December 2: Dinner Meeting in Lexington, Mass.

Nonregulatory Writing Opportunities in the Pharmaceutical/Biotechnology Industry

Many people associate medical writing careers in pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies with the preparation of regulatory documentation for the FDA and other government regulatory bodies. But are you aware that medical writers work in a variety of capacities in these companies, many of them never dealing with a single regulatory document?

Nonregulatory medical writing jobs abound in corporate communications, medical education, medical information, scientific publications, sales training, consumer information, and other areas. The entry to these careers is as varied as the work itself, with many positions open to professionals with diverse educational backgrounds and work experiences.

At our next New England Chapter dinner meeting, on Thursday, December 2, at the new Buca di Beppo Italian Restaurant in Lexington, Mass., you will have an opportunity to learn about some of the nonregulatory writing positions that are in high demand. A panel of medical writers, both freelancers and company staffers, who have these jobs will answer your questions and broaden your horizons on the scope of medical communication in the pharmaceutical/biotechnology world.

**Panelists**

- Derek Dore, PharmD, is a freelance who specializes in consumer-oriented medical writing, continuing medical education (CME) materials, medical conference coverage, and journal article preparation. He has 15 years’ experience working as a bench pharmacist.
  - Jennifer (Jenna) Hollenstein, MS, RD, ELS, is associate director, medical writing at Genzyme Corporation, where she focuses on writing and managing scientific and clinical publications. Previously, she worked as a scientific journal editor.
  - Alexis Khalil, MPH, ELS, is manager of scientific editing at Millennium: The Takeda Oncology Company. She also has professional experience as a medical writer and project manager.
  - Kate Lewis, MA (English literature), is associate director, scientific communications at Genzyme Corporation. She currently specializes in corporate communications, but has worked as a medical writer in both industry and academia.

- Dianne Pena, MEd, is an experienced freelance who specializes in pharmaceutical sales training and instructional design, including print modules, workshops, and e-learning.

Whether you are trying to transition into medical writing, are interested in exploring new areas within the profession, or just want to spend an evening with friendly, like-minded colleagues, please join us. Guests and prospective members are welcome, as always.

—Kristin Stephan
President-Elect/Program Director

Note: You can earn 5 points toward an AMWA Professional Development Certificate by attending this meeting. (See page 3 for more information.)

**NONREGULATORY WRITING**

**DATE:** Thursday, December 2

**TIME:** Social Hour (cash bar) 6:00-7:00 p.m.
Dinner 7:00-8:00. Program 8:00-9:00.

**PLACE:** Buca di Beppo Italian Restaurant, 20 Waltham Street, Lexington, Massachusetts. (DIRECTIONS ON PAGE 5.)

**MENU** (Family Style Italian Dinner):
- Mixed Green Salad and Caesar Salad with House Bread • Fettuccine Alfredo • Baked Rigatoni • Chicken Limone • Cannoli • Coffee, Tea, Soft Drinks

(If you have special dietary needs, please let us know by email to webmaster@amwa-ne.org no later than 2:00 p.m. on Friday, November 26.)

**REGISTRATION:** The registration fee is $31 for members, $36 for guests and prospective members. Please use the online form to register (INSTRUCTIONS ON PAGE 2).

**DEADLINE:** To guarantee dinner reservations, we must receive your payment no later than Friday, November 26. (Sorry, no refunds for cancellation after 2:00 p.m. that day.)
Chapter Calendar

The New England Chapter’s year begins in mid-June, when the outgoing president hands over the gavel to the incoming president. There are no general activities during July and August, but the chapter’s Executive Council (see back page) meets early in the summer to begin planning activities for the year ahead, which begins with a regular meeting in September.

Regular Meetings: The chapter holds six regular meetings from September through June. Four of these meetings are in the Greater Boston area, and two are in Connecticut. Typically, meetings begin 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.

Special Events: In addition to the regular meetings, a writing competition, culminating in the Will Solimene Awards banquet, is held every other year. In the alternate years, the chapter holds the New England Conference, a full day of workshops on a Saturday in the spring.

Occasional Extras: Once in a while, informal events, such as networking meetings or tours, are scheduled.

How to Register for December 2 Meeting

**Online registration is required for this event.** For a link to the registration form, go to the chapter website at www.amwa-ne.org and click in the Upcoming Events box on the home page.

Please note that if you are bringing guests, you must fill out a separate form for each person.

When you complete the form, you’ll have two options:
1) You may use PayPal to pay with a credit card. (You do not have to have your own PayPal account, and you will not be charged a fee for the transaction.)
2) You may follow up by putting a check in the mail, in which case we will consider your registration tentative until we have actually received the check.

**WINTER WEATHER ALERT!**

**SHOULD SEVERE WINTER WEATHER REQUIRE POSTPONEMENT OF THE MEETING, LAURIE MACDUGALL WILL NOTIFY EVERYONE BY E-MAIL. IF THE WEATHER LOOKS REALLY BAD AND YOU ARE UNABLE TO ACCESS YOUR E-MAIL FOR ANY REASON, CALL JUDY LINN AT 508-358-7071 BEFORE YOU HEAD OUT—JUST TO BE SURE.**

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER NEWS, published 4 to 5 times a year for the New England members of the American Medical Writers Association (AMWA), is posted as a PDF on the New England Chapter’s website.

The newsletter welcomes reports about members’ professional activities and special achievements; notices of local meetings, conferences, and courses; and other items of potential interest to medical, biomedical, and health communicators in New England.

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER
AMERICAN MEDICAL WRITERS ASSOCIATION
37 FORTY ACRES DRIVE
WAYLAND, MASSACHUSETTS 01778

Judy Linn, Newsletter Editor
Phone: 508-358-7071
Fax: 508-358-7081
E-mail: judyhlinn@aol.com
www.amwa-ne.org

Workshop Program on April 9 at Sturbridge Conference Center

The 9th biennial New England Conference will be held at the Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conference Center, Sturbridge, Mass., on Saturday, April 9.

The program will offer four 3-hour workshops for credit toward an AMWA certificate and two 3-hour workshops designed specifically for this conference. The conference luncheon will include several roundtables devoted to career-development topics as well as open tables for those who would prefer to network or just relax between classes.

The conference brochure and an online registration form will be posted on the chapter’s website in early February. As soon as these are available, chapter members will be notified via the AMWA New England E-News. Until then, no one may reserve space.

Here’s the schedule:

**MORNING (concurrent sessions)**
- Effectively Searching Online Databases (ES/EW/FL) [2004] — Tom Geneny
- Effective Paragraphing (ES/G) [2003] — Susan Aiello
- Freelance Forum — Laurie LaRusso et al.

**AFTERNOON (concurrent sessions)**
- Essential Ethics for Medical Communicators (ES) [2006] — Cindy Hamilton & Jill Shuman
- Proofreading (CP/EW) [3013] — Susan Aiello
- Getting Here From There: Positioning Yourself for a Career in Medical Writing — Andrea Gwosdow & Chris McMorrow

The workshop leaders for this conference are among AMWA’s best teachers and include some of the architects of the association’s new certificate programs. For information about the new certificates (and assurance that you can still complete an “old” Core or Science Fundamentals certificate if you wish to), go to the AMWA website (www.amwa.org) and click on Education/Certificates.

If you have any questions about the conference, contact Judy Linn, conference registrar (judyhlinn@aol.com).
September Meeting Report

Working at the Computer All Day Without Hurting

The New England Chapter kicked off the 2010-11 year with a dinner meeting in Lexington, Mass. Members and guests enjoyed a bountiful Chinese buffet while making new connections and catching up with friends and colleagues. After dinner, Terry Snyder of P.S. Associates LLC gave an engaging presentation that any deskbound writer would appreciate: “Does it Have to Hurt? Strategies to Avoid Discomfort for Intense Computer Users.”

Ms Snyder, an ergonomics consultant with more than two decades of advising computer-based workers, had three goals for participants:
• Recognize major risk factors for stress and injury.
• Learn how to arrange your workstation to minimize your risk of pain.
• Change critical behaviors.

Using colorful and humorous slides and audience participation, Ms. Snyder elaborated on each of the goals. First she outlined the major risk factors for injury: contact stresses, repetition, static posture, non-neutral posture, force, and stress (familiar to those of us who work on deadline). She then showed us that neutral posture—a body position that minimizes contact stress—consists of a straight neck and wrist, relaxed shoulders, and a supported back.

The next step is to set up your workstation so that you can attain the neutral posture. The most important point made by Ms. Snyder is that there is not a one-size-fits-all setup. Your personal ideal depends upon handedness (as we lefties know), height, any previous injuries, what you consider to be comfortable (sitting? standing? slow walking on a treadmill?), and how you spend your time at work (talking on the phone? typing? greeting clients?). Key adjustments to make for a contact stress-minimizing workstation include finding the right chair and adjusting it, using a foot rest if needed, and selecting and positioning the keyboard, monitor, and mouse.

The third goal is to change critical behaviors. Her suggestions include minimizing mouse use, going for a short walk every half hour, stretching, and strength training.

If you’d like to learn more, you can view Ms. Snyder’s presentation slides, which she generously agreed to link to our chapter website. To download the slides, go to www.amwa-ne.org and scroll down to the bottom of the home page.

—Margaret Lynch
Secretary

AMWA Professional Development Certificate Credit for Attending Chapter Meetings

By participating in career-related activities such as chapter meetings, you can accrue points toward an AMWA Professional Development Certificate (PDC). For detailed information about the PDC and how to enroll in this program, go to the AMWA website (www.amwa.org) and click on Education/Certificates.

If you want some PDC points for attending the chapter meeting on December 2, be sure to pick up an attendance voucher at the registration desk. Fill it out, and ask any officer to sign it.

Personal Notes

Beth-Ann Marchese, BS, has joined Genzyme Corporation in Framingham, Mass., as senior training specialist/technology writer for Corporate Quality Operations, which is involved with writing GMP-compliant standards and developing training based on those standards.

Anita P. Kuan, PhD, a freelance medical writer in Bridgeport, Connecticut, is author of Antibody-mediated myocarditis: Genetic and induced susceptibility and the pathogenic potential of anti-myosin antibodies, a paperback recently released by Lambert Academic Publishing. Anita is a member of the New England Chapter’s Connecticut Programs Committee.

Richard C. Frank, MD, author of numerous medical and scientific articles, has won first place in the health care professionals (nonphysicians) category of AMWA’s 2010 Medical Book Awards competition for his first book, Fighting Cancer with Knowledge and Hope: A Guide for Patients, Families, and Health Care Providers (Yale University Press, 2009). This book also received a Will Solimene Award for Excellence in the New England Chapter’s writing competition this year. Richard is a hematologist/oncologist and director of cancer research at the Whittingham Cancer Center at Norwalk Hospital, Norwalk, Conn.

Laurie MacDougall, chapter president, who has master’s degrees in both epidemiology and gerontology, is now a certified tumor registrar (CTR). Laurie is cancer coordinator at St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center of Boston. She is also a freelance editorial consultant, providing writing, editing, and research services through her business, Calico Medical Communications.

CHAPTER CHANGE: Cherie Dewar, BS, has moved to Quantico, Va., and is now a member of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter.
New Members
The New England Chapter 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:

Victoria Leigh Baczek  
Bridgewater, Massachusetts

Mary G. Barlow, BS  
Whitinsville, Massachusetts

Susan Bond, MSc  
Andover, Massachusetts

Joanne Burcher, MD  
Longmeadow, Massachusetts

Claudia Cabral, MT(ASCP)  
Wakefield, Massachusetts

Donna M. Cipriano, MS  
D’Mycci LLC  
Middlebury, Connecticut

Lois E. Commodore, BS  
Norwood, Massachusetts

Heidi J. Correira  
Holden, Massachusetts

Elizabeth A. Daro-Kaftan, PhD  
Old Lyme, Connecticut  
[from Delaware Valley Chapter]

Robert Dea  
Newbury, Massachusetts

Carol Dinardo  
Genzyme Corporation  
Waltham, Massachusetts

Megan Driscoll  
Braintree, Massachusetts

Elaine Faletra, MS  
Ecliptic Enterprises LLC  
Warren, New Hampshire

Eric Falke, MD  
Northampton, Massachusetts  
Baystate Medical Center

Judith Healy, PhD  
Shire HGT Inc.  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Victoria Huntress  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
Worcester, Massachusetts

Rebecca Jarvis Beck, PhD  
Envision Scientific Solutions Inc.  
Southport, Connecticut  
[from Empire State Chapter]

Dieter M. Kramsch, MD, PhD  
West Falmouth, Massachusetts

Pamela I. Kramsch, BSN, RN  
West Falmouth, Massachusetts  
Evergreen Personnel Services Inc.

Elizabeth B. LaRoque, BA  
Strawberry Hill Publications  
Centerville, Massachusetts

Tamar Lasky, PhD  
MIE Resources  
Kingston, Rhode Island

Donna M. Leombruno, MS, PhD  
North Truro, Massachusetts  
Biogen Idec

Holly Maier, PhD  
Arlington, Massachusetts  
Orexigen Therapeutics Inc.  
[from Pacific Southwest Chapter]

Purvi D. Mody, PhD  
Ashland, Massachusetts  
Genzyme Corporation

Lynn R. Nasman Stringer, BS, MS  
Middletown, Rhode Island

Mary A. Palleiko, RN, BA  
Boston, Massachusetts

Ann L. Pike-Paris, MS, RN  
East Orleans, Massachusetts  
Hayes Inc.

Norma Pribe, BS  
CBSET Inc.  
Lexington, Massachusetts

Kathy Reddig, MS, RAC  
Windham, New Hampshire  
Smith & Nephew Endoscopy

Lori Regis, MS  
Hudson, Massachusetts  
Lanthus Medical Imaging

E. Kelly Sullivan, PhD  
Arlington, Massachusetts  
Radius Health Inc.

Jean C. Thomas, PhD  
Pfizer Inc.  
New London, Connecticut

Shannon L. Tierney, BA  
CBSET Inc.  
Lexington, Massachusetts

Lisa Tetzto  
Millennium: The Takeda Oncology Company  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Lisa Underhill, MS  
Brookline, Massachusetts  
Genzyme Corporation

Stephanie Whalen, PharmD  
Vertex Pharmaceuticals  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

AMWA New England E-News
Watch for e-mail from President Laurie MacDougall—it will come from calicomedcomm@earthlink.net with “AMWA New England E-News” in the subject line. The brief messages let you know about an upcoming meeting, job opening, freelance opportunity, or other information of possible interest to you.

The chapter E-News is sent only to New England Chapter members, but others are welcome to submit items to Laurie for consideration. Job postings must conform to the submission guidelines, which can be downloaded as a one-page PDF from the chapter website (www.amwa-ne.org/jobs).

Chapter Membership Awards
Support for Novice Medical Writers
The New England Chapter’s competitive Judy Linn Membership Awards provide some support to medical and health communicators who are fairly new to the field. The chapter will consider applications from candidates who live and work in New England. There is no application fee. For details and an application form, go to www.amwa-ne.org/awards.

If you have any questions, contact the membership awards director, David Olle (dolle@eastshirecommunications.com).
Directions to December 2 Meeting
Buca di Beppo Italian Restaurant
20 Waltham Street
Lexington, Massachusetts
781-861-0162

Buca di Beppo is a new restaurant in the location that was formerly a Vinny T’s. Waltham Street is directly off Massachusetts Avenue in Lexington Center. The restaurant is a short distance from the corner.

Parking: There is metered on-street parking (meters in effect until 8:00 p.m.) and a municipal lot off Waltham Street across from the restaurant.

From Route 128/I-95 (heading north or south)
Take Exit 31A east to Routes 4/225, which is Bedford Street. Follow the signs into Lexington Center past the Minuteman Statue, which is where Bedford Street joins Massachusetts Avenue. Turn right at the next traffic light onto Waltham Street. Buca di Beppo is just ahead on the left, with the entrance to the municipal lot on the right.

From Route 2 West
Take Exit 54B to Waltham Street, Lexington. At the traffic lights, turn left and go approximately 2 miles on Waltham Street. Buca di Beppo is on the right, just before Waltham Street comes to an end at Massachusetts Avenue. The municipal parking lot is on the left, across from the restaurant.

From Route 2 East
Take Exit 53 (Spring Street/Waltham Street). Bear right off the exit, take the next right, and go back over Route 2. Turn right immediately after going over the highway and go approximately 1 mile to Waltham Street. Turn left onto Waltham Street and go approximately 2 miles. Buca di Beppo is on the right, just before Waltham Street comes to an end at Massachusetts Avenue. The municipal parking lot is on the left, across from the restaurant.

From Cambridge/Arlington
Follow Massachusetts Avenue north into Lexington Center. After the post office and police station, turn left at the next traffic light onto Waltham Street. Buca di Beppo is just ahead on the left, with the entrance to the municipal lot on the right.

From Woburn/Burlington
Follow directions from Route 128/I-95. Alternatively, take Lexington Street (becomes Woburn Street) into Lexington Center. At the stop sign, turn right onto Massachusetts Avenue. Turn left at the next traffic light onto Waltham Street. Buca di Beppo is just ahead on the left, with the entrance to the municipal lot on the right.

Need a ride to the meeting?
If you don't have a car, you can contact Judy Linn, meeting registrar, at judyhlinn@aol.com to find out whether there is someone from your area who might be able to give you a ride to the meeting. Or call Joann Merriman (781-891-0028) to see if she can pick you up at a T station or some other mutually convenient location.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2010-11

OFFICERS
PRESIDENT: Laurie A. MacDougall
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Debbie von Rechenberg
PRESIDENT-ELECT: Kristin Stephan
VICE PRESIDENT/CONNECTICUT: Michelle R. Horan
SECRETARY: Margaret Lynch
TREASURER: Jill M. Shuman

DIRECTORS/COMMITTEE MEMBERS
PROGRAMS: Kristin Stephan
CONNECTICUT PROGRAMS: Michelle R. Horan
Cynthia Arons, Susan F. Gonsalves, Anita P. Kuan, Manjula Puthenedam,
CONFERENCE: Judy Linn, Heather Miniman, Jill Shuman, Siobhan Gallagher
MEMBERSHIP: Judy Linn
MEMBERSHIP AWARDS: David A. Olle
Robert E. Dunbar, Nancy Knoblock Hunton, Jill M. Shuman, Carla Tardi
E-NEWS: Laurie A. MacDougall
NEWSLETTER: Judy Linn
NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Kristin Stephan
WEB SITE: Aaron Federman
Jill Shuman, Judy Linn

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE
Adriane Bishko, Francesca Coltrera, Derek Dore, James P. Gallant, Andrea Gwosdow, Nancy B. Hertig, Laurie B. LaRusso, Chris McMorrow, Joann H. Merriman

DELEGATES TO AMWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Laurie MacDougall, Kristin Stephan
ALTERNATES: Debbie von Rechenberg, Michelle R. Horan