

# docORG

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*A directory of  
439 medical specialty societies*

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## Introduction

If you've worked in the medical writing field for a while, or you're just starting out, you probably already know that this industry is loaded with acronyms and abbreviations. And if you write in a number of different therapeutic areas, just when you've learned one set of acronyms, you have to turn around and learn another.

Acronyms that can be particularly confusing are those associated with medical specialty societies, nursing societies, dental societies, allied health care professional societies, and complementary and alternative medicine societies. And trust us, there are a lot of them! When you write content for different therapeutic areas, on such occasions you generally end up dealing with at least one or two professional societies that are beyond your ken. They will inevitably be introduced to you as a string of seemingly random and certainly anonymous letters, and your head will spin as you try to figure out their meanings.

We created the *ORG* Directories for our readers for 2 important reasons: first, to help you decipher the myriad acronyms you will either come across or seek out as a medical writer to help you in your work; and second, to put these societies on your radar so you can be proactive in looking them up when you're working on relevant projects or seeking to expand your client base. If you're looking for a list of organizations that might be in the market for freelance medical writers, the *ORG* Directories are good places to start.

Other directories in the *ORG* series are:

- *nurseORG*, a directory of nursing specialty societies
- *dentalORG*, a directory of dental specialty societies
- *alliedhealthORG*, a directory of organizations for allied health professionals
- *camORG*, a directory of complementary and alternative medicine organizations

In *docORG*, we've created an expansive list of medical specialty societies with which you should be aware, and whose websites you should visit when you're working in their therapeutic area of specialty. For example, if you're working on an assignment in lung cancer, you might start with The American Society of Clinical Oncology website, <http://www.asco.org/>, and click on "Lung Cancer" for links to the latest medical literature on the subject. Then you might check out The American Academy of Pain, <http://www.painmed.org/>, click on "Clinical Information" and then "Clinical Guidelines" for current protocols on managing breakthrough cancer pain. Finally, you might go to the American Academy of Hospice & Palliative Medicine website, <http://www.aahpm.org/>, and follow the links to "Physician Resources" and "Peer Reviewed Materials" for a list of articles on the importance of empathetic communication between physicians and patients.

Because *docORG* is an eBook, we've tried to make it as user friendly as possible. We made the website addresses hyperlinks, so when you find an organization you want to investigate, if you're connected to the Internet you can simply click to follow the link and open the website in your browser. We've made searching the directory easy, too. First, all of the entries are alphabetized according to acronym. Second, if you want to find all the organizations in a certain category, simply type a keyword into the search window in the Adobe® Acrobat® or Adobe® Acrobat® Reader toolbar. This will bring you to each organization in the directory that matches your keyword.

We can't guarantee that *docORG* includes every major relevant organization, but we've included every one we could find as of this writing. And as of this writing, all the urls are live. You'll notice that we've also included nurse practitioners and physician assistants in *docORG*. We did this not to elevate their stature, but to acknowledge their contribution to the practice of medicine beyond that of an allied health care professional.

We also have to insert a disclaimer. Inclusion of an organization in this eBook does not imply our endorsement. We are simply listing these organizations for information purposes only.

This directory focuses on major national organizations, but we've also included some relevant international organizations as well because of their impact on the American health care system. Many of the national organizations listed here also have state affiliates, which you can usually link to from the national websites. There are also many country-specific organizations not listed here, that you can search for if you are looking for information specific to a country other than the United States.

Like our books in *The Accidental Medical Writer Series*, the *ORG Directories* are great resources! And that's exactly what *The Accidental Medical Writer* is all about—helping you become a successful medical writer, too, by giving you the benefit of our nearly 40 years of combined experience including all the tools and resources we've discovered along the way.

We hope you enjoy this directory and that you keep it handy. You're going to need it!