**Self-Assessment Best Practices and Goal Setting**

You’ve heard the saying: *temet nosce*—know thyself. Yet for so many of us, self-assessment and goal setting can be difficult tasks. What are some best practices for self-assessment? How do you set reasonable and attainable goals? At what point in your career might you start to consider changing your path? At the New England Chapter’s next event—a dinner meeting in Arlington, Mass., on Monday, June 10—AMWA members Jill Shuman and Jenny Thayer will address these issues in a presentation titled “Are You Where You Want to Be In Your Career? Self-Assessment Best Practices and Goal Setting.”

Jill and Jenny will outline their experiences with personal self-assessment and goal setting, and explain how these activities have evolved and become more valuable and essential over time. As well, they’ll share tips and tricks for weaving all of your life experiences into a cohesive profile that emphasizes strengths that may be less evident from your CV alone. Bring your questions and enthusiasm for self-awareness and self-improvement!

Jill has a long career in most aspects of biomedical communication, among them writing, editing, research, knowledge management, and teaching. She believes that professionals owe themselves several “do-overs” in their careers, and actively mentors colleagues as to how they might best structure their next career steps.

For over two decades, Jenny has worked as both an individual contributor and department head across many biomedical communications functions including regulatory, medical writing, medical affairs, and patient advocacy. Currently she is principal consultant and head of medical/scientific writing and regulatory affairs at BioBridges, as well as an independent consultant focusing on major regulatory submissions, interim department head roles, and strategic evaluation and recommendations.

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**DATE:** Monday, June 10  
**TIME:** Social Hour (cash bar)—6:00 to 7:00 p.m.  
Dinner—7:00 to 8:00 p.m.  
Program—8:00 to 9:00 p.m  
**PLACE:** Town Tavern, 201 Massachusetts Avenue,  
Arlington, Massachusetts (DIRECTIONS on page 5)  
**DRINKS & DINNER:** You’ll get a complimentary drink of your choice (cocktail, beer, wine, or soft drink). Then choose your dinner from the restaurant menu (https://towntavern.net/food), and pay individually for what you order, plus tax and tip.  
**REGISTRATION:** The registration fee is $8 for members, $12 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 5.)  
**DEADLINE:** To guarantee reservations, we must receive your payment no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, June 7. There will be no refunds for cancellation after that, but late registrations (online only) may be accepted on a space-available basis.

This will be the New England Chapter’s last meeting until fall, so don’t miss this chance to join your colleagues for networking and learning before the summer hiatus.

Since this is also our Annual Member Meeting, we will be announcing the officers for our chapter’s 2019-20 program year (see page 4).  
As always, guests and prospective members are welcome.

—Brian Head  
President-Elect/Program Director
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 may convene in person or by teleconference over the summer, but there are no general activities during July and August.

The chapter usually 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.

November 1
Chapter Networking Dinner
AMWA Annual Conference
San Diego, California

If you’re attending the 2019 AMWA Medical Writing & Communication Conference in San Diego this fall, plan to join your New England colleagues for a private dinner at a restaurant near the conference hotel on Thursday, November 1.

The chapter dinner at the national conference is a popular event that gives New England AMWA members a chance to spend some time together. No other conference events are scheduled for that evening.

Watch the AMWA New England E-News for details. For information about the conference, please go to https://www.amwa.org/page/Conference.

Chapter Email Blasts
Keep Members Up to Date

Watch for the occasional email from “President@amwa-ne.org” with “AMWA New England E-News” in the subject line.

A few times a month, our chapter president sends an email blast to let everyone know about a job opening or to announce an upcoming chapter meeting or some other regional event. The messages are usually brief, with just enough information for you to follow up if you wish. Be sure to glance at them so you don’t miss something of possible interest to you.

Please note that we do not send these notices to AMWA members who have not included the New England Chapter in their AMWA Member Profile. Chapter membership doesn’t cost anything, but you do have to sign up for it. If you are not already in our collegial regional network, you can join by updating your Member Profile on the AMWA website (www.amwa.org). It will only take a minute.

Local Networking Coordinators

The New England Chapter now has two Local Networking Coordinators (LNCs) in the Boston area: Andrea Gwosdow and Haifa Kassis. LNCs (pronounced “links”) are AMWA members who plan and coordinate informal networking events in their area.

If you are interested in becoming a LNC—especially if you live or work outside of the Boston area—please get in touch with Andrea (andrea@gwosdow.com) or Haifa (haifa.kassis@crispwriting.com) to learn more.

Linn Awards Offer Free AMWA Membership

If you are a new medical writer, with no more than three years of full-time experience, you may be qualified for a Linn Membership Award. These competitive awards provide support for up to three new medical writers at a time. For each recipient, the New England Chapter covers the cost of one year’s professional membership in AMWA. The chapter also waives registration fees for all the regular chapter meetings during the award year. To learn more about this award and how to apply for it, go to www.amwa-ne.org/awards.html.
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.

Jessica Able, MS
Amgen
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Susan Blanchard, BA
Tesaro
Waltham, Massachusetts

Alba Cid, MSc
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts

Sabrina Cote, PhD
Arcus Medica
Boston, Massachusetts

Jasmine Crafts, BA
SILVR Agency
Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts

Iman Djiarraya, BMedSci, MBChB, CHC
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, Massachusetts

Elen Donahue, MD
South Easton, Massachusetts

Colin Fennelly
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Terry Ann Glauser, MD, MPH
Norwood, Massachusetts

Rockpointe Corporation
[from Delaware Valley Chapter]

Sarah Gunn, MS
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Brookline, Massachusetts

Ying Hou, PhD
MedVal Scientific Information Services/PharmaWrite
Princeton, New Jersey

Tracy Knowles, BS
Ultragenyx Pharmaceutical Inc.
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Sri Magadi, PhD
Department of Veterans Affairs
Manchester, New Hampshire

Diana Najarian, PhD
Alnylam Pharmaceuticals
Cambridge, Massachusetts

David Novick, PhD
Sharon, Massachusetts

Susan Paul, MD
Casco, Maine

Kelly Reiser
Tesaro
Waltham, Massachusetts

Leahanne Sarlo
New England Journal of Medicine
Boston, Massachusetts

Brigid Stadinski PhD
Sutton, Massachusetts

Rebecca Vautour, PhD
Vertex Pharmaceuticals
Boston, Massachusetts

Emanuela Zaharieva, PhD
Somerville, Massachusetts

Personal Notes

Linda Yih, BSc, of Lyme, Conn., conducted an AMWA webinar on “Workplace Burnout: How to Recognize It & Take Action” in March. Linda is senior director and global lead for people development in Medical Writing Services at PAREXEL International. She is also presenting at the 2019 AMWA annual conference (see below).

Linda Bates, MS, has joined Verastem Oncology in Needham, MA, as associate director of medical writing. She was previously principal medical writer at Karyopharm Therapeutics.

Several of our New England Chapter colleagues are contributing to this year’s AMWA Medical Writing & Communication Conference program.

Thomas Gegeny, MS, ELS, MWC, is teaching the workshop on “Effectively Searching Online Databases.” Tom is team lead and senior medical writer at Envision Pharma Group, Bridgeport, Conn.

Jennifer Thayer, MA, EdM, MBA, is conducting an education session on “Demonstrating Presence Regardless of Work Location.” Jenny is head of medical writing and scientific communications at BioBridges, Wellesley, Mass. Linda Yih is leading an education session on “Influence of Leaders and Servant Leadership.”

Andrea Gwosdow, PhD, president, of Gwosdow Associates Science Consultants, LLC, Arlington, Mass., and Theresa Singleton, PhD, owner and principal scientific writer of Singleton Science, LLC, Beverly, Mass., are leading the “Jam Session for Early-Career Freelances.” Andrea is also leading a roundtable on “Avoiding Rejection: Tips for Manuscript Writing Success.”

Shawn Watson, PharmD, PhD, BCPS, associate director, clinical sciences at Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Boston, is leading a roundtable on “A Medical Writer’s Guide to Single- and Multiple-Ascending Dose-Escalation Combination Studies.”
Chapter Officers
The New England Chapter’s officers for the 2019-20 year will be introduced at the last meeting of the 2018-19 year on June 10. Their one-year term begins at that time.

Officers (Automatic)
In accordance with our bylaws, the President is elected a year ahead of time to ensure continuity. During the year as President-Elect, he or she serves as Program Director. Then, after a year as President, he or she serves for still another year as Immediate Past President. In the coming year, Brian Head will be President and Debbie Ferguson will be Immediate Past President.

PRESIDENT: Brian Head
Brian is a scientific communications manager at MedDay Pharmaceuticals. Prior to joining MedDay, he was a medical writer in the Market Access Communications group at Evidera Inc., a HEOR-focused agency, where he developed value dossiers, landscape reports, and white papers on various biopharmaceutical products and therapeutic areas. Before that, he was a postdoctoral research fellow in the Department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology at Duke University. During his time at Duke, he was also a member of the Journal of Clinical Investigation editorial staff. Brian has a BS from the University of California, Santa Barbara and a PhD in biochemistry from the University of California, Los Angeles. He joined AMWA in 2017.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Debbie Ferguson
Debbie has a PhD in experimental medicine from McGill University. Following postdoctoral studies at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, she joined a start-up company, Reata Pharmaceuticals, as a scientist. Her responsibilities grew along with the company and she currently holds the position of associate vice president, scientific affairs. She joined AMWA in 2004 and has been a member of the New England Chapter since 2009. For 3 years, from 2014 to 2016, she arranged the chapter dinner meeting at the AMWA national conference. In 2015-16 she served on the chapter’s Board of Directors as a member-at-large. She was Secretary in 2016-17, and during that time she was the lead in establishing the chapter as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation in Massachusetts.

Nominees for Office
The Nominating Committee, chaired by President-Elect Brian Head, has presented the following slate of officers to serve along with him in the coming year.

PRESIDENT-ELECT: Haifa Kassis
Haifa is a freelance medical writer in Boston. She specializes in continuing education for health care professionals, scientific publications, and life sciences training. She earned her MD from the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology in 2007, followed by two postdoctoral fellowships in neuroscience research. She holds a certificate in medical writing from the University of California, San Diego Extension and an AMWA Essential Skills certificate. She has been an AMWA member since 2017. In 2018 she joined the AMWA Journal editorial board as editor-at-large. In 2019 she arranged the New England Chapter’s dinner meeting at the AMWA national conference. She is currently the chapter’s LinkedIn group manager as well as a local networking coordinator (LNC).

VICE PRESIDENT/CONNECTICUT: Margaret Burke
Margaret is nominated for a fourth term in this position. She received a BS in pharmacy and a PharmD from the State University of New York at Buffalo, followed by a pediatric specialty residency and a pediatric pharmacotherapy fellowship at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is a board certified pediatric pharmacotherapy specialist, with a certificate in core public health competency from the University of Connecticut. She was a pediatric clinical pharmacy specialist at Hartford Hospital and Connecticut Children’s Medical Center for a combined total of 19 years and continues to serve as a member of CT Children’s IRB. In 2013, she started Precision Medical Writing LLC, which provides medical writing services to a variety of clients. She has been a member of AMWA since 2012.

SECRETARY: Ellie Lin
Ellie is nominated for a third term as Secretary. She is a freelance medical editor in Worcester, Mass., specializing in manuscripts and educational and marketing materials. She has a BA in journalism from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and an MS in environmental science with a research focus on soil microbiology from the University of California Riverside. She is certified as an editor in the life sciences (ELS). She is coordinator of the Central Massachusetts Chapter of the Editorial Freelancers Association. She has been an AMWA member since 2016. She arranged the New England Chapter’s dinner meeting at the 2017 AMWA conference.

TREASURER: Ana Bozas
Ana is nominated for a fourth term as Treasurer. After graduating from the University of Utah with a PhD in biochemistry, she did research on adult stem cells at the Boston Biomedical Research Institute. Moving away from the bench, during the Great Recession, she was social media manager of MASS AWIS in Cambridge, Mass. In 2013 she joined Analysis Group as a medical writer focusing on HEOR publications. Then she was senior medical publications manager at Akebia Therapeutics, and recently was global publications lead at Sanofi US. This month she begins a new position as assistant director, scientific communications at Akcea Therapeutics, Boston. Ana has been an AMWA member since 2014, when she received a Linx Membership Award from the New England Chapter. In 2016 she attained certification as a medical publication professional (CMPP).
How to Register for June 10 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 June 10 Meeting

Town Tavern
201 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, Massachusetts
781-859-5413

The restaurant is across the street from the Capitol Theatre. There is on-street parking, and several bus routes (including Bus #77) stop nearby. For information about public transportation, go to www.mbta.com/.

Need a ride to the meeting?

If you don’t have a car or access to public transportation, ask Judy Linn (judyhlim@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). (See below.)

New England Chapter LinkedIn Subgroup

Do you know that you can directly connect with other New England medical writers and editors on LinkedIn? It’s easy to do. Just sign up for the regional chapter subgroup at www.linkedin.com, and once you’re there you can ask questions, share tips, register complaints, or exchange pleasantries . . . anything with a local focus. Everyone is welcome—prospective members as well as members.

Chapter Board of Directors

The New England Chapter’s Board of Directors will soon begin planning the next program year. If you have any suggestions for a program topic, speakers, or a meeting venue, please share them with incoming President-Elect Haifa Kassis at haifa.kassis@crispwriting.com. To comment on Connecticut events, please contact Vice President Margaret Burke at mburkepharmd@cox.net.

2018-19 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

PROGRAMS: Brian Head
CONNECTICUT PROGRAMS: Margaret Burke
MEMBERSHIP: Judy Linn
MEMBERSHIP AWARDS: Nancy Knoblock Hunton
E-NEWS: Deborah Ferguson
NEWSLETTER: Judy Linn
LINKEDIN SUBGROUP: Haifa Kassis
LOCAL NETWORKING COORDINATORS: Andrea Gwosdow, Haifa Kassis
NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Brian Head
WEB SITE: Aaron Federman

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Dara Chadwick, Marisa Greenfield, Olivier Morteau, Jill Shuman, Theresa Singleton, Debbie von Rechenberg

REPRESENTATIVE TO AMWA CHAPTER ADVISORY COUNCIL

Andrea Gwosdow