September 24: Dinner Meeting in Boston
Medical Writers: Transparent, But Not Ghosts

The New England Chapter will hold the first meeting of the 2008-09 season on Wednesday, September 24, at the Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston. Come early if you can and take a tour of the famous and historic Ether Dome, where anesthesia was first used during surgery. After dinner, Thomas Gegeny, MS, ELS, will talk about the important recent efforts by AMWA and other groups to correct misperceptions about the role of medical writers in biomedical research.

An AMWA member since 1998, Tom joined the New England Chapter in 2006. He was previously in the Southwest Chapter, which he served as president. He is an AMWA workshop leader and is secretary of the association this year. At the annual conference in Louisville next month, he will be installed as AMWA president-elect. Tom has a master's degree in biomedical sciences from the University of Texas–Houston Health Science Center and a bachelor's degree from Fairfield University in Fairfield, Conn. A medical writer and editor for more than 10 years, he is a team leader and medical writer with Scientific Solutions at Envision Pharma, Inc., a publications planning and software company, in Southport, Conn. He was previously executive director and senior editor at The Center for AIDS Information and Advocacy in Houston and, before that, publications specialist with the Houston Academy of Medicine–Texas Medical Center Library.

Tom will describe the complexities of defining individual contributions in biomedical research planning and implementation, specifically as those contributions apply to authorship of publications. He will discuss authorship criteria developed by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors and other groups and a resulting trend toward increased transparency in acknowledging contributors who do not meet these criteria. Despite these positive developments, recent media stories have portrayed medical writers as “ghosts” who create publications for “authors” to sign off on. So finally, Tom will outline efforts by AMWA and other groups to communicate the code of ethics medical writers observe and to educate others about the legitimate role of medical writers in biomedical research. A question-and-answer session after his presentation should generate some lively discussion.

This timely presentation will give us background and information we can use to help respond to concerns and to educate our clients, colleagues, and readers about the value and validity of our contributions to communication of research.

MEDICAL WRITERS: TRANSPARENT, BUT NOT GHOSTS

DATE: Wednesday, September 24

TIME: Tour of Ether Dome 5:15-6:00 p.m.  
Social Hour (complimentary wine, beer, soft drinks) 6:00-7:00.  
Dinner 7:00-8:00. Program 8:00-9:00.

PLACE: Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston
Tour: Use Main Entrance (55 Fruit Street). Tour departs from Blum Family Learning Center, just past Information Desk.
Dinner: Thier Conference Room, just off Thier Lobby. Enter via Blossom Street or across the lawn from Wang Building entrance.

DIRECTIONS & PARKING: See page 7.

BUFFET MENU: Garden Salad • Assorted Rolls • Wild Mushroom Ravioli • Coq au Vin • Roasted Vegetables • Assorted Desserts • Coffee, Tea

ONLINE REGISTRATION: Your registration must be submitted electronically (for instructions, see page 7). The registration fee is $28 for members, $33 for guests and prospective members.

DEADLINE: To guarantee dinner reservations, we must receive your payment by mail (check or money order) or credit card (via PayPal) no later than Friday, September 19. (Sorry, no refunds for cancellation after 2:00 p.m. that day.)

Please join us for the latest on this important topic. As always, guests and prospective members are welcome.

—Debbie von Rechenberg
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.

October 1: Connecticut Fall Meeting in New Haven

Plans are underway for a meeting at Brazi’s Italian Restaurant on Wednesday, October 1. Watch the chapter E-news for details and registration information.

October 24: Chapter Gathering at AMWA Conference in Louisville, Ky.

If you are fortunate enough to be attending AMWA’s 68th Annual Conference, October 23-25, don’t miss the Chapter Greet & Go, Friday, October 24, 5:30-6:15 p.m. Catch up with fellow New Englanders, and make plans for dinner if you wish.

November 5: Dinner Meeting TBD

Michael Palmer, MD, author of best-selling medical thrillers and associate director of the Massachusetts Medical Society’s physician health services, will speak. The location has not yet been determined.

Winter Sunday Brunch TBD

Sometime in January or February, the chapter will hold its traditional Sunday brunch meeting. Expect this year’s program to feature the always popular roundtables on career development topics. If there’s a topic of particular interest to you, mention it to Debbie von Rechenberg (von_rechenberg_deborah_l@lilly.com). She will give consideration to any suggestions you may have.


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

Heather Miniman is conference director, responsible for site arrangements, budget, and general oversight. Jill Shuman is workshops coordinator. Siobhan Gallagher is roundtables coordinator. Judy Linn is registrar.

The program will offer six 3-hour workshops, four of them for credit toward an AMWA certificate and two of them designed especially for this conference. Three of the classes will run concurrently in the morning, and three in the afternoon. The Conference Luncheon will include several tables devoted to career-development topics as well as open tables for those who would prefer to network, socialize, or just relax between classes.

Watch the newsletter and the New England E-news for information about the conference as plans develop.

The conference committee extends thanks to all who took the time to respond to the online 2009 Conference Survey. Your preferences and suggestions are helping the committee put together a program that will serve the needs and interests of as many members as possible.

Other Upcoming Events in New England

September 9: Science Communicator’s Workshop at UMass Medical School

The Center for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine of the University of Massachusetts will hold a workshop for medical and science writers from 8:30 a.m. through lunch on Tuesday, September 9, at its new Shrewsbury facility. There is no fee, but advance registration is required.

For information, contact Maria Borowski at 508-856-7555 or maria.borowski@umassmed.edu.

STC Annual Competitions

The Boston Chapter and Northern New England Chapter of the Society for Technical Communication invite you to enter your work in their 2008 competitions. Deadline for submitting technical publications is September 19; for online communication, October 13; for technical art, November 5.

For competition rules and submission information, go to www.stcboston.org/competitions.
April Meeting Report
Dr. Henry Lee shared highlights of a life in forensic science

What do Elizabeth Smart, a wild tiger “photographed” outside of Beijing, China, and Pocahontas have in common? Give up? All three were mysteries investigated by Dr. Henry Lee, now chief emeritus of the Connecticut State Police, founder and professor of the Forensic Science Program at the University of New Haven, and author or coauthor of 30 books and over 300 articles.

The chapter was delighted to host Dr. and Mrs. Henry Lee at the Connecticut spring meeting, held at Pfizer’s global research and development headquarters in New London on April 29.

Dr. Lee’s presentation opened with an overview of his extraordinary 40-year career in forensic science, followed by insights into some of his most famous cases. By any standard, Dr. Lee’s career is nothing short of remarkable and a case study of the “American Dream.” Dr. Lee began by telling us how he and his wife, Margaret, came to the United States from Taiwan in 1965, knowing no English and with $15 between them. From that inauspicious start, he went on to earn a PhD in biochemistry and ultimately to become the chief criminalist and commissioner of public safety for the State of Connecticut.

Dr. Lee shared some amusing stories about his early years in the United States and his initial attempts at “small talk” in English. It seems a friend informed him that the questions “Are you married?” and “Do you have children?” were suitable icebreakers for dinner conversation. Unfortunately, he wasn’t told that the questions were not interchangeable.

Turning to the topic of forensics, Dr. Lee explained how the 1966 Miranda ruling brought forensic techniques to the forefront of police investigation. Thanks to his expertise in forensics and penchant for hard work, Dr. Lee quickly moved from an academic position in forensic science to director of the State Police Forensic Science Laboratory. The rest, as they say, is history.

For the remainder of his presentation, Dr. Lee provided insights into his approach to some of his best known cases. For example, the Elizabeth Smart case concerned the abduction of a 14-year-old girl from her own bedroom in Salt Lake City in 2002. As a consultant to the investigation, Dr. Lee provided crucial information to the local police by recreating the kidnapper’s break-in. Based on the height of the bedroom window above the ground and its dimensions, he was able to estimate the height and build of the kidnapper. He solved the case of the Beijing tiger by comparing photographs and determining that the presumed sighting of this long-extinct animal was a hoax. In the Pocahontas case, he was asked by Wayne Newton (yes, that Wayne Newton) to find her site of burial in England. Unfortunately, this was one case that even Dr. Lee could not solve, and he concluded that her remains would probably never be found and repatriated.

Dr. Lee is fond of quotes about “winners” and during his talk reminded us that age should not limit our accomplishments. At age 75 and still going strong, Dr. Lee is an inspiration and role model for us all.

—Susan Gonsalves
Vice President for Connecticut

Photo by Glenn Goettler
Dr. Henry Lee autographs one of his books for Mary Page Gallagher.
June Meeting Report
Awards banquet celebrated excellence, honored Dr. Bernard Lown

The chapter’s 13th Awards Banquet, held at the Westin Hotel in Waltham, Mass., in June, ended the 2007-08 year on a high note. The evening began with a convivial social hour, featuring a display of the winning entries in this year’s competition for Will Solimene Awards of Excellence in Medical Communication, followed by an elegant dinner arranged by Chris McMorrow. Then, after warmly welcoming members and guests, Jill Shuman, Master of Ceremonies, guided us smoothly through the evening’s ceremonies.

Introduction of New Officers
Outgoing president Julie Martin thanked the dedicated, hardworking members who served with her last year and introduced the new officers as she passed the gavel to her successor, Chris McMorrow. Serving with Chris this year are Debbie von Rechenberg, president-elect; Jerome Lang, secretary; Jill Shuman, treasurer; and Susan Gonsalves, vice president for Connecticut. Continuing as an officer for another year, Julie Martin is now immediate past president.

Good Sport Awards
Established by the late Neil Duane in 1994, the Wendy Faxon Warm Guiding Light and General Good Sport Award—a key chain with the AMWA seal, along with a framed certificate—is given to members who contribute to the chapter over and over, year after year.

At the June meeting, Jill Shuman presented this award to two longtime chapter stalwarts: Andrea Gwosdow and Laurie LaRusso. Both have served as chapter president, and both have contributed in numerous other ways, among them leading workshops at the New England Conference, speaking at chapter meetings, and leading roundtables.

Special Recognition for Chapter Service
Laurie LaRusso, who was on the chapter’s Web Site Development Committee, presented a special award to Lonnie Christiansen. Laurie praised Lonnie for taking on “a thankless task” and not only persevering as the site was developed, but dealing with the inevitable technical glitches and seeing the project through by serving as webmaster for the first year. Laurie noted that when the New England Chapter Web site was featured in the AMWA Journal, it quickly became a model for other AMWA chapters.

Lonnie was given a framed certificate citing her “for her guidance and leadership in establishing the New England AMWA Web site and her dedication while serving as the first chapter webmaster.”

Judy Linn Membership Award
This award, consisting of one year’s membership in AMWA, compliments of the New England Chapter, as well as free registration for three chapter meetings, provides professional support to a medical writer who is fairly new to the field.

David Olle, membership awards director, presented a certificate attesting to the award to Sibani Sengupta, PhD, of Farmington, Conn. Sibani currently teaches AP biology, biology, and genetics & human gene discovery at Sacred Heart Academy in Hamden, Conn. She earned her doctorate in biomedical sciences at the University of Connecticut Health Center and holds a BS and MS from the University of Calcutta, India. Sibani, who has five scientific publications to her credit, hopes to use her AMWA membership to further develop her skills in explaining complex medical concepts in a clear and concise manner.

Honors Award Address
Nobel laureate Bernard Lown, MD, an internationally renowned cardiologist, inventor, author, and humanitarian, received the 2008 Honors Award. In his address, titled “Political Lessons from Fifty Years of Doctoring,” he discussed the development of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, the work for which he and Dr. Evgueni Chazov of the former Soviet Union shared the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985.

In the 1980s, Dr. Lown said, he began to understand that the major medical problem in his practice was not sudden cardiac death, but “sudden nuclear death.” He went on to describe the current War on Terror as an extension of the past Cold War mentality, which perpetuates the disparity between rich and poor nations. He expressed his concern that in the Nuclear Age, weapons of mass destruction become “the order of the day,” when the weak can inflict unacceptable damage on the strong. However, he was positive about the possibility of change. He said that a quarter of a century ago, ruling establishments were unmoved by principles, but change occurred by “popular education, struggle, and clamor.”

He concluded his talk by saying, “There cannot be a healthy USA in a sick world, and there cannot be an affluent America in a poor world.”

After a standing ovation, Jill Shuman presented Dr. Lown with a plaque honoring him “for pioneering research in cardiovascular disease and sudden cardiac death, for a commitment to compassionate clinical care, for advances in providing access to medical information to all corners of the earth, and for an ongoing dedication to promoting world peace.”

AWARDS continued next page
Will Solimene Awards for Excellence

Tod Forman and Julie Martin, with assistance from Nancy Knoblock Hunton, presented the 2008 Will Solimene Awards for Excellence in Medical Communication. Plaques went to 23 entries, some written for lay audiences, some for professionals, some in print, some on the Web—a remarkable variety, reflecting the diversity of our membership.

The Awards Banquet Program lists all the publications that received awards and includes a short description of Will Solimene’s role in AMWA and in the field of medical communication. To download a PDF of the program, go to: http://amwa-ne.org/content/awards.html and click on “brochure” at the end of the first paragraph.

Neil Duane Award for Distinction

The winner of the Neil Duane Award—special recognition for the winning entry that stood out above all—always remains a secret until the last minute. This year, the award went to Andrea Gwosdow and Rebecca Kranz for “What a Year!”—an engaging Internet-based biomedical curriculum for high school students and teachers, published monthly by the Massachusetts Society for Medical Research. Rebecca, who is Andrea’s daughter, finished high school this year.

(See the Awards Banquet Program for a brief description of Neil Duane’s contributions to the chapter and his professional accomplishments.)

Jerome Lang, David Olle, and Jill Shuman contributed to this report.

—JL

Personal Notes

Ronald Pies, MD, is author of Everything Has Two Handles: The Stoic’s Guide to the Art of Living, published by Hamilton Books/USA in April. Ron holds faculty appointments in psychiatry at SUNY Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, N.Y., and Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston. He is author of several psychiatry textbooks and a consumer guide to psychotherapy. He is also editor-in-chief of Psychiatric Times.

Molly E. Roberts, MPH, ELS, is now manager of medical and technical writing at Dyax Corp., Cambridge, Mass. She was formerly a senior medical writer at Millennium Pharmaceuticals.

Jennifer M. Thayer, MA, EdM, has joined Dyax Corp. as director of medical and technical writing. She was previously with Biogen Idec.

Dale L. Goad, DVM, PhD, of Andover, Mass., is now manager of medical writing at Ariad Pharmaceuticals Inc. He was previously a senior medical writer at Dyax Corp.

Tom O’Connell, MA, SFO, freelance writer and lecturer, was invited by Barnes & Noble in Hyannis, Mass., to talk about his recent memoir, Bugging Out: An Army Memoir (1954), at a special Cape Cod Writers’ Night in July.

Lori A. Thomae, MPTW, ELS, has joined PAREXEL, Waltham, Mass., as a senior medical writer.

William A. Kadish, MD, of Shrewsbury, Mass., has joined Teva Neurosciences. Bill says his new position is “like a medical science liaison in other pharmaceutical companies, but with less marketing and more science.”

Stef Stendardo responded to the 2008 AMWA Member Needs Assessment Survey and was one of four winners in a drawing for prizes. (She opted for $200 cash.) Last fall, Stef and her husband moved from New Jersey to Eastham, Mass., where she provides freelance medical writing services through her company, SCS Inc.

Linda A. Dalterio, MHS, of Old Lyme, Conn., is now a medical writer at Kendle International.

CHAPTER CHANGES: Zenab Amin, PhD, and Kathleen Ferguson have transferred to the Northwest Chapter; Allyn T. Collins and MaryAnn J. Fortes, PhD, to the Empire State-Metro New York Chapter; A. Peter Morello III, PhD, and Patricia H. Wakefield, to the Delaware Valley Chapter; John A. Newton, MA, to the Greater Chicago Area Chapter.

Chapter members will contribute to AMWA Annual Conference

Five of our New England colleagues will be leading workshops and discussions at the upcoming conference in St. Louis next month.

Kevin Flynn, MA, managing director at ApotheCom Associates LLC in Wakefield, Mass., and a past president of the chapter, is leading a core workshop, “Educating Sales Representatives About Science and Medicine.”

Thomas P. Gegney, MS, ELS, medical writer at Envision Pharma Inc. in Southport, Conn., and AMWA secretary, will lead a core workshop, “The Internet: How and Where to Find the Information You Seek.”

Andrea R. Gwosdow, PhD, of Gwosdow Associates, Science Consultants in Arlington, Mass., is leading a noncredit workshop, “From Bench Scientist to Medical Writer.”

Julie J. Martin, MS, communication manager at Massachusetts General Hospital and the chapter’s immediate past president, will lead a coffee and dessert klatch on “Gutsy Travelers: Going Solo Around the World.”

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:

Darryl P. Abriola, PhD
Orange, Connecticut

Mark J. Alexander
Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts

Holly Armstrong, BS
Storrs-Mansfield, Connecticut

Mary G. Barlow
Whitinsville, Massachusetts
*Blue Cross and Blue Shield of R.I.*

Kathleen Bell, BS, MT(ASCP)
Westford, Massachusetts
*Shire Human Genetic Therapies*

Maryann Boyle
Medfield, Massachusetts
*Tufts University*

Xin Chen
Lexington, Massachusetts
[from Greater Chicago Area Chapter]

Pasquale Cirone, PhD
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut

Catherine M. Coleman
ProCOR/Lown Cardiovascular Research Foundation
Brookline, Massachusetts

Heidi Davidson, MS, RD
Arlington, Massachusetts

Shannon Davis
MedKnowledge Group LLC
Rocky Hill, Connecticut

Sandra Deden, MA
Mass. General Physicians Organization
Boston, Massachusetts

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

Winifred C. Diedrich
Manchester, Massachusetts
[from Delaware Valley Chapter]

Adrienne Drinkwater, PhD
West Suffield, Connecticut

Mark Flynn
ClinLab Staffing/A&A Search LLC
Boston, Massachusetts

Rodrigo Franco, PhD
Franco Consulting LLC
Westford, Massachusetts

Dorothy M. Frank, BS, MS
Kingston, Massachusetts

Richard M. Frankel, MD, FCAP
Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts

Seth Freedman
Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts
*Genzyme Corporation*

Lisa A. Giordano, BA
Stonington, Connecticut

Clair S. Gricks, PhD
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Veronica Gross, PhD, MA
Boston, Massachusetts

Mary Alice Hanford
Natick, Massachusetts

Jeffrey Helfand, DO, MS
Executive Medical Management
Norwalk, Connecticut

Kathleen Hopf, BSN, CRNA
Fairfield, Connecticut

Ted James, MD
Williston, Vermont

Rachna Kausik, PhD
Stamford, Connecticut
*Columbia University*

Joe Lee
Farmington, Connecticut

Lisa M. Lines, BS, ELS
Maynard, Massachusetts
*Boston Health Economics*

Ian List
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Nicky Lowney, MA
Groton, Massachusetts

John McConnell, BSc, MA
Boston, Massachusetts
[from Florida Chapter]

Joan McCue
New Fairfield, Connecticut

Lynn M. Milich, PhD
Arlington, Massachusetts
*AMAG Pharmaceuticals Inc.*
[from Carolinas Chapter]

Joanne Haderer Muller, MA, CMI
Haderer & Muller Medical Art LLC
Melrose, Massachusetts

Karen L. Myers, PhD
Lahey Clinical Medical Center
Burlington, Massachusetts

Stephen Pace
Radian Solutions
Danbury, Connecticut

Amy Parent
Fairfield, Connecticut
*Fusion MD*

Chris Railey, MFA
Partners Harvard Medical International
Boston, Massachusetts

Beth A. Richards
University of Hartford
West Hartford, Connecticut

Prudence L. Roaf, MPH
Gloucester, Massachusetts
*Genzyme Biosurgery-Orthopaedics*

Nadja Rozovsky, PhD
Somerville, Massachusetts

Kerry M. Ryan, MS
Westford, Massachusetts
*United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley*

Christine M. Sawka, MS
Westford, Massachusetts

Katherine Schulz-Heik, MD
Rutland, Vermont

David L. Shenkenberg, MS
Pittsfield, Massachusetts

Barbara M. Shott, AS
Rhode Island Hospital
Providence, Rhode Island

Erin J. Spohr
MedKnowledge Group LLC
Rocky Hill, Connecticut

Sudha Srinivan, PhD
Bridgeport, Connecticut
*St. Jude Children's Research Hospital*

Meenakshi Subramian, PhD
Waltham, Massachusetts
*Envision Pharma Inc.*
[from Empire State-Metro NY Chapter]

Christine M. Tetrauld
Natick, Massachusetts

Candace Van Auken
Sterling, Connecticut
Directions to September 24 Meeting
Massachusetts General Hospital
55 Fruit Street (Main Entrance)
Boston, Massachusetts

By Public Transportation
Mass General is a short walk from the MBTA Commuter Rail (North Station stop), as well as from the Red, Green, Orange, and Blue subway lines.
There’s a free shuttle bus to the hospital from North Station.
The Red Line is the most convenient subway option.

By Car
For driving directions, go to:
Parking is free (with a voucher) in the Fruit Street or Parkman Street garage if you enter AFTER 5:00 p.m.
Vouchers will be available at the meeting. If you will need one, send an e-mail to Julie Martin (jjmartin@partners.org) no later than Monday, September 22.

Need a ride to the meeting?
If you do not have a car and cannot easily access public transportation, contact Judy Linn (judyhlinn@aol.com) to find out if anyone from your area is driving to the meeting.

Chapter E-news
A Chapter Membership Benefit
A few times a month, Chris McMorrow, chapter president, sends an e-mail to remind you of an upcoming chapter meeting or to let you know about a job opening, freelance opportunity, local event, or anything else that might be of interest to you or other New England AMWA members. The brief messages give only as much information as is necessary for you to follow up if you want to.
If you have something you would like to share via the New England E-news, please send it to Chris for consideration (christine_mcmorrow@yahoo.com). In the case of a job notice, be sure to abide by the guidelines posted at http://amwa-ne.org/content/jobs.html (click on “submission guidelines” to download a 1-page PDF).
Note that anyone may submit an item, but the e-mails are sent only to chapter members.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2008-09

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  Judy Linn, Registrar: Siobhan E. Gallagher, Roundtables
  Coordinator; Jill M. Shuman, Workshops Coordinator
- WEB SITE: Aaron Federman

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE
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DELEGATES TO AMWA
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Chris McMorrow, Debbie von Rechenberg
ALTERNATES: Julie J. Martin, Susan F. Gonsalves

Online Registration
New Way to Sign up for Chapter Events
The New England Chapter is pleased to introduce online registration for chapter events. This new procedure enables both members and nonmembers to submit their registrations through our chapter Web site and pay for the event by credit card (via PayPal) or by check.

To register for the September 24 dinner meeting, go to the chapter Web site at www.amwa-ne.org. On the Home page, click on the link inside the Save-the-Date box. This link will display details of the meeting along with simple instructions for registration and payment.

Please note that this meeting—and all future chapter events—will require online registration, whether you choose to pay by credit card (via PayPal) or by check.

Also note that if you opt to send a check by mail, your registration will be considered tentative until we actually receive the check.