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Editorial

Pharmacology Glossary: Terminological Precision in Scientific Communication

Standardization of scientific terminology and conceptual precision are essential for communication among researchers, as well as for student training. Authors are therefore advised to draw on established definitions, including those available in glossaries.[1]

Since compiling glossaries is also a key mandate of scientific societies[2], the Brazilian Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (Sociedade Brasileira de Farmacologia e Terapêutica Experimental, SBFTE) began, in 2013, the development of a *Semantic Glossary of Pharmacology* as part of its educational initiatives aimed at resolving doubts regarding the appropriate use of technical terms in this field. This initiative was framed within the Society's broader actions directed at qualifying and disseminating pharmacological knowledge. Its purpose was to clear up ambiguities and promote greater conceptual precision in the use of domain-specific terminology.

The proposal was grounded in the observation that pharmacological terminology frequently causes confusion or ambiguity, either because different authors use distinct terms to refer to the same concept, or because terms with different meanings (at least strictly speaking) are used interchangeably as if they were synonymous. In this context, the *Glossary* was conceived as a reference tool to foster terminological consistency, conceptual clarity, and scientific communication in Pharmacology.

Instead of presenting a glossary in the strict sense —that is, a list of technical terms accompanied by concise definitions, such as the text available on the website of the International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology https://pharmacologyeducation.org/glossary/ — this project focuses on analyzing selected terms that frequently raise questions or create ambiguity in Pharmacology. For each topic, a terminological recommendation is proposed, grounded in conceptual and scientific arguments fully supported by literature references.

Overall, the entries follow a standardized format and contain approximately 500 words (including references). A reviewer —designated by the Working Group on Educational Initiatives (Grupo de Trabalho de Iniciativas Educacionais) from SBFTE— analyses each entry to ensure the conceptual consistency of the content.

Currently, thirty-eight topics are available on the Society's website, two of which address specific issues related to Portuguese terminology or Brazilian legislation.

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Due to the positive reception of this initiative, it was decided to prepare and make available an English version of the original texts that would also preserve their historical content and respective references. This version is expected to broaden the initiative's reach and engage other scientific societies, as well as researchers and professionals, in basic and clinical Pharmacology, thereby fostering the exchange of experiences and ideas and promoting reflection on the proper use of scientific terminology.

Both the Portuguese and English versions of the glossary can be consulted at **https://sbfte.org.br/glossario-farmacologico/**

The scientific journal *Latin American Journal of Clinical Sciences and Medical Technology* supports this initiative and recognizes that this project holds great potential to contribute to consolidating the conceptual and terminological identity of Pharmacology.

Establishing shared terminological benchmarks represents an important step toward reducing ambiguity, preventing conceptual inconsistencies, and fostering greater precision in scientific communication and knowledge exchange across diverse fields and academic communities. Therefore, we invite our readers to explore and share this material, thereby helping expand its reach and strengthen this important initiative.

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