April 9: Dinner Meeting in Waltham, Mass.
Clinical Development of Drugs: The Medical Writer’s Perspective

The New England Chapter will hold a dinner program on Wednesday, April 9, at the Hilton Garden Inn, Waltham, Mass. Debbie von Rechenberg, ELS, medical writer at Eli Lilly and Company, will share insights and expertise honed during nearly a decade of producing regulatory documentation in support of research for investigational cancer drugs.

Before becoming a medical writer in oncology, Ms. von Rechenberg had been employed by Lilly for seven years as a microbiologist in infectious diseases research and drug discovery. She holds a bachelor of science degree from Purdue University, and in 2006 attained certification as an editor in the life sciences. An AMWA member since 2000—originally in Indianapolis, where Lilly is based—she now lives with her husband in Waltham, Mass., where she performs her daily work as a telecommuter. She is serving this year as a member-at-large of the New England Chapter’s Executive Council.

Ms. von Rechenberg will begin by reviewing the clinical drug development process from Phase I to Phase III, focusing on the many regulatory documents required along the way—from protocols, informed consent documents, and study reports to right-to-operate documents and FDA submission packages.

Then, offering an insider’s perspective on what makes the life of a regulatory writer so interesting, she will address such questions as:
• What do you do when there is a sudden, immediate change in protocol?
• What is the most efficient way to present safety data when patients received different doses of the drug, different clinical interventions, or both?
• What are the main requirements for an orphan drug submission?
• What do you need to know about preparing submission packages when your company (or client) is seeking two indications at the same time?

MEDICAL WRITER’S PERSPECTIVE

DATE: Wednesday, April 9
TIME: Social Hour (cash bar) 6:00-7:00 p.m.
       Dinner 7:00-8:00. Program 8:00-9:00.
PLACE: Hilton Garden Inn, 420 Totten Pond Road, Waltham, Massachusetts. DIRECTIONS ON PAGE 4.
BUFFET MENU: Warm Rolls with Butter • Mixed Field Greens (choice of salad dressing) • Pasta Primavera • Chicken Picatta • Rice • Roasted Vegetables • Chef’s Selection of Dessert • Coffee, Tea
REGISTRATION: Please use the form on page 5 to register. The registration fee is $26 for members, $31 for guests and prospective members.
DEADLINE: To guarantee dinner reservations, we must receive your payment by mail (checks only, no credit cards) no later than Friday, April 4. (Sorry, no refunds for cancellation after 2:00 p.m. that day.)

After her formal presentation, Ms. von Rechenberg will answer questions and offer guidance that should be helpful to regulatory writers interested in advancing their craft as well as to those who may be contemplating a career in this field.

For a collegial, inside look at drug development from a medical writer’s vantage point, join us at the Hilton Garden Inn on April 9. As always, guests and prospective members are welcome.

—Chris McMorrow
President-Elect/Program Director

Note: You can earn 5 points toward an AMWA Professional Development Certificate by attending this meeting. For information, go to www.amwa.org and click on Education/Development.

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Chapter Calendar
The New England Chapter holds six regular meetings a year, from September through June. Four meetings are in the Greater Boston area, and two are in Connecticut. Every meeting begins with a social hour, followed by dinner (except for a Sunday brunch in midwinter), then a program with a speaker, a panel presentation, or roundtable discussions. A writing competition, culminating in the Will Solimene Awards Banquet, is held every other year, alternating with the New England Conference, an all-day program of workshops on a Saturday. Occasionally informal networking meetings or tours are scheduled.

TBD: Connecticut Spring Meeting
As is customary, the New England Chapter will hold a dinner meeting in Connecticut in the spring.
When program arrangements are completed, details and a registration form will be posted on the chapter Web site (www.amwa-ne.org) and members will be alerted via the New England Chapter E-news.
Everyone is welcome.

June 12: Awards Banquet in Waltham, Mass.
The chapter’s 13th Awards Banquet will take place at the Westin Hotel, Waltham, Mass., on Thursday, June 12. This celebratory event will be the last meeting of the 2007-08 chapter year.
Plan to join your colleagues to welcome the new officers for the next chapter year; to congratulate the winners of the 2008 Will Solimene Awards for Excellence in Medical Communication; and to hear the Honors Address by Bernard Lown, MD, a pioneering cardiologist, award-winning author, and co-recipient of the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize.

2009 New England Conference
The 8th New England Conference will be held Saturday, March 28, 2009, at the Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conference Center in Sturbridge, Mass.

Other Upcoming Events in New England
April 10-12: Publishing Course in Boston
A 3-day course on “Publishing Books, Memoirs and Other Creative Nonfiction” will be given at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston, under the aegis of the Harvard Medical School Department of Continuing Education. For information, go to www.harvardwriters.com.

May 28-30: SSP Meeting in Boston
The Society for Scholarly Publication will hold its 30th annual meeting at the Westin Copley Place, Boston. For information, go to www.sspnet.org.

June 19-21: HeSCA Conference in New Haven
The Health & Science Communications Association will hold its 49th annual conference at the Omni New Haven Hotel at Yale. For information, go to www.hescia.org.

June 22-26: DIA Meeting in Boston
The 44th annual meeting of the Drug Information Association will take place at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. For information, go to www.diahome.org.

February Meeting Report
Roundtables for Professional Development
Despite bad weather in many parts of New England, most of the registrants (and all of the table leaders) made it to the Hilton Garden Inn in Waltham, Mass., for the chapter’s annual midwinter brunch meeting which, this year, featured roundtable discussions on career topics. The roundtables, always a popular format, offer a chance to explore new areas, sharpen one’s skills, share one’s own expertise, or just network with congenial colleagues.

If there is a topic you would like to see addressed at a future roundtable meeting, send a note to President-Elect Chris McMorrow (christine_ncmorrow@yahoo.com). She will pass your ideas along to next year’s program director.
Personal Notes

Mrudula Donepudi, PhD, has joined Acusphere Inc., Watertown, Mass., as a medical communications scientist in the Clinical Research Department.

Nicole M. Strangman, PhD, of Tewksbury, Mass., has given up freelancing to work as a senior medical writer for Complete Healthcare Communications, based in Chaddsford, Pa.

Felice S. Coral of Sudbury, Mass., has joined Biogen Idec Inc. as a senior medical writer.

Mary R. Hurley, RDH, of Trumbull, Conn., is now a technical writer at Hologic Inc.

How the Gene Got Its Groove: Figurative Language, Science, and the Rhetoric of the Real, by Elizabeth P. Shea, PhD, is scheduled for release this month by SUNY Press. Elizabeth is an assistant professor of rhetoric at Northeastern University, Boston.

At the annual meeting of the AAAS, held in Boston in February, Jeffrey B. Tatro, PhD, contributed to a career development workshop on “Gatekeepers, Midwives, and Wordsmiths: Career Options in Science Editing.” Jeff is principal of Grant Rescue/Winning Submissions in Sharon, Mass.

Kathleen A. Pietrovito (formerly Gardner) of Worcester, Mass., has joined Hologic Inc. as a medical education specialist. Kate was previously a medical writer at Charles River Laboratories.

Alan R. Hagler, MS, MSc, has joined Neuronog, Branford, Conn., as a research scientist. He was previously a technical writer at Amgen.

Diane Shannon, MD, a Brookline, Mass., freelance writer, is one of 10 medical journalists named to the 2008 Health Coverage Fellowship sponsored by the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation. The 9-day fellowship program is designed to help the New England media do a better job covering critical health care issues.

Helen Osborne, MED, ORT/L, will lead a workshop on “Using Metaphors and Stories to Communicate Your Health Message” at the annual conference of the Health & Science Communications Association in New Haven, Conn., in June. Helen is president of Health Literacy Consulting, Natick, Mass.

CHAPTER CHANGE: Lynn S. Perlmutter, PhD, ELS, has moved to Pequannock, N.J., and is now a member of the Empire State-Metro New York Chapter.

New Members

The New England Chapter cordially welcomes those from our six-state region who have recently joined AMWA, reestablished their affiliation with the association, or moved here from another chapter area:

Zenab Amin, PhD
Hamden, Connecticut
MedKnowledge Group

Jennifer Elliott, PhD
Brighton, Massachusetts

Leslie V. Elliott
Groton, Massachusetts
[from Northwest Chapter]

Ruth C. Forstadt, RAC
DePuy Mitek/Johnson & Johnson
Raynham, Massachusetts

Tonya L. Lomastro, PharmD
Coventry, Rhode Island

Jennifer A. Maurer, RPh, PhD
Scientific Communications LLC
Milford, Connecticut

Donna Mohan, MSN, ARNP
New Boston, New Hampshire

Yvette Monroe
Malden, Massachusetts

Deanna M. Neff, MPH
Stow, Massachusetts

Bettie Petridis
Avon, Connecticut

Marie Phillips
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Alnoor Pirani
Boston, Massachusetts

Ursula L. Prisco, PhD
MedKnowledge Group
Rocky Hill, Connecticut

Sherry Reynolds, BS, RN
Hull, Massachusetts
EMD Serono

Michele Roberts, MD
Paxton, Massachusetts

Katherine M. Santoro, BS
Alkermes Inc.
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Barbara A. Schreader, PhD
Providence, Rhode Island

Nancy A. Smith
Executive Search Group Inc.
Scarborough, Maine

Debra L. Stamper, PhD
Sharon, Massachusetts

Jennifer S. Stanford
Cambridge, Massachusetts
Harvard Medical School

Donald Milton Stokes, MPH, RD
Wethersfield, Connecticut

Carolyn Whiston
Medford, Massachusetts
Wyeth
Directions to April 9 Meeting

**Hilton Garden Inn**
420 Totten Pond Road
Waltham, Massachusetts
781-890-0100

The hotel is a short distance from Route 128/I-95 (Exit 27A). There is ample free parking.

**Coming from points north:**
Take Route 128/I-95 south to Exit 27A (Totten Pond Road). At the end of the exit ramp bear right onto Totten Pond Road and cross over Route 128/I-95. The hotel is about one-quarter mile ahead on the right.

**Coming from points south:**
Take Route 128/I-95 north to exit 27A (Totten Pond Road). At the end of the exit ramp turn right at the traffic light onto Totten Pond Road. The hotel is about one-quarter mile ahead on the right.

**Need a ride to the meeting?**
If you don't have a car, contact Judy Linn (508-358-7071 or judylinn@aol.com) to find out if anyone from your area is driving to the meeting. The hotel is not accessible by public transportation.

Chapter Membership Awards
Applications invited

Since 2002, the chapter’s Judy Linn Membership Awards have provided professional development and networking support to medical and health communicators who are fairly new to the field. The Chapter pays for a year’s membership in AMWA and covers the registration fee for three regular chapter meetings during that year.

The chapter will accept applications from candidates who live and work in New England. There is no application fee.

To download an application form, go to www.amwane.org, click on Awards, and scroll down to the last paragraph.

If you have questions, contact David Olle, membership awards director, at dolle@eastshire.net or 802-254-3899.

Chapter E-news

A few times a month, Julie Martin, chapter president, sends an e-mail to remind you of an upcoming chapter meeting or to let you know about a job opening, freelance opportunity, local event, or anything else that might be of interest to you or other New England AMWA members.

The brief messages give only as much information as is necessary for you to follow up if you want to.

If you have something to share via the New England Chapter E-news, please send it to Julie for consideration (jjmartin@partners.org). Note that anyone may submit an item, but the chapter e-mails are sent only to members.

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2007-08**

**OFFICERS**

- **PRESIDENT:** Julie J. Martin
- **IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:** Lonnie K. Christiansen
- **PRESIDENT-ELECT:** Christine McMorrow
- **VICE PRESIDENT/CONNECTICUT:** Susan F. Gonsalves
- **SECRETARY:** Adriane Joy Bishko
- **TREASURER:** Jill M. Shuman

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- **PROGRAMS:** Christine McMorrow
- **CONNECTICUT PROGRAMS:** Susan F. Gonsalves
  Lisa Catanese, J. Lynne Dodson, Anita Kuan
- **MEMBERSHIP:** Judy Linn
- **MEMBERSHIP AWARDS:** David A. Olle
  Robert E. Dunbar, Nancy Knoblock Hunton, Jill M. Shuman
- **E-NEWS:** Julie J. Martin
- **NEWSLETTER:** Judy Linn
- **NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** Christine McMorrow
  Lonnie K. Christiansen, Andrea Gwosdow, Nancy Knoblock Hunton, Julie J. Martin
- **WRITING AWARDS:** Jill M. Shuman
- **WEB SITE:** Lonnie K. Christiansen

**MEMBERS-AT-LARGE**

- Francesca Coltrera, Aaron Federman, Andrea Gwosdow, Laurie LaRusso, Joann H. Merriman, Debbie von Rechenberg

**DELEGATES TO AMWA**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Julie J. Martin, Christine McMorrow
  ALTERNATES: Lonnie K. Christiansen, Susan F. Gonsalves
MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

EVENT: Clinical Development of Drugs: The Medical Writer’s Perspective
DATE: Wednesday, April 9
TIME: 6:00-9:00 p.m.
PLACE: Hilton Garden Inn, Waltham, Massachusetts
REGISTRATION FEE: Member: $26.00 Guest or Prospective Member: $31.00
DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF PAYMENT: Friday, April 4
MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: New England Chapter AMWA
MAIL PAYMENT WITH THIS FORM TO: AMWA
37 Forty Acres Drive
Wayland, MA 01778

TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED: $________
Your ticket will be held at the door.

Please use a separate copy of this form for each registrant.

Name __________________________________________________________
Company ________________________________________________________
Address ________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________

Address is: ( ) Business ( ) Home

E-mail (required) ________________________________________________
May we include this in the meeting registration list? ( ) Yes ( ) No

Phone (required) ________________________________________________
May we include this in the meeting registration list? ( ) Yes ( ) No

Have you attended a New England Chapter meeting before? ( ) Yes ( ) No