

## **March 21: Virtual Event, 12:30–2:30 p.m. EDT** *Roundtable Discussions for Professional Development & Networking*

The New England Chapter will hold its annual roundtable meeting via Zoom on **Sunday, March 21, 12:30-2:30 p.m. EDT**. The event will feature small-group discussions, from 12:30 to 1:30, on skills and career paths in medical writing. Discussion leaders are knowledgeable AMWA members—colleagues from our chapter who will share their insights, offer valuable advice, answer questions, and guide the conversation. Then, from 1:30 to 2:30, everyone will be able to participate in informal networking.

There will be 8 roundtables:

### Roundtable #1

BREAKING INTO MEDICAL WRITING

*Leader: Sue Chow*

### Roundtable #2:

REGULATORY WRITING IN THE  
PHARMACEUTICAL/BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY

*Leader: Jeanette Towles*

### Roundtable #3

NONREGULATORY WRITING IN THE DRUG  
INDUSTRY

*Leader: Brian Head*

### Roundtable #4

WRITING TO ENGAGE AND EDUCATE PATIENTS

*Leader: Nancy Knoblock Hunton*

### Roundtable #5

WRITING PEER-REVIEWED MANUSCRIPTS

*Leader: Laurie LaRusso*

### Roundtable #6

MEDICAL TRANSLATION

*Leader: Stephen Volante*

### Roundtable #7

MONEY MATTERS IN THE FREELANCE WORLD

*Leader: Theresa Singleton*

### Roundtable #8

CONQUERING PROCRASTINATION

*Leader: Margaret Burke*

“Seating” at each roundtable is strictly limited and will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis upon receipt of payment. Register early to ensure a place at the roundtable of your choice!

As always, guests and prospective members are welcome.

The registration fee is \$15.00. AMWA members can enter the promo code “MEMBER” to receive a \$5.00 discount. You can pay online with a credit card or through PayPal. Please note that no refunds will be issued after Monday, March 20.

For detailed descriptions of the table topics and to register, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/annual-roundtable-and-networking-event-tickets-142529420333>.

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## CHAPTER CALENDAR

The New England Chapter's operating year begins on July 1, when a new slate of officers takes over. There are never any general activities during July and August. In normal times there would be six regular meetings from September to June—four educational programs in the Greater Boston area with a speaker, panel presentation, or roundtables, and two programs in Connecticut. There would also be several informal networking events during the year.

With the COVID-19 pandemic still far from over, there are no plans to hold in-person events in the near future, and the chapter will continue to offer networking meetings and educational programs via Zoom.

## Watch Your Email for Chapter E-News

Keep an eye out for the *AMWA New England E-News* to find out what's in the offing. These occasional email blasts from [President@amwa-ne.org](mailto:President@amwa-ne.org) will keep you abreast of upcoming chapter events as well as local job openings, freelance opportunities, and other information of possible interest to you. The notices are usually brief, with just enough information for you to follow up if you wish.

The *E-News* is sent only to New England Chapter members. We will, however, send meeting announcements to prospective members upon request. If you want to be notified about upcoming events, write to Judy Linn, membership chair, at [judyhlinn@aol.com](mailto:judyhlinn@aol.com). Guests are always welcome.

## AMWA Annual Conference

The 2021 AMWA Medical Writing and Communication Conference will take place October 27-30. For information, go to <https://www.amwa.org/page/conference>.

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER NEWS, published 3 or 4 times a year for the New England members of the American Medical Writers Association (AMWA), is posted as a PDF on the New England Chapter's website.

The newsletter welcomes reports about members' professional activities and special achievements; notices of local meetings, conferences, and courses; and other items of potential interest to medical, biomedical, and health communicators in New England.

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER  
AMERICAN MEDICAL WRITERS ASSOCIATION

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[www.amwa-ne.org](http://www.amwa-ne.org)

## Chapter Meeting Reports

### Copyright Basics

Using content without permission violates Principle 1 of the AMWA Code of Ethics: "Medical Communicators should recognize and observe statutes and regulations pertaining to the materials they write, edit, or otherwise develop." To help us to stay on the right side of this issue, our AMWA colleague Jill Shuman, MS, ELS—science writer, library director, and certified copyright specialist—provided advice in a webinar hosted by the New England Chapter in September: "Copyright 101: A Practical Guide to Properly Reusing and Sharing Information".

Copyright restrictions apply to journal articles (including those that are open access), posters, internet content, music, and questionnaires and scales. Medical writers inadvertently violate copyright when they use an image in a patient education piece, include a paper in a regulatory submission, or use academic library privileges for commercial purposes.

If you purchase a journal article online, you have the right to view, download, and print the article for your own use. However, to share the content with others, post it on social media, or save it on a CD-ROM or memory stick, you may need to obtain additional permissions from the copyright holder. In most cases the copyright holder is a publisher or company rather than the author.

Jill had a number of practical tips to help us to respect copyright laws:

- Think before you include, share, or post!
- Obtain permission from the copyright holder before you use content in a way other than personal use.
- When possible, share a link to content rather than the content itself. If the content is available for free on the internet, then you do not need permission to share a link to the content.
- Avoid ResearchGate and Sci-Hub; they routinely violate copyright law.
- PubMed provides information on permissions granted for each article and how to purchase additional permissions.
- Use Google to search for copyright-free images.
- Familiarize yourself with your organization's standard operating procedures related to intellectual property.
- If your organization has a librarian, make friends with them! They can be great resource in helping you navigate copyright restrictions.
- For more information, check out the entertaining tutorial at <http://copyright101.byu.edu/>.

Jill's engaging presentation included a number of polls that challenged participants to decide whether a specific scenario is a copyright violation or not.

For those who missed the live webinar, a recording of the program is available at:

[https://zoom.us/rec/share/xZ8dVWnm4gl4KFhI6GAdAq693-3HoevL2XZal-n1SugYGZKnIWfoFgi\\_dCX8qJeg.7E4Oy6YiiqSFf-Ym](https://zoom.us/rec/share/xZ8dVWnm4gl4KFhI6GAdAq693-3HoevL2XZal-n1SugYGZKnIWfoFgi_dCX8qJeg.7E4Oy6YiiqSFf-Ym)

—Ellie Lin, Secretary

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### *Storytelling in Medicine*

Storytelling is how we communicate information, build relationships, and foster empathy. The case report, which is at the heart of medicine, is itself a form of storytelling. There are examples of case reports written as learning tools for physicians as early as the Edwin Smith Papyrus, circa 1600 BCE.

At the chapter's virtual event in December—a presentation on “Narrative and Storytelling in Medicine”—Suzanne Koven, MD, MFA, a primary care physician and Massachusetts General Hospital Writer in Residence, shared the story of her career as a writer and how it has complemented her career as a physician. According to Koven, practicing medicine requires both left brain functions (logic, facts, and analysis) and right brain functions (empathy, holistic thinking, and intuition). “What I learned reading novels in college,” she said, “was much more useful to me in the practice of medicine than organic chemistry.”

When patients speak with their physician, they don't just convey individual data points about their health; they tell a story. Where patients begin the story and how they tell it are crucial for diagnosis and treatment. Stories have the power to heal trauma, relieve stress, and amplify voices less often heard. Dr. Koven spoke about the barriers to writing encountered by physicians and how what they think they want to write about is sometimes different than what they need to write about.

Dr. Koven's work has appeared in the *Boston Globe*, the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *The Lancet*, [newyorker.com](http://newyorker.com), and *STAT*. You can find links to many of her articles on her website, <http://suzannekoven.com/>. An essay collection, *Letter to a Young Female Physician*, will be released this spring.

To access a recording of her presentation to the New England Chapter, go to:  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/13ggmpROrYDqLK2aazGOSbowhr5VPHiUE/view?usp=sharing>

—Ellie Lin, Secretary

### *Somewhat Bookish Networking*

Chapter members warmed up with good books and good company at the Somewhat Bookish Virtual Networking event in January. We broke the ice with a brief scavenger hunt, in which we found and shared items like “an interesting refrigerator magnet.” We then split into two breakout rooms: one to discuss work-related books, another for pleasure reading. After the event, participants were sent everyone's email address as well as the book lists from both groups, so attendees could continue their conversations or just stay in touch if they wanted to.

The recommended books included *Writing Scientific Research Articles* by Margaret Cargill and Patrick O'Connor and *The Snow Child* by Eowyn Ivey.

—Ellie Lin, 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 part of the country. 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.

**Michelle Badash, MS**  
Fine Print International  
Andover, Massachusetts

**Kariann Behunick, PharmD**  
Walgreens  
Stratford, Connecticut

**Jenny Blair, MD**  
Burlington, Vermont

**Rachael Brust, PhD**  
Harvard Medical School  
Boston, Massachusetts

**Jennifer Colby, PhD**  
Bastrop, Texas

**Vonne Sieve Cook, MA, MEd**  
Westford, Massachusetts  
*CLD Inc.*

**Suzanne Dambek, MD**  
East Greenwich, Rhode Island

**Desiree De Luca-Johnson, JD**  
[www.BreastCancerTrials.org](http://www.BreastCancerTrials.org)  
San Francisco, California

**Sandra Dedrick, BS**  
Malden, Massachusetts  
*Boston College*

**Melissa DePrince, MS, MWC**  
Getinge  
Merrimack, New Hampshire

**Isabel Derera, PhD**  
bluebird bio Inc.  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

**Emily Deutschman, PhD**  
Epizyme Inc.  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

**John Eisler, PhD**  
Longmeadow, Massachusetts

**Katarzyna Falkowska, DO**  
Northwell Health  
New Hyde Park, New York

**Judith Feinstein, MSPH**  
Association of State & Territorial  
Dental Directors  
Reno, Nevada

**Nancy Ferrari**  
Newton, Massachusetts  
*Harvard Medical School*

**Marion Anne Fletcher, BA**  
A. Fletcher & Associates  
Westerly, Rhode Island

**Judy Foreman, EdM**  
Newton, Massachusetts

**New Members** continued on next page

## New Members continued from previous page

**Gabriel Gabro, BA**

MCPHS University  
Worcester, Massachusetts

**Katharina Gath, MA, MEd**

APO AE  
Armed Services

**Margi Goldstein, PhD**

Plymouth, Massachusetts  
*Amicus Therapeutics*

**Jill Grodan, MBA**

Meriden, New Hampshire

**Polina Gross, PhD**

Revere, Massachusetts  
*Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard*

**Michelle Guiliano, DPM**

Line By Line Indexing  
Etna, New Hampshire

**Manon Guillermin, PhD**

bluebird bio Inc.  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

**Alla Hamilton, PhD**

Alkermes Inc.  
Waltham, Massachusetts

**Dylan Harris, PhD, MBA**

Takeda Pharmaceutical Company  
Lexington, Massachusetts

**Michelle Hewitt, BA**

Cyclerion Therapeutics Inc.  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

**Sayali Karve, PhD**

Vertex Pharmaceuticals  
Boston, Massachusetts

**Heather Kolpa, BA**

Falmouth, Massachusetts

**Lisa Loram, PhD**

Acton, Massachusetts

**Lauren MacCarthy, BS**

Shirley, Massachusetts  
*PRA Health Sciences*

**Gordon Macpherson, PhD**

Servier Pharmaceuticals  
Boston, Massachusetts

**Deborah Maret, PhD**

Pandion SciMed  
Quebec City, Quebec  
Canada

**Richard Marseglia, MD**

Highland Pediatrics  
Somerset, Massachusetts

**Elisabeth Moore, PhD**

CISCRP  
Boston, Massachusetts

**Diana Orenstein, MS**

ByHeart  
Needham, Massachusetts

**Brandis Pickard, BA**

CISCRP  
Boston, Massachusetts

**Charon Pierson, PhD, RN, GNP**

Manchester, Connecticut

**Claudia Prahst, PhD**

Foundation Medicine Inc.  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

**Chaun Renaud, BS**

Taunton, Massachusetts

**Holly Richendrfer, PhD**

Coventry, Rhode Island

**Kerry Ryan, MS**

WriteMed Communications  
Westford, Massachusetts

**Rebecca Scholz, PhD**

bluebird bio Inc.  
Boston, Massachusetts

**Debra Sepulveda, MD, MPH**

Raymond, Maine

**Imran Shaikh, PharmD, RPh**

Walgreens  
Tewksbury, Massachusetts

**Luke Silveira, MD**

University of Vermont Medical Center  
Burlington, Vermont

**Purvi Smith, MS, MPH**

Health & Wellness Partners LLC  
Upper Saddle River, New Jersey

**Kathy Stavropoulos, MPH**

Vertex Pharmaceuticals  
Boston, Massachusetts

**Paula Stuckart, BA**

Envision Pharma Group  
Glastonbury, Connecticut

**Jessica Tesell, PhD**

Northborough, Massachusetts

**Ri Xu, PhD**

Montreal, Quebec  
Canada

**Alexandra Yu, DVM**

Watertown, Massachusetts

## Chapter LinkedIn Subgroup

The New England Chapter's LinkedIn subgroup is an open forum for members and prospective members in our six-state region. You can sign up at [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com). If you have any questions, contact Sami Heimer, LinkedIn subgroup coordinator, at [webcoordinator@amwa-ne.org](mailto:webcoordinator@amwa-ne.org).

## Linn Membership Awards

If you are just starting your medical writing career, and you live and work in New England, you may be eligible for the New England Chapter's Linn Membership Award, which covers AMWA dues for one year. For details and an online application form, go to <https://amwa-ne.org/awards/>.

## BEHIND THE SCENES: CHAPTER BUSINESS

### New Chapter Website

Do you know that the New England Chapter chapter has a new website? If not, you're missing out. Whether you're on a computer, a smartphone, a tablet, or you're sitting at the nexus of the internet, point your browser to <https://amwa-ne.org/> and check it out. In addition to the new look and feel, the refreshed website contains updated content, allows for more streamlined and user-friendly event registration, and is overall more amenable to upkeep and updates.

The development and launch of the new website was made possible by a dedicated committee—Haifa Kassis, Ana Bozas, and Aaron Federman—and a skilled website developer, Michelle Badash at Fine Print International in Andover, Mass. In addition, Judy Linn, Marisa Greenfield, Jill Shuman, and Theresa Singleton helped review and update material and suggested new content; and the entire chapter leadership team provided valuable guidance throughout 2020. Thanks to everyone!

For its first year, [amwa-ne.org](https://amwa-ne.org/) will be managed by our new website coordinator, Sami Hiemer. We are glad to have her on board! If you have comments or suggestions as we move forward with our new website, please get in touch with us at <https://amwa-ne.org/contact/>.

*—Brian Head  
Chair, Website Migration Committee*

### Nominating Committee Seeking Potential Candidates for Office

Would you like to help run the activities and affairs of the New England Chapter? We're looking for members interested in becoming candidates for President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer for the next chapter year, which begins July 1, 2021. The chapter's Nominating Committee, chaired by President-Elect Jessica Solodar, welcomes your interest.

Holding office is a great way to contribute to the chapter's success and expand your relationships with fellow members. To learn more or to submit a nomination, please contact Jessica at [jessica@writeronhealth.com](mailto:jessica@writeronhealth.com).

The Nominating Committee will announce the slate of officers in the June chapter newsletter.

### Programs Committee Formed

The chapter has a new Programs Committee, headed up by President-Elect/Program Director Jessica Solodar. Serving on the committee for the remainder of the chapter year are Margaret Burke, Kristen Hawley, Ellie Lin, and Victoria Wilcox.

### Upcoming EFA Spring Social

The Editorial Freelancers Association invites you to a social for freelance writers and editors on the Gather Town virtual platform, **Tuesday, March 16, 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.** To sign up, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/social-for-freelancers-in-editing-writing-and-related-fields-tickets-144008097095>. For more info, contact [chap\\_mass@the-efa.org](mailto:chap_mass@the-efa.org).

## NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER 2020-21 LEADERSHIP

### Board of Directors

#### OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Haifa Kassis

PRESIDENT-ELECT: Jessica Solodar

SECRETARY: Ellie Lin

TREASURER: Ana Bozas

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Brian Head

### Advisory Council

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

CONNECTICUT PROGRAMS: Margaret Burke

MEMBERSHIP: Judy Linn

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS: Debbie von Rechenberg

LINKEDIN SUBGROUP: Sami Hiemer

BYLAWS TASK FORCE: Deborah Ferguson

WEBSITE MIGRATION: Brian Head

#### LOCAL NETWORKING COORDINATORS:

Andrea Gwosdow (Cambridge, Mass.)

Haifa Kassis (Dedham, Mass.)

Ellie Lin (Worcester, Mass.)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Judy Linn

WEBSITE COORDINATOR: Sami Hiemer

REPRESENTATIVE TO AMWA CHAPTER ADVISORY COUNCIL: Dara Chadwick

#### COUNCILORS-AT-LARGE:

Marisa Greenfield

Jennifer Hellwig

Jill Shuman

Theresa Singleton