June 15: Awards Banquet in Waltham, Mass.
Honors Address by Dr. Miriam Nelson—researcher, author, advocate
Presentation of Will Solimene Awards of Excellence

The chapter’s last meeting of the year, on Thursday, June 15, at the Westin Hotel, Waltham, Mass., promises good company, a gourmet dinner in a lovely venue, and a celebration of excellence in medical communication. Join your colleagues for an informative and festive evening at the New England Chapter’s 12th Awards Banquet.

New Officers
As this is the final meeting of the 2005-06 chapter year, outgoing president Andrea Gwosdow will introduce the new officers for the coming year, and incoming president Lonnie J. Christiansen will speak briefly.

Honors Address
Renowned researcher and best-selling author Miriam Nelson, PhD, will give the 2006 Honors Address: “A Strong Commitment: From Researcher to Author and Advocate”—a discussion of her mission to promote health and fitness through books, lectures, television, and radio.

The principal investigator of many studies on exercise and nutrition for older adults, Dr. Nelson is director of the John Hancock Center for Physical Activity and Nutrition and an associate professor of nutrition at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University.

She is the author of Strong Women Stay Young; Strong Women Stay Slim; Strong Women, Strong Bones; Strong Women Eat Well; and Strong Women and Men Beat Arthritis. In addition to writing, she lectures worldwide about women's health. She has appeared on The Oprah Winfrey Show, The Today Show, Good Morning America, CNN, Fresh Air, and the Discovery Channel. In 2001, she starred in her own PBS special, Strong Women Live Well.

Writing Awards
Highlighting the evening will be the presentation of the Will Solimene Awards of Excellence, which recognize outstanding work in medical and health communication by members of AMWA’s New England Chapter.

The award-winning publications will be on display throughout the evening, so everyone will have a chance to look over the top-rated entries in the competition.

AWARDS BANQUET
DATE: Thursday, June 15
TIME: Social Hour (cash bar) 6:00-7:00 p.m.
      Dinner 7:00-8:15. Program 8:15-9:45.
PLACE: Westin Hotel, 70 Third Avenue, Waltham, Mass.

MENU: Baby Spinach in Radicchio Lettuce with Caramelized Pear, Candied Pecans, Stilton Cheese & Aged Balsamic Vinaigrette  YOUR CHOICE OF ENTRÉE: Roasted Local Cod with Artichoke Truffle Cream Sauce OR Pecan Crusted Breast of Chicken with Bourbon Jus OR Grilled Vegetarian Lasagna Rollup OR Chef Selection of Starch and Vegetable OR Italian Fallen Chocolate Soufflé with Espresso Cream OR Coffee, Decaf, Assorted Teas

REGISTRATION: Because the New England Chapter is underwriting the banquet, the registration fee is only $36 for members (and for nonmember coauthors of winning entries); $39 for guests and prospective members. Please use the enclosed form to register and to select your entrée.

DEADLINE: To guarantee dinner reservations, we must receive your payment by mail (checks only, no credit cards) no later than Friday, June 9. (Sorry, no refunds for cancellation after 2:00 p.m. that day.)

Everyone is invited!
Catch up with friends and make new acquaintances during the cocktail hour and dinner. Greet the new officers, and congratulate the award winners.

And, don’t forget, this will be your last chance until September to network, shoptalk, and socialize at a regular chapter meeting.

Guests and prospective members are welcome, as always.

If you are working toward an AMWA Professional Development Certificate, you can earn 5 points by attending this meeting.
Chapter Calendar

The New England Chapter holds seven regular meetings a year, from September through June. Five 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 is held every other year, alternating with the New England Conference, an all-day program of workshops. Often, informal networking meetings or tours are scheduled.

May 30: Dinner Meeting in New Haven

**Topic is CME Evolution**

As with so many areas of health care communications, continuing medical education has undergone some substantial changes recently. The spring meeting in Connecticut will focus on these changes, along with some aspects that remain the same. Candice M. Hughes, PhD, head of Hughes BioPharma Advisors LLC, will lead the discussion on “CME Evolution: Surviving and Thriving in a New World” on Tuesday, May 30, at 5:45 p.m. at Brazi’s Restaurant in New Haven. We’ll review the previous CME process, learn about the new guidelines and how they affect the process of creating CME, and talk about achieving the goals of CME, even with the new standards.

More information about the meeting and a registration form have been mailed to Connecticut members; other members and nonmembers are welcome to attend. Send your mailing address to ldodson@snet.net or call Lynne Dodson at 203-377-8256 to receive information.


Walk the waterfront, watch the sailboats—it’s that time of year again. Take a Friday lunch to enjoy a taste of Newburyport and to network with your colleagues on Friday, June 2, at noon (location TBD). We’ll talk about starting a new group for those of us who work on the North Shore. Interested? E-mail Lonnie Christiansen at lonnie@kellermedical.com.

June 22: Networking Dinner in Western Mass.

A Dutch-treat networking dinner will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 22 (location TBD). For information, contact Patricia Boone at 413-533-5711 or pat@bmtc.biz.


An informal freelance networking lunch is scheduled for Wednesday, July 12, at 12:00 noon at Changsho, 1712 Massachusetts Avenue in Cambridge (between Harvard Square and Porter Square). Parking is available in a lot across the street. There is no charge except for the cost of your lunch. To reserve a place, contact Francesca Coltrera at coltrera@comcast.net or 781-641-9872.

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER NEWS is published 5 to 6 times a year for the New England members of the American Medical Writers Association (AMWA). 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. As a service to chapter members who may be seeking new employment, job openings and freelance assignments are listed free of charge (100 words maximum, subject to editing), providing they are not also appearing in the AMWA Job Market.

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER
AMERICAN MEDICAL WRITERS ASSOCIATION
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WAYLAND MASSACHUSETTS 01778

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October 26-28: AMWA Annual Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico

For details on the association’s premier annual event, visit the AMWA Web site (www.amwa.org). The registration brochure will be posted on June 30 as a PDF. Registration will open July 17.

It’s not too soon to decide which workshops and other activities you’d like to participate in. Many workshops and roundtables fill quickly, so if you have strong preferences, you will want to register as early as possible. And the conference hotels are now taking reservations.
AMWA Board of Directors Meeting

At the spring meeting of the AMWA Board of Directors (BOD), held in Providence, R.I., in April, Diane Bell and I represented the New England Chapter. The BOD, which is made up of the national Executive Committee members and delegates from all the chapters, met in Providence because the city is being considered as a site for an annual conference.

As always, a major focus of the meeting was benefits and services to members. A great benefit this year has been the addition of a free link to Harrison’s Online from the AMWA Web site. Other ideas are under consideration, e.g., a discount on full-text articles through InfoRetrieve or on industry-standard software such as EndNote and Reference Manager. Any suggestions you may have are welcome; send an e-mail to Donna Munari, Executive Director, via the AMWA Web site. And while you’re there, take advantage of all of the information now available.

AMWA’s Web site committee is looking for new members; if you are interested in volunteering, contact Tom Geneny (tom@centerforaids.org).

Have you noticed changes in the AMWA Journal? Editor Lori Alexander has made improvements in the cover and in the design of the Journal, aiming for a more reader-friendly experience. Look for more changes in future issues.

The BOD has established an endowment fund, to which individuals can make tax-deductible donations and bequests. The money will be spent on educational enrichment. To make a donation, contact Kevin Flynn (kevin.flynn@fusion-meded.com) or Donna Munari.

—Andrea Gwosdow, President & Delegate to AMWA Board

Chapter Conference

Plans underway for 2007 workshops

The New England Chapter’s 7th biennial conference is scheduled for Saturday, May 7, 2007, at the Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conference Center in Sturbridge, Mass.—the popular, centrally located venue of all but one of our previous conferences.

Siobhan E. Gallagher is Conference Director. Also on the committee are Jill Shuman, Workshop Coordinator; Judy Linn, Registrar; and Laurie LaRusso, Roundtable Coordinator.

The program will offer four workshops in the AMWA Core Curriculum and two workshops specially designed for this conference. Three of the 3-hour classes will run concurrently in the morning and three in the afternoon.

Once again, the Conference Luncheon will include several tables devoted to career-development topics as well as open tables for those who would rather network, socialize, or just relax between classes.

The chapter newsletter will give more information as the program begins to take shape.

Personal Notes

Christina Whelton is now a partner in Place Boston, a biotech recruiting firm in Boston. She was formerly with Logix Inc., Waltham, Mass.

Patricia Boone, PhD, has attained certification as an editor in the life sciences (ELS). Pat is a writer and editor in South Hadley, Mass.

Vanessa LeFevre is now a senior medical writer at TolerRx, Cambridge, Mass. She was previously with PROMETRIKA in Cambridge.

Michael Mangiapane, PhD, has joined Millennium Pharmaceuticals Inc., Cambridge, Mass. Mike was formerly with Pfizer Inc.

Tom O'Connell's newest memoir was selected by the Forbes Book Club. The O'Connell Boy: Educating “The Wolf Child”—An Irish-American Memoir (1932-1950) is about his early years in a Catholic Charities group foster home followed by his teen years with his “solitary Irish granny.” The book was published in 2005 by Xlibris and Tom's own Sanctuary Unlimited. (See sample chapters at www.sanctuary777.com.) Tom is a writer, lecturer, and college instructor on Cape Cod.

CHAPTER CHANGE: Amy L. Brown, a freelancer, has moved to Eden Prairie, Minn., and is now a member of the North Central Chapter.
Chapter Officers
The New England Chapter’s officers for the 2006-07 year will be introduced at the year-end meeting on June 15.

Delegates to AMWA Board of Directors
As one of the larger AMWA chapters, New England has two representatives on the association’s Board of Directors. In accordance with our chapter’s bylaws, these delegates are the President and the President-Elect, with the Immediate Past President and the Vice President for Connecticut serving as alternates.

Officers (automatic)
The chapter’s President is elected a year ahead of time. During the year as President-Elect, he or she serves as Program Director. After a year as President, he or she then serves the chapter for still another year as Immediate Past President.

PRESIDENT: Lonnie K. Christiansen
Lonnie is an award-winning writer and certified editor in the life sciences, with a BA in English and a certificate in biomedical sciences from Boston University School of Medicine. As principal of Keller Medical Communications, in Newburyport, Mass., she specializes in writing feature articles, investigator profiles, white papers, and marketing communications materials for multiple audiences. In 2005, she won AMWA’s Eric W. Martin Award for Excellence in Medical Writing for her article on stem cell research. She is the freelance science writer of MIT’s Center for Cancer Research Newsletter and the freelance managing editor of the Dana-Farber Scientific Report.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Andrea Gwosdow
Andrea is a freelance science and medical writer and president of Gwosdow Associates, Science Consultants in Arlington, Mass. With a PhD in systems physiology, she is able to write on a wide variety of medical and scientific subjects. A versatile communicator, she writes manuscripts, abstracts, meeting summaries, continuing medical education documents, Web-based programs, grants, and review articles for audiences that range from health professionals, scientists, and science teachers to patients and other laypersons.

Nominees for Office
The Nominating Committee was chaired by President-Elect Lonnie K. Christiansen and included President Andrea Gwosdow (ex officio), Nancy Knoblock Hunton, Laurie LaRusso, and Helen Osborne. The committee has presented the following slate of officers to serve along with Lonnie and Andrea in the coming year.

PRESIDENT-ELECT: Julie J. Martin
Julie, who has a longtime personal and professional interest in health care and writing, holds an MS in health communication from Tufts University. She currently works in the communication department of the Massachusetts Division of Health Care Finance and Policy. She is also a freelance writer and has written patient education materials, medical procedure tutorials, and health-related articles for consumers. Julie joined AMWA in 2003 and this year has served as a member-at-large of the chapter’s Executive Council.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR CONNECTICUT: J. Lynne Dodson
Lynne is being nominated for a seventh term as Vice President for Connecticut. A medical writer/editor since 1971 and AMWA member since 1979, she has penned seven health-related books for general audiences, most recently, *Hot Times*, ghostwritten for bestselling nutritionist Ann Louise Gittleman. Lynne, twice winner of the Will Solimene Award for Excellence from the chapter, is currently a contributing editor to the *American Journal of Managed Care* and *Cardiology Review* and a contributing author to the *Journal of Oncology Practice*. Through her Stratford, Conn.-based business, Creative Lines, she also provides public relations services to nonprofit organizations.

Chapter Officers continued on next page
SECRETARY: Adriane Bishko
Adriane, who is being nominated for a second term as Secretary, has almost two decades in health care communications. Since launching her own company, Image Ink, in 1995, she has worked for such clients as Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Massachusetts General Hospital, and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. In 2004, Adriane won a Will Solimene Award for Excellence from the chapter. For almost 20 years she volunteered, teaching literacy skills to native-born Americans, while serving on the board of the Adult Literacy Program. She is a charter member of Boston Women Communicators. She holds degrees from Washington University in St. Louis and Michigan State University.

Treasurer: Jill Shuman
Jill, who was chapter president in 1995-96, is being nominated for a fifth term as Treasurer. She has extensive experience as a medical writer, editor, teacher, and project manager, and since 2004 she has been working full-time from her home-based office in Woburn, Mass. Jill was named an AMWA Fellow in 2003 in recognition of her professional achievements and her contributions to the association.

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:

Cindi Arons, PhD
Pfizer Inc.
New London, Connecticut

Alba Cid
Somerville, Massachusetts

Brenda L. Conaway
StayWell Custom Communications
Boston, Massachusetts

Melissa L. Creasey, MPH
Madison, Connecticut

Sean Gerard Darcy, RN, BSN
Averion Inc.
Framingham, Massachusetts

Elisabeth M. Fine, PhD
Millennium Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Margi E. Goldstein, PhD
Madison, Connecticut
Bristol-Myers Squibb

L.C. Iglehart
Charlotte, Vermont

Sonal Jhaveri, PhD
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Cheryl Lathrop
Walpole, Massachusetts

Carla M. Mamolo
New Haven, Connecticut

Leslee Masten
Grafton, Massachusetts

Beatrice Mendez, BS
Fusion Medical Education LLC
Wakefield, Massachusetts

A. Peter Morello
Brown University
Providence, Rhode Island

Karen Oberheim, BA
Beverly, Massachusetts
Fusion Medical Education LLC

Rebecca O'Donnell, MSED, MBA
TK Solutions LLC
Killingworth, Connecticut

Jeanie V. Pasacreta, PhD, APRN
Newtown, Connecticut

Melissa Plone, MA
Genzyme Corporation
Waltham, Massachusetts

Hilary S. Polk, BA, MA
Fusion Medical Education LLC
Wakefield, Massachusetts

Michael J. Raffin
Woodbridge, Connecticut
[from Delaware Valley Chapter]

Susanne M. Richardson, MS, ELS
Cambridge, Massachusetts
Rxtext

Joseph Saling
Attleboro, Massachusetts

Heather A. Sulkowski
Torrington, Connecticut

Debra A. Willins, PhD
Watertown, Massachusetts
Millennium Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Directions to June 15 Meeting
Westin Hotel
70 Third Avenue
Waltham, Mass.
781-290-5600

The hotel is just off Route 1-95/128, Exit 27A.

Heading south on I-95/128
Take Exit 27A and follow the ramp (right) onto Winter St. towards Totten Pond Rd./Wyman St. Go straight on Totten Pond Rd. Bear right onto Third Ave. The hotel is on the left.

Heading north on I-95/128
At Exit 27A, turn right onto the ramp towards Totten Pond Rd./Waltham. Keep right to stay on the ramp towards Third Ave. Bear right onto Third Ave. The hotel is on the left.

Need a ride to the meeting?
The Westin Hotel in Waltham is not accessible by public transportation. 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. Or call Joann Merriman (781-891-0028) to see if she can pick you up at a T station or another, mutually convenient location.

University Summer Courses
Boston University School of Medicine will offer a course on “Technical Writing in Clinical Research” Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:30-9:00 p.m., from July 5 through August 14. For information, contact Lori Thomae (978-392-9467 or lori-thomae@comcast.net).

Northeastern University Online will offer “Technical Writing for Regulatory Agencies” during the Summer Term, June 5 through August 29. For information, contact Lori Thomae (978-392-9467 or lori-thomae@comcast.net).

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2005-06

OFFICERS
PRESIDENT: Andrea Gwosdow
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Diane Bell
PRESIDENT-ELECT: Lonnie K. Christiansen
VICE PRESIDENT/CONNECTICUT: J. Lynne Dodson
SECRETARY: Adriane Joy Bishko
TREASURER: Jill M. Shuman

DIRECTORS / COMMITTEE MEMBERS
PROGRAMS: Lonnie K. Christiansen
CONNECTICUT PROGRAMS: J. Lynne Dodson
Lisa Catanese, Susan F. Gonsalves
HONORS AWARD: Nancy Knoblock Hunton
MEMBERSHIP: Judy Linn
MEMBERSHIP AWARDS: David A. Olle
Robert E. Dunbar, Nancy Knoblock Hunton, Jill M. Shuman
E-MESSAGES: Andrea Gwosdow
NEWSLETTER: Judy Linn
NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Lonnie K. Christiansen
Andrea Gwosdow, Nancy Knoblock Hunton, Laurie LaRusso, Helen Osborne
WRITING AWARDS: Jill M. Shuman

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE
Siobhan E. Gallagher, Laurie LaRusso, Michael J. Lasalandra, Julie J. Martin, Joann H. Merriman, Helen Osborne

DELEGATES TO AMWA
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Andrea Gwosdow & Lonnie K. Christiansen
ALTERNATES: Diane Bell & J. Lynne Dodson