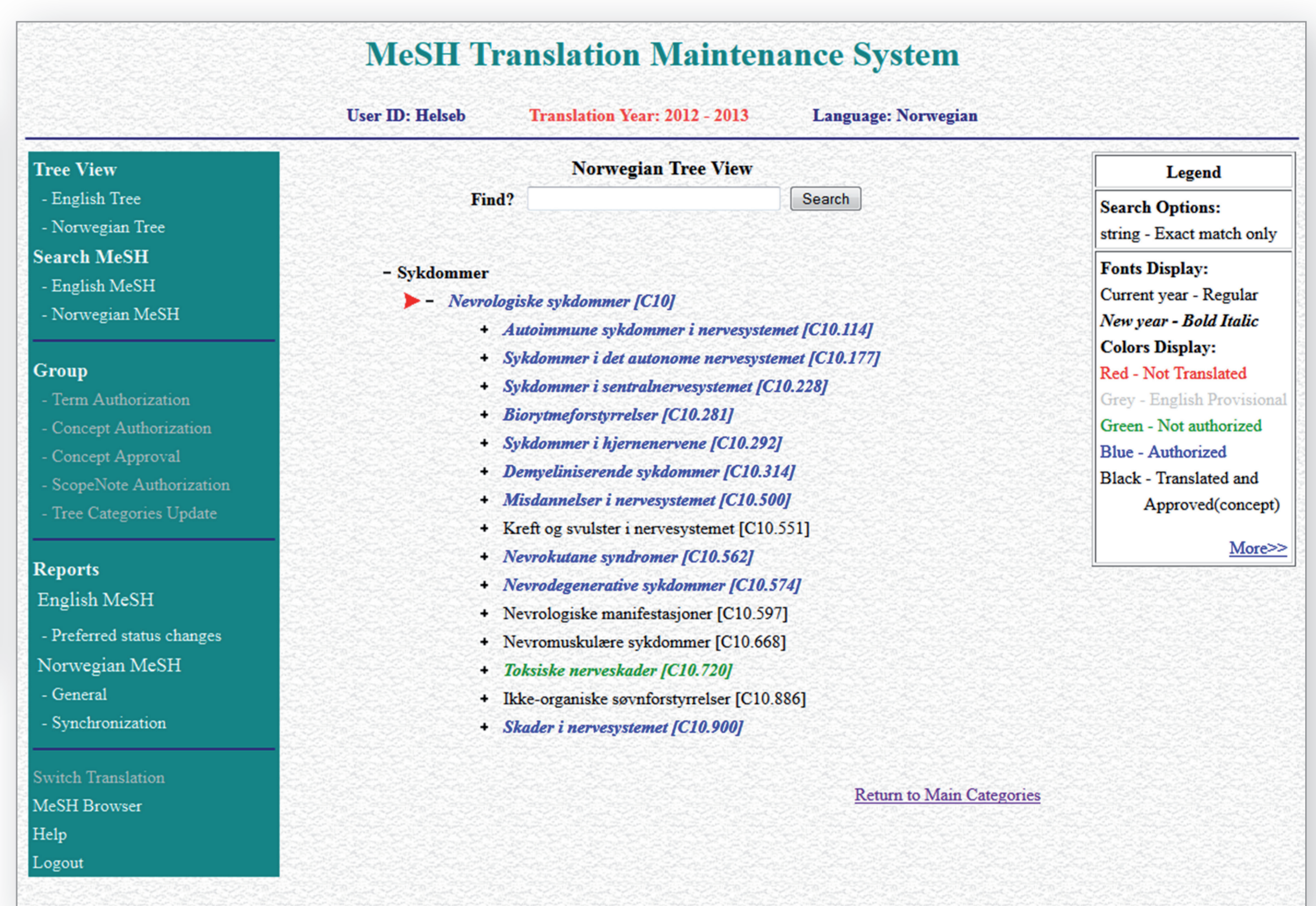
## WHY MeSH IN NORWEGIAN?

The main objective for translation of MeSH into Norwegian is to get a controlled Norwegian conceptual vocabulary for medicine and health sciences. This will provide:

- Improved indexing and retrieval of health information.
- A standardized terminology, which will facilitate a more accurate communication in the whole spectrum of health information, from patient brochures to websites for professional communication.
- A common terminology for all health professionals.
- An educational tool for students and health professionals - MeSH shows the keywords both in a contextual hierarchy, and in the wider system of various medical professional terminologies.
- A multilingual dictionary of definitions and a reference book containing both professional and popular terms, helpful for patients, health professionals and journalists.
- A possibility to do international information searches using Norwegian MeSH.
- A quality assurance for Norwegian medical terminology.
- A Norwegian contribution to the development and improvement of the MeSH vocabulary on an international basis.

## HOW TO DO THE TRANSLATION WORK?

- Working tool is “MeSH Translation Maintenance System” (MTMS), owned and run by National Library of Medicine (NLM). They give free support!
- The translation work is done by librarians and linguists, helped by dictionaries and reference books. All suggested Norwegian MeSH-terms and definitions are put into worksheets where they can be compared to the corresponding terms in English, Swedish and German.
- Experts within each subject go through the worksheets with the suggested translations and correct them when necessary.
- The terms are finally authorized in MTMS.
- Each November, NLM approves the translations and corrections of the year.
- By the end of 2012 we will have translated 17 000 MeSH out of totally 26 500 MeSH.



## Worksheet for expert

MeSH trekode	Engelsk	Norsk	Svensk	Tysk
L01.178.590.875.800	Videodisc Recording	Videodisksinnspilling	Videodisksinnspeling	Bildplattenaufzeichnung
L01.178.590.875.800.250.100	CD-I	CD-I CD interaktiv	CD-I	CD-I
L01.178.590.875.840	Videotape Recording	Videobåndinnspilling	Videobåndinnspeling	Videobandaufzeichnung
	Videotapes	Videobånd		
L01.178.682.099.308	Bibliography of Medicine	Medisinske bibliografier <b>ok/rb</b> ok	Medicinsk bibliografi	Bibliographie, medizinische
L01.178.682.099.325	Bibliometrics	Bibliometri <b>ok/rb</b> Bibliometriske analyser Statistiske bibliografier	Bibliometri	Bibliometrie
L01.178.682.099.325.500	Journal Impact Factor	Impaktfaktor <b>ok/rb</b> ok	Impaktfaktor	Journal Impact Factor

## PARTNERS

- The Norwegian Electronic Health Library – www.helsebiblioteket.no – established the project in 2009.
- Support by the Norwegian Language Council, University Libraries, SIRUS and KITH.
- Professional support by The Journal of the Norwegian Medical Association since 2010.
- Financial support by the Norwegian Directorate of Health in 2012.
- International support by National Library of Medicine U.S., Karolinska Institute in Sweden, Istituto Superiore di Sanità in Italy and the health portal CISMef in France.

<sup>1</sup> www.helsebiblioteket.no - The Norwegian Electronic Health Library, PO Box 7004 St. Olavs plass N-0130 Oslo, Norway.