June 16: Chapter Meeting in Waltham, Mass.
“Speed Mentoring”—An Evening of Career Advice from Successful Medical Communicators

The final meeting of the year—on Thursday, June 16, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Waltham, Mass.—will introduce the chapter’s new officers and will feature a new twist on the New England Chapter’s popular roundtable format: “speed mentoring,” where you can move from table to table to get career advice from established AMWA members.

Whether you are exploring a career in medical writing, looking to transition into a new area, or want to expand your current skill set, you can always benefit from the knowledge of people who’ve walked in your shoes or have experienced a career trajectory very different from your own. So, at our meeting on June 16, you’ll get a chance to spend a little time with colleagues who have volunteered to be mentors for the evening. Their backgrounds are diverse, and they work in different areas. After talking briefly about their education and specialties, they will be available for consultation at separate tables.

You can decide which of them would be most helpful to you in your particular situation. Then, at set intervals, you’ll be able to go from table to table to learn more about their careers, the choices they made, and the advice they have for you.

Before you sit down with your mentors, you’ll have time to relax and socialize while you enjoy a plentiful selection of hors d’oeuvres from the buffet. A cash bar will be open all evening.

Mentors
The mentors (and a sampling of their areas of expertise) are:

- Francesca Coltrera, BA, freelance writer/editor (consumer education via magazines, books, the Web)
- Jenna Hollenstein, MS, associate director, medical writing at Genzyme (scientific publications)
- Laurie LaRusso, MS, principal writer/owner of Chestnut Medical Communications (medical devices; freelancing)
- Chris McMorrow, BA, freelance writer and contract writer at Custom Learning Designs (marketing; pharmaceutical sales training; career transitions)
- Kris Rhem, PhD, medical writer at Vertex Pharmaceuticals (regulatory writing; breaking into first job)
- Jill Shuman, MS, principal consultant of The Writers Group and research analyst at Hayes, Inc. (managing medical editor; self-employment issues)

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“SPEED MENTORING”

DATE: Thursday, June 16
TIME: 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
6:00-7:00—Hors d’Oeuvres Buffet and Cocktails (cash bar)
7:00-7:30—Welcome New Officers, Meet Mentors, Select Tables
7:30-9:00—Speed Mentoring
PLACE: Hilton Garden Inn, 420 Totten Pond Road, Waltham, Massachusetts. (DIRECTIONS on page 6.)

BUFFET MENU: HORS D’ŒUVRES: Assorted Quiches, Parmesan Crostini, Vegetarian Quesadillas, Chicken Quesadillas, Scallops and Bacon, Antipasto Skewers • BEVERAGES: Coffee, Tea, Soft Drinks • DESSERT: Cookies, Fruit

REGISTRATION: The registration fee is $33 for members, $39 for guests and prospective members. You can pay online with a credit card or by mail with a check. (See HOW TO REGISTER on page 2).

DEADLINE: To guarantee reservations, we must receive your payment no later than Friday, June 10. (Sorry, there are no refunds for cancellation after 2:00 p.m. that day.)

Networking Table
An open table will be available during each of the mentoring periods for those who would like to spend some time networking with other chapter members.

As always, guests and prospective members are welcome.

—Kristin Stephan
President-Elect/Program Director

Note: You can earn 5 points toward an AMWA Professional Development Certificate by attending this meeting. (See page 2 for more information.)
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 opens 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 June 16 Meeting

To register for the upcoming meeting you have two options:

1. If you want to pay by credit card, use the electronic registration form on the chapter website (www.amwa-ne.org). Fill it out and continue to the PayPal form, where you can enter your credit card information. (You do not have to have your own PayPal account, and you will not be charged a fee for the transaction.)

2. If you want to pay by check, download the printable registration form from the chapter website (www.amwa-ne.org), print a copy, fill it out, and mail it with your check to the address on the form.

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

AMWA Professional Development Certificate

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 June 16, be sure to pick up an attendance voucher at the registration desk. Fill it out, and ask any officer to sign it.

Other Meetings

June 1-3
Society for Scholarly Publishing
33rd Annual Meeting
Boston, Mass.
For information go to www.sspnet.org.

October 20-22
71st AMWA Annual Conference
Jacksonville, Fla.
AMWA’s annual meeting draws medical communicators from throughout the U.S. and Canada and beyond for an extraordinary 3-day program of workshops, lectures, roundtables, panel discussions, poster presentations, how-to sessions, networking opportunities, social events, and more.
Check out all the preliminary information now available on the AMWA website (www.amwa.org), take a look at the FAQs page if you’ve never attended an AMWA conference, and watch for the registration brochure this summer.

AMWA New England E-News

Don’t forget to keep an eye out 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, local 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 LinkedIn Subgroup

As a member of the New England Chapter, you can connect directly with regional colleagues in our LinkedIn subgroup, providing you have already signed up for the main AMWA group. To join the online conversation, go to www.linkedin.com and follow the links to subgroups. If you have any questions, contact Laurie MacDougall (calicomedcomm@earthlink.net).
Chapter Officers
New England Chapter officers for 2011-12 will be introduced on June 16 at the final meeting of the 2010-11 year.

Delegates to AMWA Board of Directors
As one of the larger AMWA chapters, New England has two representatives on the national Board of Directors. In accordance with our chapter’s bylaws, these board delegates are the President and the President-Elect, with the Immediate Past President and the Vice President/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. Then, after a year as President, he or she serves the chapter for still another year as Immediate Past President.

PRESIDENT: Kristin Stephan
Kristin has a bachelor’s degree in molecular biology/physiology with a minor in chemistry from Marshall University. She earned a PhD in immunology from Tufts Medical School and did postdoctoral research in transplantation at Harvard Medical School. She freelanced for over two years before joining Vertex Pharmaceuticals as a medical writer last year. She has been an AMWA member since 2009.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Laurie MacDougall
Laurie, an AMWA member since 2006, has a bachelor’s degree in biology from Boston College, a master’s in epidemiology from the UMass Amherst School of Public Health, a master’s in gerontology from UMass Boston, and a certificate in book publishing from Boston University. She is a certified tumor registrar at St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center, Boston, and a freelance medical editor and writer through her business, Calico Medical Communications. This year, along with her other responsibilities as chapter president, Laurie initiated the New England Chapter’s LinkedIn subgroup and helped with onsite administration of the New England Chapter Conference in Sturbridge.

Nominees for Office
The Nominating Committee was chaired by President-Elect Kristin Stephan and included President Laurie MacDougall (ex officio), Andrea Gwosdow, Nancy Knoblock Hunton, and Debbie von Rechenberg. The committee has presented the following slate of officers to serve along with Kristin and Laurie in the coming year.

PRESIDENT-ELECT: Derek Dore
Derek, an AMWA member since 2008, has a doctor of pharmacy degree from the University of Rhode Island. He is a freelance writer and clinical consultant, specializing in consumer-oriented medical publications, continuing medical education (CME) materials, medical conference coverage, and journal article preparation. He also has over 15 years of experience working in pharmacy practice. Derek served as a member-at-large of the chapter’s Executive Council this year, and he was a panelist at the chapter meeting on non-regulatory writing for the pharmaceutical industry and a co-leader of the Freelance Forum at the New England Conference.

VICE PRESIDENT/CONNECTICUT: Michelle Horan
Michelle, who is being nominated for a second term as Vice President/Connecticut, joined AMWA in 2000 and has been a member of the Connecticut Programs Committee since 2008. She has a bachelor’s degree in zoology from Michigan State University and a master’s in chemistry from Saint Joseph College, and in 2004 she earned an AMWA core certificate. Michelle has worked for Pfizer Inc. for 23 years, initially as a bench scientist and for the past 11 years, as a medical writer. She has authored a wide array of regulatory documents and has also conducted and documented pharmacovigilance for marketed products.

SECRETARY: Margaret Lynch
Margaret is being nominated for a second term as Secretary. After earning a BA in biology from Williams College and a PhD in cell biology from the University of Colorado at Boulder, Margaret did postdoctoral research at the University of California, San Francisco, School of Medicine and at the University of California, Davis. Following that, she was a lecturer in biology at Tufts University for more than a decade. Two years ago, she made the switch to medical writing. She currently works as a research associate at the Foundation for Informed Medical Decision Making. Margaret joined AMWA in 2009. This year, along with her responsibilities as secretary, she led a luncheon roundtable at the New England Conference.

TREASURER: Jill Shuman
Jill is being nominated for another term as Treasurer. She is a graduate of Simmons College, holds a master’s degree in communications/nutrition from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and is a registered dietitian, a certified editor in the life sciences, and a certified CME professional. She has extensive experience as a writer, editor, teacher, and project manager in many areas of medical and scientific communication. A member of AMWA since 1991, Jill served as chapter president in 1995-96, and in 2003 was named an AMWA Fellow in recognition of her professional achievements and her numerous contributions to AMWA and the New England Chapter.
New England Conference Report
Sturbridge Program Offered Workshops, Roundtables, and Networking

For members working toward an AMWA education certificate, as well as those just trying to expand their repertoire and hone their skills, the chapter’s 9th biennial conference in Sturbridge did not disappoint. The New England Conference on Saturday, March 9, went without a hitch, thanks to an experienced management team, a top-notch faculty, an excellent venue, and enthusiastic participants.

Conference Committee

Site Manager: Heather Miniman handled all site arrangements, making sure we had comfortable, well-equipped classrooms, a spacious registration/hospitality area, a nice breakfast and breaks, and a bountiful spread of delicious food for lunch—all within budget.

Workshops Coordinator: Jill Shuman arranged an outstanding selection of workshops, with four classes from the AMWA certificate program and two special sessions, one for members trying to break into medical writing, the other for members who freelance (or would like to).

Roundtables Coordinator: Siobhan Gallagher lined up three members, in addition to herself, to lead lively roundtable discussions on new topics that may well become part of our regular roundtable meeting menu.

Registrar: I handled administrative details and registrations; and I was pleased that, for the first time, we were able to offer online registration and payment by credit card our conference. Many thanks to Aaron Federman, our website director, for enabling this process.

And special thanks to Laurie MacDougall, chapter president, for helping out on site all day. (You had to be there to appreciate Laurie’s composure as she directed Tupperware conventioneers to their nearby meeting room while shooing them away from our coffee.)

Workshop Leaders

AMWA Credit Workshops: Susan Aiello—the 2005 recipient of AMWA’s coveted Golden Apple Award—came from Ohio to lead two credit workshops, “Effective Paragraphing” and “Proofreading.” Tom Gegeny, our chapter colleague and the immediate past president of AMWA, led the popular workshop, “Effectively Searching Online Databases.” Cindy Hamilton, also a past AMWA president, came from Virginia to co-lead the workshop on “Essential Ethics for Medical Communicators” with Jill Shuman.

Special Sessions: Andrea Gwosdow and Chris McMorrow, both past chapter presidents, teamed up to present “Transitioning to Medical Writing from Allied Fields”—a workshop offering the differing perspectives of a PhD scientist and a liberal arts major who started out in marketing communications. Laurie LaRusso, also a past president, assembled a first-rate team—Francesca Coltrera, Derek Dore, Kevin Flynn, Nancy Knoblock Hunton, and Cheryl Lathrop—to join her in leading our second “Freelance Forum.”

Roundtable Leaders

The conference luncheon was a chance for registrants, workshop leaders, and conference administrators to relax and enjoy one another’s company. For those who wanted to use the time to learn something new, there were four roundtables devoted to career-related topics. Siobhan Gallagher, associate director of public relations for Tufts University’s Health Sciences campus, led a discussion about Twitter (“Twitter is Not Just for Tweeting”). Adriane Bishko, principal of Image Ink, talked about “Marketing Communications: Writing for Hospitals.” Margaret Lynch, a trained biologist, freelancing at the time (she recently joined the Foundation for Informed Medical Decision Making), focused on “Writing About Complementary and Alternative Medicine.” Jane Sherwin, owner of WordDrive Communications, discussed the “ABCs of Print and Electronic Newsletters.”

Registrants

There were registrants from all six New England states, and we got to meet 11 AMWA members from four other chapters: Canada, Empire State, Delaware Valley, and Ohio Valley.

Next Conference

The next New England Conference will be held in the spring of 2013. If you have suggestions, please feel free to contact me (judyhlinn@aol.com).

—Judy Linn
Conference Registrar

Personal Notes

Elizabeth A. Daro-Kaftan, PhD, of Old Lyme, Conn., has joined Peloton Advantage, a medical communication company based in Parsippany, N.J., as associate medical director.

Linda M. Bates, MS, of North Easton, Mass., is now a senior medical writer at Synchromenix. She was previously a senior medical writer at Biogen Idec Inc.

Rob Kinslow, a past president of the New England Chapter, is now senior strategist, brand communications, at KHJ, Boston, which recently acquired Seidler Bernstein Inc., where Rob had been vice president, strategic communications.

Carolyn Whiston has joined Biogen Idec Inc., Cambridge, Mass.

Matthew L. Romo received a doctor of pharmacy degree from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences this spring. Matt is currently working on two writing projects, one in continuing education and the other an article for journal submission.

Robert E. Dunbar has died. (See OBITUARY on page 6.)

CHAPTER CHANGE: Christopher J. Drury, MA, has moved to Mount Pleasant, S.C., and is now a member of the Carolinas 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:

Ciranna L. Bird, MS, CAPM
Westborough, Massachusetts

Jennifer Brooks, MS, MN
J Brooks Consulting
Kingston, New Hampshire

Eric I. Charych, PhD
Mystic, Connecticut

Mardia Coleman
Worcester, Massachusetts

Carol A. Comerci, MS
Franklin, Massachusetts
Shire Pharmaceuticals

L. Lee Culvert
Portland, Maine
[from Southwest Chapter]

Kristina Davis, PhD
Providence, Rhode Island

Stephen G. Diana, DVM, MS
Quaker Hill, Connecticut
Pfizer Inc.

Julie A. Fadel, BS
Lynnfield, Massachusetts
Sekisui Diagnostics LLC

Michael Fiedler, PhD
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut

Paula Ford-Martin, BA, MA
Old Saybrook, Connecticut
LifeMed Media

Sara Gambrill, BA
Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts

Wendy Haering
Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts

Laetitia M. Henry, DVM
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Virginia Smith Hopkins, MA, MSW
Ghent, New York

David C. Howard, BS
North Andover, Massachusetts

Jian Huang, MS
Waltham, Massachusetts
AstraZeneca
[from Delaware Valley Chapter]

Michael S. Jasper, MS, PhD
Genzyme Corporation
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Ivana Kawikova, MD, PhD
New Haven, Connecticut

India Koopman
New England Journal of Medicine
Boston, Massachusetts

Eileen Krenzel
Reading, Massachusetts
Boston University School of Medicine

Leslie Lescale-Matys, RN, PhD
Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Cambridge, Massachusetts

David Lickorish, PhD
Hamden, Connecticut

Joanna Logue
Somerville, Massachusetts
Emerson College

Joanne Mason
Agawam, Massachusetts

Anne M. Manzo, MPH
Sui Generis Health
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Eileen McClusky, MBA
Watertown, Massachusetts

Sandra McCurdy, MS, MASC
Pfizer Inc.
Groton, Connecticut

Lydia Morrison, MS
Cell Signaling Technology Inc.
Danvers, Massachusetts

Olivier Morteau, PhD
Medford, Massachusetts

Munia Mukherjee, PhD
Middlebury, Connecticut
Science and Medicine

Steven J. Musuras, DC, BS
Boston, Massachusetts
sanofi-aventis
[from Delaware Valley Chapter]

Alixanna M. Norris, PhD
Lebanon, New Hampshire

Angeline M. Pacy, BS
Acton, Massachusetts

Garyfallia Pagonis
Brighton, Massachusetts

Susan F. Palmer, BA
Waltham, Massachusetts

Jayashree M. Paranjape, MSc, MPhil
i-Med Communications LLC
Shrewsbury, Massachusetts

Helen B. Partridge, MA
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Rachel Y. Perez, BS
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Jillian C. Rankins, BA
Somerville, Massachusetts
Custom Learning Designs

Laurence Shah, PharmD
Boston, Massachusetts
sanofi-aventis

Jessica Small, MD
Cambridge, Massachusetts

David E. Titus, PhD
Belmont, Massachusetts

Karen V. Warner, MD
Haddam, Connecticut
Middlesex Medical Associates

Edward O. Weselcouch, PhD
PharmaWrite
Westford, Massachusetts

Yelena Wetherill, PhD
sanofi-aventis
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Linda Yih
Bedford, Massachusetts
sanofi-aventis
### Directions to June 16 Meeting

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

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

**Heading south on Route 128/I-95:**
Take Exit 27A (Totten Pond Rd/ Wyman St). At the end of the exit ramp bear right onto Winter Street and continue onto Totten Pond Road. The hotel is ahead on the right.

**Heading north on Route 128/I-95:**
Take Exit 27B (Totten Pond Rd/ Winter St). Keep right at the fork to go onto Wyman Street. Go just past Winter Street and turn left onto Totten Pond Road. The hotel is ahead on the right.

### Need a ride to the meeting?

The Waltham Hilton Garden Inn is not accessible by public transportation. 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.

### Obituary

**Robert E. Dunbar,** who in 1975-76 chaired the Committee to Organize a New England Chapter of AMWA, died on March 29. He was 84.

Bob majored in English at Marietta College, then earned a master’s in journalism from Northwestern University.

He joined AMWA in 1968, when he was the director of communications for the American Society of Anesthesiologists in the Chicago area. He subsequently became the director of the Public Information Division of the American Fund for Dental Education and Health and, about the same time, began doing some freelance work. He also helped design courses on medical writing at the University of Health Sciences, Chicago Medical School, and taught there for two years. Then in 1975 he moved to Maine with his family and became a full-time freelance writer and book author.

His first book, *Learning to Cope with Arthritis, Rheumatism, and Gout,* published in 1973, won the Greater Chicago Area Chapter’s Beth Fonda Award for Excellence. He eventually authored 15 books, most of them on medical and scientific topics. *Issues in Focus: Homosexuality,* written for adolescents, was selected as a notable book of 1996 by the National Council for Social Studies and the Children’s Book Council. He also bylined a health column, first for a weekly newspaper and then for *Maine Life* magazine, and he wrote other columns in collaboration with medical specialists.

Bob was president of the Greater Chicago Area Chapter in 1970-71, and the following year he served as general chair of AMWA’s annual meeting, which was held in Chicago. At that meeting, in his dual role as co-chair of the Education Committee (a position he held for four years), he helped introduce better organized and more structured workshops for an added fee—a then-novel concept that became the foundation for AMWA’s educational programs.

He was named an AMWA Fellow in 1972.

He was the New England Chapter’s first treasurer in 1976-77 and later served on the committee that planned the chapter’s 25th anniversary celebration. He served on the Membership Awards committee from its inception in 2001.

New England AMWA members will remember Bob Dunbar as a supportive colleague and our chapter’s “founding father.”

—Judy Linn

### 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
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
Nancy Knoblock Hunton, Jill M. Shuman
E-NEWS: Laurie A. MacDougall
NEWSLETTER: Judy Linn
NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Kristin Stephan
Andrea Gwosdow, Nancy Knoblock Hunton, Laurie A.
MacDougall (ex officio), Debbie von Rechenberg
WEB SITE: Aaron Federman
Jill Shuman, Judy Linn

**MEMBERS-AT-LARGE**

Adriane Bishko, Francesca Coltrera, Derek Dore, James P.
Gallant, Andrea Gwosdow, Laurie B. LaRusso, Shanna
McClennen, Chris McMorrow, Joann H. Merriman

**DELEGATES TO AMWA**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Laurie MacDougall, Kristin Stephan
ALTERNATES: Debbie von Rechenberg, Michelle R. Horan