



Summer 2025 Newsletter

Welcome to the Summer 2025 newsletter! We hope you have enjoyed the first year of our newsletter relaunch and that it has helped you stay informed and engaged with chapter activities. Our goal is to keep you connected and make it easier to get the most out of your AMWA membership. As always, we welcome your feedback, suggestions, and contributions.

Claudia Prahst, Immediate Past President & Caroline McLachlan, President
New England Chapter
American Medical Writers Association

Chapter Member Q&A

James Iannazzi, MD



James Iannazzi transitioned from a 26-year career in clinical medicine to medical editing in the fall of 2024 and currently works as a subcontractor for Nascent Medical, LLC. He earned his MD from Dartmouth Medical School, then completed an internal medicine internship and neurology residency at Strong Memorial Hospital at the University of Rochester. He later completed a fellowship in behavioral neurology and neuropsychiatry at McLean Hospital. James is grateful to those who have helped him make the transition into medical editing.

When did you join AMWA?

I joined AMWA in October 2023 when I attended a conference in Chicago (SEAK Non-Clinical Careers Conference) to learn more about non-clinical careers for physicians.

What type of medical writing do you want to specialize in?

annotating slide decks, manuscripts and patient discussion guides; fact-checking manuscripts and posters; and performing literature searches.

What made you pursue a career in medical writing?

At the conference I learned about 10 to 12 alternative careers for physicians, and medical writing was the one that appealed to me the most. Of the options discussed, it was the one that somehow felt "the most right" given my personality, skills and interests. I had been practicing clinical medicine (neurology) and felt like it was time for a different phase of my career. I'm 61 now and I'm enjoying doing something totally different, now that retirement is no longer too far away.

What are you hoping to learn from other AMWA members?

I hope to learn more about medical editing as a transitional career choice for someone whose professional career so far has been in clinical medicine. I've learned a lot over the last year, but I have so much more to learn.

What's one thing that most people may not know about you?

What people may not know about me is that I'm somewhat passionate about biking, mostly mountain and gravel biking. I recently spent a long weekend with 10 guys in northeastern Vermont, in the Burke Mountain area, riding an amazing network of some pretty crazy mountain bike trails. It was rather hardcore riding, these guys are fast and skilled — what a blast! I received an invitation to ride with them on their yearly trip to Switzerland in August, but I had to decline. However, next year I may be "out of town" for two weeks in August...

Congratulations to Our 2025/26 Chapter Officers!

We are excited to congratulate our new chapter officers whose terms began July 1! Thank you for all the time and effort you put into our New England Chapter!

Program Director/President-Elect: S. Patrick Murphy

Treasurer: Jeanette Towles

Secretary: Dora Levin

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our programming is taking a break for summer! But be sure to check your email for any pop-up events and webinars. We usually plan a virtual speed-networking event in the fall, so be sure to watch for that!

And of course, we hope to see everyone at AMWA's National Conference in Phoenix from November 5-8!

Connect with Members Locally!

The New England Chapter organizes local events for members to meet each other in different parts of New England, and we'd like to invite you to events near you. Don't miss out! Be sure to check and update your city, town, and ZIP code in the national AMWA membership database, so we'll know which local events are most convenient.

You can update your AMWA member profile to include your location, by signing in at www.amwa.org. Then click on MY PROFILE on the menu bar, select the edit icon next to CONTACT DETAILS, add or update your location, and save the changes. Thanks!

We Want to Hear Your News!

If you started a new position, published a book, presented at a conference, or have other big news to share, we want to hear about it! Please send your updates to newsletter@AMWA-NE.org.

Past Events



New England Chapter members enjoyed a **Medicinal Garden Tour at the Elizabeth Park Conservancy** in West Hartford, Connecticut on June 14.



Ether Dome Tour

Local AMWA members enjoyed an exclusive tour of the historic **Ether Dome at Mass General Hospital** on April 3.



Spring Roundtables

New England AMWA members got together for **Spring Roundtables** at the Hilton Garden Inn in Waltham on April 6, to enjoy a leisurely brunch followed by lively roundtable discussions.

Lexington Lunch

The Boston-Cambridge local networking group met for an outdoor lunch in Lexington on May 16. The 12 attendees, a mix of old and new members, discussed transitioning into medical writing from other fields, compared the benefits of freelance versus in-house work, and shared advice for those looking for new jobs or additional clients.

Congratulations to the Judy Linn Membership Award Winners!

Congratulations to Julia Ryan, Sara Eglitis, and Deanna Montgomery, the most recent winners of the Judy Linn Membership Award. The AMWA New England Chapter awards a one-year free membership in AMWA (which includes chapter membership) to qualified newcomers to the field. The chapter may give as many as three membership awards annually.

[Learn more about the award](#) and see if you might be a candidate!



Julia Ryan graduated with a PhD in Biology and Biotechnology from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in May 2025. She is passionate about the clear communication of important scientific information and is looking forward to learning from the AMWA community.



Sara Eglitis is a passionate life sciences professional dedicated to improving the quality of life for people. She has a background in R&D, specializing in immunohistochemistry for industry drug and medical device companies. Sara is excited about adding medical writer to her list of experience.



Deanna Montgomery holds a BS in chemistry from Houghton College and a PhD in medicinal chemistry from the University of Michigan. After spending five years as a program manager with the MIT Communication Lab, she is transitioning into medical writing. Outside of work, Deanna enjoys playing the piano and alto saxophone and performing improv and murder mystery dinner theater.

Chapter Volunteers

Board of Directors: Caroline McLachlan (President), S. Patrick Murphy (Program Director/President-Elect), Jeanette Towles (Treasurer), Peter Stein (Treasurer-Elect), Dora Levin (Secretary), Claudia Prahst (Past President)

Programming Committee: S.Patrick Murphy (chair), Caroline McLachlan, Margaret Burke, Claudia Prahst, Danielle Sanchez, Cristina Naranjo Ortiz, Parul Yadav

Membership Engagement Committee: Becca Kranz (chair), Tamar Propp

Levin, Peter Stein

Outreach Committee: Caroline McLachlan, Danielle Sanchez

Finance Committee: Jeanette Towles (chair), Ellie Lin, Katharin Blackerby, Claudia Prahst, Andrea Mark, Peter Stein, Caroline McLachlan

Policies and Procedures Task Force: Debbie Ferguson (chair), Miranda diBerardinis

Judy Linn Membership Award Committee: Debbie von Rechenberg (chair), Kathleen Ahern Gould, Francesca Coltrera, Jill Shuman

Local Networking Coordinators: Francesca Coltrera (Cambridge), Andrew Gwosdow (Cambridge), Sam Entwisle (Maine), Thomas Mitchell (Southern New Hampshire), Sophie Griswold (Boston), Margaret Burke (Connecticut), Caroline McLachlan (Connecticut)

Councilors-at-Large: Ariel Brown, Marisa Greenfield, Brian Head, Sami Heimer, Karishma Mazur, Thuy Linh Nguyen, Jenny Thayer, Linda Valsdottir, Amy Sanders

Communication Strategist: Dora Levin

Chapter Advisory Council Representative: Jessica Solodar

Peer-Mentoring Circle Committee: Claudia Prahst (chair), S. Patrick Murphy, Becca Kranz

Website Editors: Becca Kranz, Caroline McLachlan, Claudia Prahst

Email Manager: Jessica Solodar

Become a Volunteer

Interested in getting more involved with the AMWA New England Chapter? We have many types of volunteer opportunities. To learn more email Caroline McLachlan, chapter president at president@amwa-ne.org.

Welcome New Members!

Naomi Manning, Elisabeth Steadman, Wei Ng, Patricia Kavanagh, Marlon MacAllister, Jackie Riales, Kshiti Phulphagar, Rachel Rhee, Natasha Baas-Thomas, Julia Ryan, Sara Eglitis, Deanna Montgomery, Ann Dougherty, Jenna Beardsley, Michelle Vanase, Anh-Quan Hannah Nguyen, Radha Naik-Murti, and Adelia McGuire

Share Your Work

Interested in showcasing your work on our website? We are looking for short articles (800-1,000 words) from our members related to medical writing or health care. Contact newsletter@AMWA-NE.org if you are interested.



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