TOP TEN LIST

TEN BEST MISSPELLED WORDS IN MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH THAT AREN’T PICKED UP BY SPELLCHECKERS

With apologies to David Letterman, and thanks for editorial assistance to Elizabeth Kirby and for their insights to the following Internet contributors:

Phil Cross, New York Congenital Malformations Registry
Kate Kvale, WI Dept of Health and Family Services
Anne Wallis, Univ of Iowa
Lorraine Walker, Univ of Texas
Charlotte Druschel, NY Congenital Malformations Registry
Mary Hediger, NICHD
Nancy Bowers, Marvelous Multiples, Inc.
Jim Robbins, Univ of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
Judi Vessey, Boston College
Lou Saadi, KS Dept of Health and Environment
Ann Conway, WI Association for Perinatal Care
Wendy Hellerstedt, University of Minnesota
Carolyn Lengel, Bedford/St. Martin’s Press
Marc Keirse, Flinders Univ, Australia

Top Ten List: Ten Best Misspelled Words in MCH Missed By Spellcheckers

Number 10
A Space, or Spacing Out?

What you meant to type:

Therapist

What you actually typed:

The rapist
Recently seen in an NIH grant application submitted by a researcher who will not here be identified:

“Our protocol was reviewed and approved by our university’s Intuitional Review Board.”

Most campuses hold the line at having only an Institutional Review Board.

Top Ten List: Ten Best Misspelled Words in MCH Missed By Spellcheckers

Number 9

“I thought they knew exactly what I was thinking!”

Recently seen in an NIH grant application submitted by a researcher who will not here be identified:

“The moral economy of research

While most research projects are lead by a chief researcher, only the exceptional studies have someone dedicated to examining the philosophical issues involved in the research.

This individual is identified as the Principle Investigator, while most other studies only have a Principal Investigator.
Number 7
Did I just say a ‘faux pas’ (pronounced ‘fox paw’)?
We’d better start teaching our children values and manners before they are born, or we’ll have a high . . .

Infant Morality Rate (for Infant Mortality Rate)

And stillbirth should not be referred to as . . .

Fatal death (for Fetal death)

One of these terms is used in perinatal health care, the other is . . . An oxymoron!

Number 6
‘Madam I’m Adam’ is not an anagram . . .* 

But these commonly used words are:

parental – prenatal – paternal
incest – nicest
stressed – desserts

*it is a palindrome.
Number 5
You say potato, and I say potatoe*

In the dictionary your word processor uses, be sure to save some misspelled words. That way, you’ll be sure they’re missed if you proof your draft only with spellcheck. One prolific researcher kept having the word ‘helath’ in his documents – and it took him more than a year to figure out that he had inadvertently saved this word in his dictionary.

*with no apologies to Dan Quayle

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Number 4
Association or Relationship?

Casual for Causal as in Causal Relationship

Sometimes, causal relationships culminate in Martial status for Marital status, as in the words of the Garth Brooks song, ‘Two of a kind, working on a full house’:

“... Sometimes we fight, just so we can make up’
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Number 3
Congenial Anomalies

- Double elevator palsy
- Congenital segmented male
- Invasion of chromosome 19
- Vehicular septal defect
- Abducted big toe
- Transportation of great vessels
- Bugle in midline abdomen
- Persistent Rot
- Skin tag between ears
- Cleft legs
- Cranio-rectal stenosis

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Number 2
Caught Out by One Letter

Public for Public (as in Pubic Health)

Public for Pubic (as in Public Area, perhaps written in a SANE case report)

Heath for Health (as in Public Health)
Top Ten List: Ten Best Misspelled Words in MCH Missed By Spellcheckers

**Number 1**

“Think – before you act!”

**Preconceptual** – for **Preconceptional**

Rarely do we really mean ‘just before we had that thought’!

Or perhaps it does . . .

**Data insemination** – for **Data dissemination**