**Roundtable Discussions for Professional Development**

The New England Chapter’s traditional winter brunch will be held on Sunday, March 11, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Burlington, Mass. This meeting will feature lively roundtable discussions led by knowledgeable AMWA members—colleagues who will share their insights, offer valuable advice, and answer your questions while we all enjoy a leisurely late breakfast.

There will be 9 tables in all—8 on career-related topics, plus an open table for informal conversation. Choose the table that interests you most, give second and third choices if you have them, and note your choices on the registration form. Don’t delay, because seating at each table is limited and will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis upon receipt of payment.

As always, guests and prospective members are welcome.

Table #1  
**WRITING WITH STYLE**  
**Leader:** Nancy Knoblock Hunton  
Learn how to make your writing lively, clear, and uncluttered. Discuss ways to turn complicated jargon into easy-to-understand language. We’ll talk about print and online publications as well as websites. Join us and share your ideas!

Table #2  
**REGULATORY WRITING IN THE PHARMACEUTICAL/BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY**  
**Leader:** Debbie von Rechenberg  
One of the hottest fields in medical writing is helping pharmaceutical and biotechnology firms prepare regulatory documents for health authorities such as the FDA. We’ll discuss the basics of pharmaceutical and biologic drug research, the regulations that define it, and the documents that support it as well as a “typical” day in the life of a regulatory writer. This background information will help you decide if you’d like the field and could even help you land that first regulatory writing position!

Table #3  
**NONREGULATORY WRITING IN THE PHARMACEUTICAL/BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY**  
**Leader:** Olivier Morteau  
Not all medical writers in pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies work on regulatory documentation. Join this discussion to learn about nonregulatory writing jobs in the pharma/biotech industry—in medical education, medical information, scientific publications, sales training, consumer information, corporate communications, and other areas.

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CHAPTER CALENDAR

The New England Chapter’s year begins in mid-June, when a new slate of officers takes over. The chapter’s Board of Directors meets during the summer, but there are no general activities during July and August.

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, these meetings start with a social hour, followed by dinner (except for a Sunday brunch, usually in the winter), then a program with a speaker, panel presentation, or roundtables.

In addition to the regular meetings, the chapter occasionally schedules other events, ranging from informal networking lunches or evening meetups to workshop programs.

Every fall, at the national AMWA meeting, attendees from New England get together for an informal dinner at a restaurant near the conference site.

Connecticut Spring Meeting

The turnout for the New England Chapter’s Connecticut meetings is sometimes disappointingly low. We’d love to see more members at these events, so we’d appreciate feedback on what would compel you to attend.

The next dinner program in Connecticut will be in April or May. Should we vary the night? Would Monday or Tuesday be better for you than Wednesday or Thursday? Should we vary the location? Would the Hartford area, for example, be more convenient for you than New Haven? Are there particular topics you’d like us to cover? Or would you just like to get together to network?

Margaret Burke, vice president for Connecticut, would be pleased to hear from you. You can reach her at mburkepharmd@cox.net.

Other Events in New England

If you are involved with or know about an upcoming professional meeting, educational program, or other local event that might be of interest to New England AMWA members, please send the information to Judy Linn at judyhlinn@aol.com. We are happy to publicize such events in the chapter newsletter and/or via the AMWA New England E-News.

March 20 & April 17
Editorial Freelancers Association
Lunch Meetings
EFA’s Central Massachusetts Chapter is holding brown bag lunches on Tuesday, March 20 (“Copyright Management”) and on Tuesday, April 17 (“Style-O-Rama”). Everyone is welcome. For details, contact Ellie Lin at ellie@LinLifeScience.com.

April 26-28
Harvard Medical School
Writing and Publishing Course
Boston, Mass.
Harvard Medical School’s annual 3-day continuing education course on “Writing, Publishing, and Social Media for Healthcare Professionals” will be held at the Fairmont Copley Plaza. For information, go to https://wps.hmscme.com/.

May 20-22
New England Society for Healthcare Communications
Spring Conference
Southbridge, Mass.
NESCHo’s 2018 Spring Conference will take place at the Southbridge Hotel and Conference Center. For information, go to: www.neshco.org.

June 24-28
Drug Information Association
Global Annual Meeting
Boston, Mass.
The DIA 2018 Global Annual Meeting will take place at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center. For details and registration information, go to http://www.diaglobal.org/en/flagship/dia-2018.

2018 AMWA Conference

The AMWA Medical Writing & Communication Conference, which takes place every fall, is the premier annual event for medical communicators. This year’s conference will be held in Washington, D.C., November 1-3. As always, you can expect an outstanding educational program with an extensive selection of workshops, panel presentations, roundtables, how-to sessions, poster displays, lectures, and more, as well as many formal and informal networking opportunities. For information, go to www.amwa.org/page/conference.
Table #4
WRITING PEER-REVIEWED MANUSCRIPTS
Leader: Laurie LaRusso
Would you like to learn more about writing research papers for submission to peer-reviewed journals? Come join a discussion of best practices, and pick up some tips and tools for selecting a journal, preparing the manuscript, and submitting online.

Table #5
CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION
Leader: Jill Shuman
Writing continuing medical education (CME) materials requires a combination of scientific, business, and consumer writing skills. Learn about the different roles for a CME writer and how to find work in this tightly regulated area.

Table #6
MONEY MATTERS IN THE FREELANCE WORLD
Leader: Theresa Singleton
Even the best writers won’t have financial success unless they know how to get what they’re worth. Join a discussion on the essentials of setting and raising rates, assessing the benefits of hourly rates versus project rates, collecting your due, and negotiating contracts. Share your experiences and tap into those of your colleagues.

Table #7
IMPROVING YOUR NETWORKING SKILLS
Leader: Shawn Watson
Now more than ever, networking is essential to professional success. Over the past few years, the face of networking has been dramatically changed by LinkedIn. Join a discussion of networking strategies from the tried-and-true to leveraging your online profile. Bring your questions, thoughts, experiences, concerns, and success stories.

Table #8
ESSENTIALS OF EDITING
Leader: Beatrice Mendez
Do you know the difference between editing and proofreading? Are you mystified by the comments and marks editors make? Join the discussion to learn more about this important role in the publication process. We’ll review the essentials of editing, including the different levels of editing, processes and procedures editors use to ensure quality products, tips for managing the author-editor relationship, and the types of editing jobs available.

Table #9
INFORMAL CONVERSATION
Would you just like to get together with other medical writers? This is a chance for you to catch up with AMWA friends and make new professional acquaintances.

November Meeting Reports

Chapter Dinner at National Conference
In November, during AMWA’s 2017 Medical Writing & Communication Conference in Orlando, Fla., many of the New England members in attendance signed up for the chapter networking dinner at a local restaurant, a longstanding annual conference tradition. Ellie Lin, chapter secretary, organized this year’s get-together.

Role of Medical Writers in Instructional Design
At the chapter’s Connecticut fall meeting, held at Cask Republic restaurant in New Haven in November, AMWA member Deborah Anderson, PhD, a medical writer, instructional designer, and owner of DGA Medical Communications in Bristol, Pa., discussed “Instructional Design: Where Do You Fit in as a Medical Writer?”

The presentation was interactive, with attendees examining the array of project components that fall under the umbrella of instructional design. Deborah emphasized the importance of identifying the goals of the project and the intended audience early in order to appropriately design your communication. She provided several examples and asked attendees to improve them by using the concepts of instructional design that had been discussed.

—Margaret Burke, Vice President for Connecticut
Trivia Night

Over pizza, chips, and guacamole, at the Burlington, Mass. Uno Pizzeria, seven teams vied for the honor of being the New England Chapter’s first Trivia Night champions. Conversation flowed as each team attempted to reach consensus on questions about medicine, science, history, popular culture, and New England.

The event was emceed by Laurie MacDougall, our own three-time Jeopardy! champion, and Jill Shuman. Along with Shawn Watson and Debbie Ferguson, Laurie and Jill also played major roles in planning the event.

Two local companies, BioBridges and doDOC, provided generous financial and material support. BioBridges LLC, based in Wellesley, Mass., is a contract employment agency for pharmaceutical, biotech, and medical device professionals (www.biobridges.com). Boston-based doDOC Corporation offers document management platforms for secure collaboration and full compliance with regulatory frameworks (www.dodoc.com).

The CEOs and other employees of BioBridges and doDOC attended the event, throwing their hats in the ring along with members and guests—a congenial mix of students, freelancers, consultants, and pharma, biotech, health care, and CRO employees. Thanks to BioBridges, the winning team, AMWA members Haifa Kassis and Kelly Crowley, each received a $50 gift basket. The second and third place winners got $25 and $20 gift cards, respectively, and all of the participants went home with a goody bag and a free trial of doDOC’s premier document management platform.

Unlike our typical meetings, Trivia Night was purely social—a chance for members and guests to work together and get to know each other better. As Marisa Greenfield put it, “My favorite part was realizing that I was placed at a table with four people I had never met before, but at the end of the night, I felt like I had spent the evening with a bunch of friends.”

—Ellie Lin, Secretary

December Meeting Report

Global Warming Affects Public Health

What might seem to be small increases in global temperatures have produced changes in the Earth’s ecosystems that already affect many aspects of public health, according to Aaron Frechette, the speaker at our December dinner event in Dedham, Mass. Changes to the environment caused by global warming are creating a raft of challenges to our health that will intensify as global warming accelerates.

Mr. Frechette explained the ramifications of global warming with this analogy: When your body temperature rises by three degrees, the complex, interconnected systems in your body don’t function properly. In a similar way, an increase of three degrees in the Earth’s atmospheric temperature impairs the balance and overall functionality of the Earth’s ecosystems. In Rhode Island, where Mr. Frechette works, average winter temperatures have risen approximately three degrees since 1970.

Rhode Island is already experiencing considerable shifts in its environment due to warmer temperatures, including a 76 percent increase in the number of extreme precipitation events since the 1950s, the largest increase of any state, and it is directly affected by rising sea levels, which are projected to increase as much as an additional 6.6 feet by the year 2100. The state’s current average summer temperature of 80.3 degrees is projected to rise an additional 9.1 degrees by then, which will make summers in Providence in 2100 as hot as they are now in Deerfield Beach, Florida.

What does all of this have to do with our health? Higher temperatures in the atmosphere set in motion a series of chain reactions. In addition to the immediate health risks directly associated with extreme heat, extreme precipitation, and higher storm surges, these conditions in turn jeopardize the availability and safety of the food and water supply, lengthen the season of disease-carrying mosquitos and tics, and worsen our air quality with pollen, mold, ozone, and other pollutants. The mosquito season in Providence, which was 97 days in the 1980s, lengthened to a current yearly average of 113 days. And the temperature rise generates effects in the natural environment, such as more frequent and more intense hurricanes, that cause damage to roads, housing, and utilities, all of which are critical for the public’s access to health care services and safe housing. Vulnerable populations, such as the elderly, children, and people in poverty, are of particular concern because they are at the greatest risk in such circumstances.

Mr. Frechette told us about his outreach and advocacy work at the Climate Change and Health Program in the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH), where he is a senior public health promotion specialist. He puts together...
December Meeting Report continued from page 4

public health education campaigns that include advertising, consumer brochures, social media, and advocacy work with other agencies and organizations serving the public. His work supports the program’s three initiatives: a climate and health adaptation plan for the state, programs and policies to mitigate public health impacts, and coordination with human services agencies, care facilities, and other partners to inform the public about these issues.

Given the substantial challenges of rising temperatures, you might expect gloomy and frightening predictions emanating from RIDOH. Instead, the agency’s message to the public and the other agencies with which it collaborates focuses on the opportunity to make a difference through resiliency strategies, preparation, and adaptation. A short video Mr. Frechette showed us, “Rhode Island’s Changing Climate: Building Resilience Through Local Solutions” (www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vx04V1zEX7s), is matter-of-fact and upbeat, showcasing ways that communities have learned from, and made subsequent adaptations following, situations caused by climate change.

For more information about climate change, you can visit these websites:
• http://www.health.ri.gov/climatechange (educational material for the public and various constituencies and agencies)
• http://www.health.ri.gov/srp (Senior Resiliency Project page)
• http://climatechange.ri.gov (State Climate Change portal)
• https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/climatechange_ (archived EPA Climate Change pages)

—Jessica Solodar

Personal Notes

Ellie Lin, MS, a freelance medical editor in Worcester, Mass., has attained certification as an Editor in the Life Sciences (ELS). Ellie is secretary of the New England Chapter.

Shelley Batts, PhD, a medical writer with Analysis Group Inc. in Boston, is now a Medical Writer Certified (MCW).

In December, Lynne Munno, MA, MS, director, medical writing at Pfizer, led her seventh live webinar for AMWA: “Creating a Highly Effective Road Map for Clinical Research: Authoring the Clinical Study Protocol.” This webinar, along with her previous AMWA webinars on regulatory documents and effective project management, is now available on demand. For details: www.amwa.org/page/Online_Learning.

Beatrice Mendez is now an editor at Health4Brands Boston, a specialized healthcare advertising agency in the Havas Health & You network serving the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and medical device markets. She works with a dedicated team that creates disease awareness and branded campaigns for rare disease therapeutics. She was previously at Aptus Health.

Ashley Bauer of New Haven, Conn., a PhD candidate in pharmacology at Yale University, has taken her husband’s name and is now Ashley Sizer.

OBITUARY: Tod F. Forman, MD, a past president of the New England Chapter and a recipient of AMWA’s highest honor, the Harold Swanberg Award for Distinguished Service, died suddenly of a heart attack on November 29. He was 75.

A New Jersey native, Tod was a graduate of Rutgers University. He earned his MD at Facultad de Medicina in Zaragoza, Spain, and was for many years a board-certified family physician with a private practice in Pembroke, Mass. He also served as a major and flight surgeon in the Massachusetts National Guard.

In the 1980s and 90s he wrote a medical column for a local weekly, the South Shore News, and during that period he was the medical advisor and a regular on-air guest for a popular call-in radio program on WHDH Boston.

He loved the city of Boston and its history, and he was a trained volunteer tour guide for Boston By Foot. He also starred in several “Hubscapes”—video tours of Boston landmarks produced by the Boston Neighborhood Network.

Tod joined AMWA in 1980 and soon become active in the New England Chapter. In 1983-84 he was chapter secretary. In 1887-88 he was program director and the following year, president. He twice represented the chapter at AMWA Board of Directors meetings. An enthusiastic reader and astute critic, he served as a judge in the New England Chapter’s writing awards competitions from their beginning in 1991. He also served four times on the AMWA national book awards committee, twice as chair of the physicians book category; and he presented the book awards at AMWA annual conferences three times. He was local arrangements chair of the national meeting in Boston in 1989 and contributed to other AMWA national conferences in various capacities, from roundtable leader to general chair.

In 1990 he was named an AMWA fellow, and in 1994 he received the President’s Award for service to the organization at both the chapter and national levels. In 1997 he received the Swanberg Award, partly for his many contributions to AMWA, but especially for his tireless volunteer service to medicine through the United Methodist Church medical missionary program, starting at the inception of this program in 1976. That year he traveled to Nepal to aid victims of a devastating earthquake. Subsequently he spent weeks at a time wherever disaster struck—Honduras, Mexico, Zimbabwe, Antigua, Sumatra, Zaire, Argentina. He went to Arizona to serve the Navaho and twice to Romania to work in orphanages.

At the AMWA conference in Boston in 1997, just after his gracious and poignant Swanberg Award acceptance speech, Tod famously entertained everyone by showing up for the New England Chapter-sponsored medical spelling bee in—what else?—a bee costume. His deadpan performance—reading words, verifying spelling, and handing out prizes—wowed the crowd. Even now, many members who attended the 1997 conference still remember him for both personas: the solemn doctor recounting his experiences as a medical missionary and the impish “bee.” For my part, I remember him as a loving and lovable friend.

—Judy Linn
Chapter Affiliation Free
But Not Automatic

If you’re an AMWA member living in New England and you haven’t added the New England Chapter to your AMWA Member Profile, we urge you to do so. It won’t cost you anything. Chapter membership is a benefit of AMWA membership, but you have to sign up for it.

By choosing to affiliate with the New England Chapter, you’ll receive the AMWA New England E-News, an occasional email that lets you know about upcoming regional events, local job openings, and freelance opportunities. Equally important, you’ll become part of our collegial regional network. All you have to do is update your Member Profile on the AMWA website (www.amwa.org). Please join us, won’t you?

Membership Awards for Beginners

Are you just starting out as a medical writer or editor? If you live and work in New England, you may qualify for a Judy Linn Membership Award. The award covers national AMWA dues for one year for professional membership with full benefits, and during that time the recipient may register for the New England Chapter’s regular meetings at no cost.

If you’re at an early stage of your medical communication career, with no more than three years of full-time experience in this field, please go to www.amwa-ne.org/awards.html for more information and an application form. There is no application fee, and you may submit an application at any time.

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. We are also happy to welcome AMWA members from outside of New England who are planning to move here in the near future or have personal or professional ties here.

Patrice Andrews, MA
Westford, Massachusetts

Mary Catherine Belknap, MS
Pfizer Inc.
Groton, Connecticut

Mike Burke, BA
Axon Communications Inc.
BRAINTREE, Massachusetts

Tamara Butler, MPH
Rumford, Maine
National University

Nancy Carniglia, MPH
Waltham, Massachusetts

Uma Chandrasekaran, PhD
Arlington, Massachusetts

Kunwei Cole
Pfizer Inc.
Groton, Connecticut

Elizabeth Coons, MA, MTPW, ELS
Brighton, Massachusetts
Persivia Inc.

Linda Dalterio, BS, MHS
Chester, Connecticut

Mary Ellen Digan, PhD
Wincheter, Massachusetts

Sara Frewen, BA
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Geetha Godlove, PhD
Boston, Massachusetts

Karina Gordon, MS
Lincoln, Massachusetts
Well Being Journal

Rosanne Guerriero
Reading, MA

Sharon Joag, DPM
East Windsor, New Jersey

Jeanne McKeon, PhD
UMass Medical School
Worcester, Massachusetts

Kate McSheffrey, BA
Duxbury, Massachusetts

Shobha Menon, BS, OTR/L
Newton, Massachusetts

Mendy Miller, PhD
Newton, Massachusetts

Susan Mix
Wellesley, Massachusetts

Heather Morgan, MD, MSPH
Freeport, Maine

Caroline O’Riordan, BS, MA, MPH, RD
Hingham, Massachusetts

Kim Orlando, BA
BioBridges
Wellesley, Massachusetts

Urmila Parkilar, MS
Harvard Health Publishing
Boston, Massachusetts

Janet Qian, PharmD
Boston, Massachusetts
Education Testing Service

Meghna Rao
Vernon, Connecticut

Lindsay Reese, PhD, ELS
SciReviser
Hyde Park, Vermont

Lawrence Selby
Achillion Pharmaceuticals Inc.
New Haven, Connecticut

Annie Tow, MS
Momenta Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Tanya Tupper, MM
Imaging Endpoints
Waltham, Massachusetts

Megan Whitney, DMD
Viaxis Medical Communications LLC
Sandy Hook, Connecticut

Kim Wilkinson, PhD
Agios Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Michael Woods, MD
Massachusetts

Karen Yates, PhD
Malden, Massachusetts

David Zakur, BS
New Haven, Connecticut
How to Register for March 11 Meeting

You can register for this event either online or by mail, depending on how you wish to pay.

• **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 don’t need a PayPal account, and you will not be charged a fee for the transaction.)

• **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.

Directions to March 11 Meeting

**Hilton Garden Inn**

5 Wheeler Road  
Burlington, Massachusetts  
781-272-8800

The hotel is just off the Middlesex Turnpike, near Route 128/I-95.

From 128/I-95, heading north or south, take Exit 32B (Middlesex Turnpike). At the end of the ramp, at the traffic lights, turn left onto the Middlesex Turnpike. Then take the first left onto Wheeler Road. The hotel is less than a third of a mile ahead on the left.

There is ample free parking.

To get detailed driving directions from your location, go to: http://national.citysearch.com/profile/4653368/burlington_ma/hilton_garden_inn.html.

Need a ride to the meeting?

If you don’t have a car, ask Judy Linn (judyhlinn@aol.com) whether there is someone from your area who might be able to give you a lift.

You can also use the chapter’s LinkedIn page to ask for a ride (or offer one). If you haven’t already signed up for the New England Chapter LinkedIn subgroup, you can do so at www.linkedin.com.

Board of Directors Meeting

The New England Chapter’s Board of Directors, which comprises the officers, committee heads, and members-at-large, will meet on March 11, immediately following the roundtable brunch. If there is something you think should be on the agenda—a possible topic for a program, a meeting venue, a suggestion for new or improved services, or anything else that may be on your mind—please feel free to share your thoughts with President Shawn Watson at president@amwa-ne.org.

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**2017-18 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT: Shawn Watson  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Olivier Morteau  
PRESIDENT-ELECT: Deborah Ferguson  
VICE PRESIDENT/CONNECTICUT: Margaret Burke  
SECRETARY: Ellie Lin  
TREASURER: Ana Bozas

**DIRECTORS / COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

- PROGRAMS: Deborah Ferguson  
  Agnella Matic, Jill Max
- CONNECTICUT PROGRAMS: Margaret Burke  
- MEMBERSHIP: Judy Linn
- MEMBERSHIP AWARDS: Nancy Knoblock Hunton  
  Francesca Coltrera, David Olle, Jill Shuman,  
  Debbie von Rechenberg
- E-NEWS: Shawn Watson
- NEWSLETTER: Judy Linn
- LINKEDIN SUBGROUP: Laurie MacDougall
- NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Deborah Ferguson
- WEB SITE: Aaron Federman  
  Judy Linn

**MEMBERS-AT-LARGE**

Dara Chadwick, Susan Chow, Francesca Coltrera,  
Marisa Greenfield, Laurie LaRusso, Shanna McClennen,  
Jill Shuman, Theresa Singleton, Debbie von Rechenberg

**REPRESENTATIVE TO AMWA CHAPTER ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Andrea Gwosdow