



## Unique East Harlem Library Resource Charts 200+ Requests in its First Quarter

NEW YORK CITY, *Sept. 13*--A unique online medical information resource for the East Harlem community is the result of a partnership among The New York Academy of Medicine Library, The New York Public Library, and Settlement Health. Located within the clinic of Settlement Health, 106th Street and 3rd Avenue, the innovative library provides web-based medical resources for the clinic's patients, physicians, and staff. In this setting, patients of Settlement Health have access to print, video, and web-based resources that otherwise might not be available to them. Additionally, users also have extended access to the complete collection of The New York Academy of Medicine Research Library.

Opened in April 2005, the Settlement Health Library has fulfilled more than 200 information requests, many of which are about prenatal and infant care, and related issues. The Library has a total of six computers and is open Monday through Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., with plans to expand to full-time services five days a week. Patients of the Settlement Health clinic may access the computers themselves or seek assistance from the bilingual (English and Spanish) staff, comprised of three librarians from The New York Academy of Medicine Library and one library assistant from the community. The library staff also assists with general computer and literacy skills.

"In a neighborhood that ranks among the bottom ten in terms of general health, we serve our patrons in an upbeat atmosphere that encourages them to seek the information they need," comments Janie Kaplan, Director of Library Services at the Academy. "The Settlement Health Library occupies about 100 square feet within the Settlement House clinic; it's comfortable, well-lit and welcoming. We even offer a patio where patrons can relax a bit."

The Academy's librarians have taught three classes on consumer health resources to local New York Public Library branch staff, and have held a number of one-on-one trainings for clinical providers in searching and locating reliable bilingual health websites. A special feature of the library is its use of the "Take Care New York" health education campaign sponsored by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. This public health campaign focuses on ten important steps New Yorkers can take to live longer, healthier lives, which include having a regular doctor, getting checked for cancer, and living free of dependence on alcohol and drugs.

Funding for the Settlement Health Library comes through the Regional Medical Library (RML), Middle Atlantic Region (MAR) of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM). The Academy Library is one of the region's Resource Libraries for the Middle Atlantic area.

The New York Academy of Medicine, the country's premier urban health policy and intervention center, focuses on enhancing the health of people living in cities through research, education, advocacy, and prevention. Visit us online at [www.nyam.org](http://www.nyam.org)

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EDITORS: Interviews with Academy experts and onsite visits to the Settlement Health Library are available by appointment. Call Maria Dering at (212) 873-6715.

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