

Terminologia Embryologica Preface

This is the third book in the Terminologia series, completing a trilogy with *Terminologia Anatomica* (1998) and *Terminologia Histologica* (2008). It is the joint creation of the Federative International Committee for Anatomical Terminology (FICAT) and the member societies of the International Federation of Associations of Anatomists (IFAA). A final draft of this Terminology was circulated to all member associations of the IFAA in late 2008. This publication incorporates changes proposed in the various responses.

The Terminologia trilogy aims to realise the objective defined at the General Assembly of the Federative World Congress of Anatomy, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1989, namely:

“To present the official terminology of the anatomical sciences after consultation with all the members of the International Federation of Associations of Anatomists, thus ensuring a democratic input to the terminology.”

A rigorous, common language is the bedrock of communication. The *Terminologia* trilogy fulfils this rôle for the anatomical sciences and provides the basis for usage across all the Health Sciences. The terminology contained in this volume conforms closely with that in the previous two. However, where more than one term identifies a particular element, changes in current usage have led in some instances to altered ranking of terms. Each term is set out, as for the previous publications, in three columns. There is a unique identifier, matched with Latin and English versions. The use of Latin as the prime term provides an unequivocal reference point, from which each language may derive its own equivalent. The English version presents the terms in current usage in English-speaking countries. The book is completed by a comprehensive index of Latin and English terms and an index of eponyms that identifies the number and page of the appropriate non-eponymous term.

Terminologia Embryologica, in accordance with universal convention, deals with the entire period up to birth only in the human. It covers all of intra-uterine ontogeny and also a few key features of postnatal development. There are two principal parts. The first covers the pure terms, naming a structure or a developmental event. This covers the development of the early embryo as a whole, and is followed by sections on the individual systems. The arrangement of the terms follows the developmental sequence as closely as possible. Where this was not appropriate, as with lists of anomalies, terms were arranged alphabetically in Latin. The second part is chronological; it relates to the temporal sequence, and indicates new or especially conspicuous features at particular times. This encompasses the Carnegie Stages for the embryonic period and in addition identifies key features at individual points in the fetal period. In this part some items are not, *sensu strictu*, terms; instead they define succinctly a conspicuous feature or an event specific for the time.

Terminology is living; it undergoes continual refinement to enhance precision and to systematise and codify new advances. For example, this volume includes data from reproductive technology/*in vitro* fertilization. Similarly, the explosion of knowledge in developmental neuroscience is reflected in the incorporation of several sets of new terms.

Terminologia Embryologica began life in 1997. Its gestation therefore overlapped with the later stages of development of *Terminologia Histologica*. Meeting locations at which it was generated were:

Mainz, Germany (15 February 1998)
Cardiff, Wales, UK (13 March 1999)
Cagliari, Sardinia (5 September 1999)
St Petersburg, Russia (11 June 2000)
Awaji, Japan (12 September 2000)
Orlando, Florida, USA (29 March 2001)
Sun City, South Africa (18 July 2001)
Maastricht, The Netherlands (8 April 2002)
Timisoara, Romania (6 September 2002)
St Maarten, Netherlands Antilles (10 February 2003)
Jackson, Mississippi, USA (24 August 2003)
Hobart, Tasmania, Australia (16 February 2004)
Kochi, Japan (22 September 2004)
Brussels, Belgium (30 March 2005)
Stanford, California, USA (22 August 2005)
San José, Costa Rica (24 April 2006)
Toronto, Canada (21 August 2006)
San José, Costa Rica (23 April 2007)
Nottingham, UK (30 June 2008)
Timisoara, Romania (8 September 2008)
New Orleans, Louisiana, USA (April 20, 2009)

The committee invites constructive comments from all quarters for consideration for future editions.

Having been adopted by the IFAA, *Terminologia Embryologica* incorporates and supercedes *Nomina Embryologica*.

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Chairman