November 28: Dinner Meeting in Lexington, Mass.
Massachusetts Health Insurance Reform: What it Means for the State, What it Means for Medical Writers

Join us on Wednesday, November 28, at Vinny T’s in Lexington, Mass., for a program on health insurance reform—a topic that has put Massachusetts in the national spotlight. Melissa Boudreault of the Massachusetts Health Insurance Connector Authority and Maria Schiff from Network Health will give us an in-depth look at groundbreaking legislation that has been widely written about but is still sometimes misunderstood.

Ms. Boudreault will outline the history and development of the legislation that mandates all uninsured state residents to purchase health insurance and will provide an overview of Commonwealth Care and Commonwealth Choice, which are health insurance plans offered through the Connector.

Ms. Boudreault is director of the Commonwealth Care program at the Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector, an independent authority established under the state’s landmark legislation of 2006 to promote health insurance coverage for the uninsured. Commonwealth Care provides heavily subsidized insurance to uninsured low-income residents, while the Commonwealth Choice plans offer “good value” unsubsidized insurance to those with higher incomes.

Previously, Ms. Boudreault was an advisor to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services, working with MassHealth, the state Medicaid program, on operations and information technology projects. She has worked at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, BBN Technologies, and The Carter Center in Atlanta and has a master’s in history from Boston College.

Ms. Schiff will elaborate on Commonwealth Care. As director of Commonwealth Care at Network Health, one of the insurance providers offering this product, Ms. Schiff monitors plan performance, manages Network Health’s relationship with the Massachusetts Health Insurance Connector Authority, and is helping to direct its rebidding efforts for 2008.

Previously, she was director of the health system analysis group at the Massachusetts Division of Health Care Finance and Policy, managing projects under the direction of the state legislature and the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, including the planning of then-Governor Romney’s health reform proposal. Earlier, she was manager of marketing and employer relations at Winchester Hospital and manager of new business development for MASCO, the Medical, Academic & Scientific Community Organization. She has a bachelor’s in urban history from the State University of New York at Buffalo and a master’s in health administration from Long Island University.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>MASSACHUSETTS HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DATE:</strong> Wednesday, November 28</td>
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<td><strong>TIME:</strong> Social Hour (cash bar) 6:00-7:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Dinner 7:00-8:00. Program 8:00-9:00.</td>
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<td><strong>PLACE:</strong> Vinny T’s, 20 Waltham Street, Lexington, Massachusetts. DIRECTIONS ON PAGE 4.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BUFFET MENU:</strong> Focaccia Bread • Gorgonzola Apple Walnut Salad • Chicken Basilico • Vegetarian Lasagna • Chocolate Bomba • Coffee, Tea, Soft Drinks</td>
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<td><strong>REGISTRATION:</strong> Please use the form following the last page of the newsletter to register. The registration fee is $25 for members, $28 for guests and prospective members.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DEADLINE:</strong> To guarantee dinner reservations, we must receive your payment by mail (checks only, no credit cards) no later than Friday, November 23. (Sorry, no refunds for cancellation after 2:00 p.m. that day.)</td>
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After the formal presentations, there will be ample time for discussion and answers to questions undoubtedly on the minds of many AMWA members who not only cover these issues, but may be interested in buying health insurance through the Connector.

If you have found yourself writing about, or just plain wondering: What is the significance of Massachusetts health insurance reform for the state and the nation? What were some of the problems in getting such groundbreaking legislation passed? What are the rules for self-employed state residents? How can I get covered, and are these plans competitive with the private insurance I currently have? . . . then please join us at Vinny T’s on November 28! As always, guests and prospective members are welcome.

—Chris Mc Morrow
President-Elect/Program Director

Note: You can earn 5 points toward an AMWA Professional Development Certificate by attending this meeting. For information, go to www.amwa.org and click on Education/Development.
Chapter Calendar
The New England Chapter holds six regular meetings a year, from September through June. Four 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 Banquet, is held every other year, alternating with the New England Conference, an all-day program of workshops on a Saturday. Occasionally informal networking meetings or tours are scheduled.

February 1: Deadline for Submissions to 2008 Writing Competition
The chapter’s biennial writing awards recognize outstanding work in medical, biomedical, and health communication by New England AMWA members. If you are a New England Chapter member (or wish to join AMWA at this time), you are invited to enter books, articles, brochures, or other materials you published in 2006 or 2007.
For submission guidelines and an entry form, go to www.amwane.org.
Submissions must be postmarked by February 1.
Authors of winning entries will receive the Will Solimene Award of Excellence in Medical Communication at the chapter’s awards banquet in June.

Other chapter meetings being planned
In late February, the chapter will hold a Sunday brunch featuring roundtables on career topics of interest to medical writers and editors. If you would like to suggest a topic, or would like to be considered as a leader for a roundtable on a particular topic, contact Chris Mc Morrow (christine_mcmorrow@yahoo.com).
In mid-spring, there will be a dinner meeting in the Greater Boston area and a dinner meeting in Connecticut.

June 12: Awards Banquet in Waltham, Mass.
The chapter’s 13th Awards Banquet will take place at the Westin Hotel, Waltham, Mass., on Thursday, June 12. This celebratory event will be the last meeting of the 2007-08 chapter year.

2009 New England Conference
The 8th New England Conference will be held March 28, 2009, at the Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conference Center in Sturbridge, Mass.

September Meeting Report
Why Medical History Matters
The New England Chapter’s 2007-08 year got off to an impressive start with Constance Putnam, PhD, discussing the relevance of medical history at Yangtze River Restaurant, Lexington, Mass. Dr. Putnam, who received an interdisciplinary PhD in medical history and medical ethics from Tufts University, has worked on diverse medical history projects, including a book on the history of Dartmouth Medical School, and has taught medical ethics at both Tufts and Simmons. Two years ago she studied 19th-century Hungarian medicine in Budapest on a Fulbright Fellowship.
Before starting her talk, Dr. Putnam asked how many of us had washed our hands prior to eating. Although most of us realize the importance of handwashing, what followed was an engaging lesson in the history of medicine. During the 19th century, up to 25 percent of the women who delivered babies in hospitals died of childbed fever, an infectious disease passed on to pregnant women by the unwashed hands of their doctors. In the 1840s Dr. Ignaz Philipp Semmelweis, a physician in Vienna, observed that the mortality rate of women whose babies were delivered in hospitals attended by medical students was three times greater than that of women attended by midwives. Surprising? No, not when you consider that doctors were going directly from autopsy to delivery room. Although Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes also advocated the importance of handwashing, it is Dr. Semmelweis who is remembered for this important contribution that has saved countless lives.
Bringing us back to the present, Dr. Putnam emphasized the importance of scrubbing our hands—for at least 20 seconds, or long enough to sing “Happy Birthday.” She also reminded us that the more we know about the past, the more humble we should be.
—Adriane Bishko, Secretary
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.

Mary J. Bauer, LVT, BAS  
Pfizer Inc.  
Groton, Connecticut

William G. Berghoff  
Old Lyme, Connecticut

Pardeep M. Bhatia, PhD  
Brite Biomed LLC  
Farmington, Connecticut

Francesca Biasucci, MSPT  
Old Lyme, Connecticut

David E. Burkholder, PhD  
PD Pharmaceutical Consulting Services LLC  
Guilford, Connecticut

Kunwei Cole  
Pfizer Inc.  
Groton, Connecticut

Allyson T. Collins  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Rosemarie Curran  
Tufts Health Care Institute  
Boston, Massachusetts

Erica E. Gardner-Schuster  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Jan Giglio  
Boston BioSearch Inc.  
Newton, Massachusetts

Karyn A. Finneron, RN, MA  
ProMutual Group  
Boston, Massachusetts

Andres Heuberger, BS  
ForeignExchange Translations Inc.  
Waltham, Massachusetts

Nicole Kelley, BA, MFA  
Ashby, Massachusetts

Bonnie Kerrick, BSN  
Cape Nedick, Maine

Michiko Kobayashi, BS  
Waltham, Massachusetts

Patrice LaVigne, BA  
Penacook, New Hampshire

Rob Lowrance  
Veritude  
Boston, Massachusetts

Lauren Lilystrom  
ORA Clinical Research & Development  
North Andover, Massachusetts

Jennifer MacArthur, PhD  
Burlington, Massachusetts

James McLaughlin, BA  
Newton, Massachusetts

Peter A. Monchamp  
Sterling, Massachusetts

Ellen E. Millman, MS  
Middlebury, Connecticut

Estelle E. Newton, PhD  
Newton, Massachusetts

Malinda O’Donnell, MS  
Lowell, Massachusetts

Bonnie Prescott  
Melrose, Massachusetts

Timothy Rosa  
West Newton, Massachusetts

Donna A. Sloan, BS, MPA  
Ophthalmic Research Associates  
North Andover, Massachusetts

Stef Stenard  
Eastham, Massachusetts

Diane Terburg  
North Stonington, Connecticut

Jean C. Thomas, PhD  
Pfizer Inc.

Peter Wehrwein  
Newton, Massachusetts

Kathleen E. Young, BA, MS  
Bowdoin, Maine

Personal Notes

Terry Keyser of New Milford, Conn., has joined Envision Pharma as a team leader, scientific services. Terry was previously a clinical scientist/medical writer at Boehringer Ingelheim.

Janis Oliker, RN, LAc, of Brookline, Mass., has joined the Visiting Nurses of Boston as an RN case manager. Janis is a recent recipient of the New England Chapter’s Judy Linn Membership Award.

Hilary S. Polk, MA, is now a science editor at the Health Effects Institute, Charlestown, Mass. She was formerly a senior medical editor at Fusion Medical Education LLC.

John A. Newton, MA, has joined CombinatoRx Inc., Cambridge, Mass., as a medical information associate. He was previously with Altus Pharmaceuticals.

Laurie B. LaRusso, MS, ELS, filled in for Andrea Gwosdow, PhD, as leader of a roundtable on “Poster Presentations” at the AMWA Annual Conference in Atlanta when Andrea had to cancel on short notice because of illness in her family. Laurie, a past president of the New England Chapter, is principle writer, Chestnut Medical Communications, Walpole, Mass.

CHAPTER CHANGES: Nazleen Bharmal has moved to Los Angeles, Calif., and is now a member of the Pacific Southwest Chapter. Michael Hanna, PhD, has moved to Brooklyn, N.Y., and is now a member of the Empire State-Metro New York Chapter. Kavita Maung, PhD, has moved to Belle Meade, N.J., and is now a member of the Delaware Valley Chapter. Victoria Reder has moved to Corrales, N.M., and is now a member of the Southwest Chapter.
Directions to November 28 Meeting

Vinny T's
20 Waltham Street
Lexington, Massachusetts
781-860-5200

Waltham Street is directly off Massachusetts Avenue in Lexington Center. The restaurant is a short distance from the corner.

Parking: There is some on-street parking (meters not in effect after 6:00 p.m.) as well as parking in a municipal lot across the street.

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, where Bedford Street joins Massachusetts Avenue. Turn right at the next traffic light onto Waltham Street. Vinny T’s is just ahead on the left.

From Route 2 West
Take Exit 54B to Waltham Street, Lexington. Turn left at the next traffic light onto Waltham Street toward Lexington Center. Go approximately 2 miles. Vinny T’s is on the right, just before the intersection of Waltham Street and Massachusetts Avenue.

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. Vinny T’s is on the right, just before the intersection of Waltham Street and Massachusetts Avenue.

From Cambridge/Arlington
Follow Massachusetts Avenue north into Lexington Center. Go past the post office and police station, and turn left at the next traffic light onto Waltham Street. Vinny T’s is just ahead on the left.

From Woburn/Burlington
Follow directions from Route 128/I-95, or:
Take Lexington Street into Lexington Center (Lexington Street will change into Woburn Street). At the stop sign, turn right onto Massachusetts Avenue. Turn left at the next traffic light onto Waltham Street. Vinny T’s is just ahead on the left.

Need a ride to the meeting?
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.

Winter Weather Alert!
If severe winter weather requires postponement of the meeting, we will notify everyone by e-mail. If the weather looks really bad and you are unable to access your e-mail on the day of the meeting, call Judy Linn at 508-358-7071 before you head out—just to be sure.

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Laurie LaRusso, Joann H. Merriman, Debbie von Rechenberg

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Julie J. Martin, Christine McMorrow
ALTERNATES: Lonnie K. Christiansen, Susan F. Gonsalves
AMERICAN MEDICAL WRITERS ASSOCIATION
NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

REGISTRATION FOR DINNER MEETING

DATE:  Wednesday, November 28, 2007
TIME:  6:00-9:00 p.m.
PLACE:  Vinny T's Restaurant, Lexington, Massachusetts
REGISTRATION FEE:  Member: $25.00  Guest or Prospective Member: $28.00
DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF PAYMENT:  Friday, November 23
MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:  New England Chapter AMWA
MAIL PAYMENT WITH THIS FORM TO:  AMWA
                                      37 Forty Acres Drive
                                      Wayland, MA 01778

TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED:  $________

Your ticket will be held at the door.

Please use a separate copy of this form for each registrant.

Name  ________________________________________________________________
Company  ________________________________________________________________
Address  ________________________________________________________________
                                                                
                                                                
                                                                
(  ) Business     (  ) Home

E-Mail (required)  ________________________________________________________________
May we include this in the meeting registration list?  (  ) Yes  (  ) No

Phone (required)  ________________________________________________________________
May we include this in the meeting registration list?  (  ) Yes  (  ) No

Have you attended a New England Chapter meeting before?  (  ) Yes  (  ) No