**MeSH**

MeSH stands for **Medical Subject Headings**. It is a controlled vocabulary, which acts similar to a **thesaurus**. It can simplify your search by allowing you to search for several synonymous or near-synonymous terms at once, just by searching for the MeSH subheading for those terms instead. These synonyms are called **entry terms** in MeSH.

**The MeSH Database**

The MeSH database is accessible from the PubMed homepage under “Explore”.

On a MeSH term’s page, you can view the term’s definition, its place in the **hierarchical** structure of MeSH, its entry terms, and more.

Using the **search builder** box on the upper right, you can add MeSH terms to a search and combine them. Be sure to check the parentheses before you search.

Screenshot of slide from powerpoint with take home message. Consider: If you’re building a search with MeSH terms, what might you do if you find that one of your terms does not have an appropriate MeSH term to use?
Remember: MeSH is a controlled vocabulary, like a thesaurus, with a hierarchical structure You can find MeSH terms for your search in the MeSH database