



## Hilary Vass

(awarded in Berlin, 2009)

Hilary's first involvement with Medical dictionaries coincided with maternity leave following the birth of her daughter. Whilst working in Regulatory Affairs Department at ICI, she was asked to apply ICD-9 codes to the regulatory labelling of all products marketed globally. This obviously required a thorough understanding of the dictionary, so on her return to full-time work, she moved to the Clinical Development Department to apply this experience and established two clinical dictionaries for use in a newly developed in-house clinical trial system.

When MEDDRA version 1.0 was made available as a set of 3 diskettes, Hilary received an evaluation set and reported her experiences of

this and commented in detail, and was amazed to receive a 28-page reply from the UK Medicines Control Agency in response to her suggestions!

Hilary's daughter is now 20, she also has a 17-year-old son, and there have been many changes in the dictionary world since then too. However this early experience in creating new Medical and Drug dictionaries has proved invaluable in proposing improvements to MedDRA. It over these years Hilary has developed a great deal of respect for the MSSO in the way they strive to keep all their users community happy without compromising MedDRA's integrity.

Hilary was a founder member of the unofficial European MedDRA User Group, is a member of the EFPIA MedDRA Topic Group and also is an EFPIA representative on the ICH "Points to Consider" Working Group. Hilary has also served been as a panel member on an MSSO Blue Ribbon Panel and is currently a member of the MSSO's Expert working panel.