

# GLOSSARY

## A

**Adaptive:** Adjustments made to an environment for optimal enhancement and function.

**Alpha-fetoprotein:** Protein made by liver cells and released into the blood; levels are usually elevated in patients with A-T.

**Antibodies:** Protein molecules secreted and produced by B-lymphocytes whose function is to help fight viruses and bacteria.

**Aphasia:** Difficulty comprehending, processing, or speaking normal language while maintaining the abilities to produce sounds that comprise speech.

**Aspiration:** Inhaling of foreign matter (foods/fluids) into the trachea (windpipe) and lungs.

**Ataxia:** Loss of motor coordination.

**Athetosis:** Slow involuntary twisting movements, especially of the hands.

## B

**B-lymphocytes:** Type of white cell found in the blood and lymph nodes whose function includes the production of antibodies (also called immunoglobulins or gamma globulins).

**Basal ganglia:** Structures deep inside the brain involved in control and modulation of movement.

**Bronchiectasis:** Widened or dilated bronchial passages (air passages) caused by infection and the accumulation of mucus.

**Bronchitis:** Infection of one or more bronchi due to infection, or breathing irritant substances.

## C

**Carrier:** Individual who shows no evidence of disease or defect but is capable of transmitting that disease or defect to his children by inheritance.

**Cerebellum:** Brain structure responsible for coordination and regulation of muscular movements such as maintenance of posture and balance.

**Chemotherapy:** Drugs to treat cancer.

**Chorea:** Rapid, jerky fidgeting movements that appear coordinated although performed involuntarily.

**Chromosome:** Long strings of DNA (containing genes) that are located in the cell nucleus.

**Conjunctiva:** Membrane that lines the inside of the eyelids and covers the whites of the eyes.

**Conjunctivitis:** Inflammation or infection of the lining of the conjunctiva.

## D

**DNA:** Chemical structure that makes up genes and chromosomes.

**Dysarthria:** Imperfect articulation (sounding out of speech).

**Dysphagia:** Difficulty with swallowing.

**Dystonia:** Describes posture that is stiff and twisted.

## E

**Epidemiology:** The science that studies factors determining and influencing distribution of disease.

**Epiglottis:** A lid like structure that covers the entrance to the airway and prevents foreign matter from falling into the windpipe.

**Esophagus:** Muscular tube extending from the throat to the stomach.

**Esotropia:** Muscle problem that causes the eyes to turn toward each other (cross-eyes).

**Exotropia:** Muscle problem that causes the eyes to turn away from each other.

## G

**Gait:** Manner or style of walking.

**Gamma globulin:** Antibodies purified from the blood of a large number of normal donors.

**Gene:** Segment of a DNA that determines the structure of proteins and when they are produced.

## I

**IgA:** Main type of antibody (immunoglobulin) found along the lining of the respiratory tract (sinuses, nose, airways in the lungs) and the gastrointestinal tract (intestines).

**IgG:** Most abundant immunoglobulin found in the blood and body tissues.

**Immunodeficiency:** Abnormality which prevents adequate immune responsiveness.

**Immunoglobulin:** The proteins (IgA, IgM, IgG, IgE) that the body makes to fight infection by specific recognition of invading germs; also called antibodies or gamma globulins.

**IVIG:** Form of gamma globulin that can be administered intravenously (through a vein).

## K

**Knock-out mice:** Mice in which a specific error has been made in the DNA so that a single gene is defective.

## L

**Lymph node:** Small bean-sized organs of the immune system, containing B-lymphocytes, T-lymphocytes, and macrophages.

**Lymphocyte:** White cells present in blood and lymph tissues.

**Lymphoma:** Cancer of the lymphocytes.

## M

**Mutation:** A permanent change in the genetic material (DNA) that can be transmitted to offspring.

## O

**Oculomotor apraxia:** Difficulty controlling movement of the eyes.

**Oropharynx:** The back of the throat lying between the roof of the mouth and the top of the voice box.

**Orthotics:** Appliances that are made and fitted to improve function and stability of an arm, hand, leg, or foot.

**Otitis:** Infection of the middle ear caused by viruses and bacteria.

## P

**Pharyngitis:** “Sore throat” or inflammation of the throat usually caused by bacterial or viral infection.

**Pneumonia:** Infection of the lungs.

## R

**Reflux:** Food or fluid moving upwards from the stomach to the esophagus; “heartburn.”

## S

**Saccades:** Fast jumps of eye movement from one visual target to another.

**Silent Aspiration:** Foreign matter is inhaled into the lungs without cough or other symptoms.

**Sinuses:** Small cavities located in the facial bones surrounding the nose.

**Sinusitis:** Infection of the membranes lining the sinus cavities.

**Soft palate:** Muscles of the soft roof of the mouth.

**Spleen:** Organ near the stomach that is an important site for antibody production and filtration of germs from the blood.

**Strabismus:** Imbalance of the eye muscles that causes the eyes to cross or turn outward.

## T

**T-lymphocyte:** White blood cell that develops in the thymus and helps to fight infections.

**Telangiectasia:** Clusters of abnormal small twisted blood vessels.

**Thymus:** Lymphoid organ where T-lymphocytes develop; located within the chest behind the breastbone.

**Tone:** Tension and stiffness in a muscle at a resting state when not purposefully activated.

**Tremor:** Abnormal movement characterized by rhythmic oscillation around a target.