

### **September 17: Virtual Event, 7:00-8:00 p.m. ET** *Copyright 101: A Practical Guide to Properly Reusing and Sharing Information*

- Can I share this article with a business colleague?
- Can I copy and paste this photo from the internet?
- Can I modify this published table to use in my journal article?
- Can I freely reproduce articles from this U.S. government website?

The answer to all four questions is... “Maybe!”

To learn more, come join the New England Chapter via Zoom on **Thursday, September 17, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. ET**, for an interactive presentation by our colleague Jill Shuman, MS, ELS. Jill will give an overview of copyright principles, illustrated with real-life examples to spark discussion with attendees. The examples will represent all facets of biomedical communication.

Jill will also review the potential ramifications of copyright infringement, whether deliberate or unintentional.

Whatever sector of medical writing and editing you currently work in, you will find the presentation relevant and timely; and you’ll be able to submit questions to Jill via Q&A.

Jill has more than 25 years of experience as a writer, editor, library director, and information professional at both large and small publishers and companies. She lectures frequently on topics related to copyright, library administration, literature searching, and managing remote teams. She is a past president of the New England Chapter, an AMWA Fellow, and a recipient of AMWA’s Golden Apple Award for excellence in teaching. Outside of work she is busy writing her first children’s book and playing competitive mah-jongg.

This chapter event is free, but you do have to sign up ahead of time.

**How to Register:** Send an email with your full name to Judy Linn at [judyhlinn@aol.com](mailto:judyhlinn@aol.com). The deadline for registration is 5:00 p.m. ET, Tuesday, September 15. The link to the webinar will be sent to registrants a day ahead, on Wednesday, September 16.

As always, prospective members are welcome to participate.

—*Jessica Solodar*  
*President-Elect/Program Director*

#### INDEX

2 Calendar	2 June Meeting Report	3 Membership Awards
2 E-News	3 Personal Notes	3 New Members
2 AMWA Conference	3 LinkedIn	4 Chapter Business

## 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 a regular meeting in September—a dinner program in the Greater Boston area with a speaker or a panel presentation—and a fall dinner program in Connecticut as well. However, with the coronavirus pandemic still far from over, there are no plans to hold in-person events in the near future.

## Watch Your Email for Chapter 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), with "AMWA-NE" in the subject line, will keep you abreast of upcoming chapter events as well as local job openings, freelance opportunities, or 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 notices 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).

## Fall Networking Event

Sometime after the AMWA Annual Conference the chapter will hold an informal networking meeting via Zoom. Andrea Gwosdow will host. Watch the *E-News* for details.

## AMWA Annual Conference

AMWA will celebrate its 80th anniversary with a virtual 3-day Medical Writing & Communication Conference, **October 20-22**, that promises "to explore ideas and solutions together, build meaningful connections, and envision a bright future for medical communication." Program planning is well underway. For details, go to <https://www.amwa.org/page/Conference>.

## June Meeting Report

### *Panel Discusses Working During the Pandemic*

The New England Chapter's June program—a timely webinar on "Medical Writing During the COVID-19 Pandemic"—was a great success. More than 60 members and guests zoomed in for a panel presentation by four experienced medical writers who discussed how the pandemic has affected our profession, what we have learned so far, and what we can do to prepare for the future.

Andrea Gwosdow, PhD, president of Gwosdow Associates Science Consultants and an award-winning science and medical communicator, moderated the discussion. The panelists were Francesca Coltrera, senior content writer and editor at Harvard Health Publishing and editor of the Harvard Health Blog; Theresa Singleton, PhD, who has her own freelance business, Singleton Science LLC; and Jeanette Towles, MA, president of Synterex Inc., a small business that provides regulatory writing and other services.

Topics included how to work successfully from home, how to adjust your freelance business practices in response to the uncertainty of the times, the impact of the pandemic on clinical trials and medical publications, and the importance of providing evidence-based information to the public.

For those who were unable to participate, a recording of the webinar, which runs for just over an hour, is available: [https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/5sh-CrSpqGJJZrOS5nnCAakrGJnZT6a80CdK-\\_QKnh1EWDEY2hxxTUf5pirc49J7?startTime=1592431244000](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/5sh-CrSpqGJJZrOS5nnCAakrGJnZT6a80CdK-_QKnh1EWDEY2hxxTUf5pirc49J7?startTime=1592431244000).

BioBridges LLC, based in Wellesley, Mass., sponsored this event and provided excellent technical support.

—*Ellie Lin*  
*Secretary*

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER NEWS, published 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

Judy Linn, Newsletter Editor  
Phone: 508-358-7071  
Email: [judyhlinn@aol.com](mailto:judyhlinn@aol.com)

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

## Personal Notes

**Roshawn Watson, PharmD, PhD, BCPS**, is author of “Lifting the Veil on Compensation for Employed Medical Communicators,” a feature article in the Summer 2020 issue of the *AMWA Journal*. Shawn is an associate director and clinical scientist at Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Boston. He is a past president of the New England Chapter, and he is currently serving as an at-large director on the AMWA Board of Directors.

In October and again in January 2021, **Karina Gordin, MS**, is teaching her class, “Not Your English Teacher’s Grammar: Essentials of Grammar,” in the Lincoln-Sudbury (Mass.) Adult Education program—now online. She is also teaching a grammar course in the Concord-Carlisle Adult & Community Education program in October. Karina is a freelance writer for peer-reviewed and commercial health publications.

## 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.

### **Elizabeth Boquet, PhD**

Fairfield University  
Fairfield, Connecticut

### **Saran Chhabra, PhD**

Deciphera Pharmaceuticals  
Waltham, Massachusetts

### **Catherine Despot, BA**

Sarepta Therapeutics Inc.  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

### **Amy Harris, CNM, RN, MS**

Falmouth, Maine

### **Samantha Hiemer, PhD**

Cambridge, Massachusetts

### **Angela Johnson, MSE, PMP, RAC**

Sigilon Therapeutics  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

### **Yangzhou Li, PharmD**

Willimantic, Connecticut  
*Aleon Pharma International*

### **Nimita Limaye, PhD**

CSOFT Health Sciences  
Boston, Massachusetts

### **Dee Miller, MA**

Sahara Development Group Inc.  
Lakeville, Massachusetts

### **Michael O'Donnell, MS**

Vertex Pharmaceuticals  
Boston, Massachusetts

### **Nicola Parry, DVM, MSc,**

**DipACVP, ELS, FRCVS**  
Parry Medical Writing  
Worcester, Massachusetts

### **Lisa Peachey, BS**

Amesbury, Massachusetts  
*Xcenda LLC*

### **Valerie Richardson, MFA**

New Haven, Connecticut

### **Susan Sheng**

Massachusetts General Hospital  
Boston, Massachusetts

### **Sarah Shires, PhD**

Edge Pharma  
Colchester, Vermont

### **Elizabeth Stevens, MFA**

Boston University  
Boston, Massachusetts

### **Ovi Wagh, BDS, MPH**

ORA Inc.  
Andover, Massachusetts

### **Jennifer Waterman, MHA**

Derry, New Hampshire

## Chapter LinkedIn Group

The New England Chapter’s LinkedIn subgroup is an easy way to connect with other medical writers here in our six-state region. Everyone, including prospective members, is welcome to participate in this local forum. All you have to do is go to [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com), sign up for the main AMWA group, and then sign up for the New England Chapter subgroup.

## 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://www.amwa-ne.org/awards>.

If you have any questions, contact Debbie von Rechenberg, Membership Awards Committee chair, at [dvonrech@yahoo.com](mailto:dvonrech@yahoo.com).

## BEHIND THE SCENES: CHAPTER BUSINESS

### Advisory Council

At a virtual meeting in early June, the New England Chapter's Board of Directors formally approved the members of the Advisory Council for the 2020-21 chapter year. The Advisory Council comprises committee chairs and other functionaries who serve the chapter in various ways and, as the name implies, advise the Board. The Advisory Council includes several councilors-at-large, who may be past presidents or may, in the future, have specific responsibilities such as chairing a committee or holding office.

### Annual Business Meeting

At the chapter's Annual Business Meeting on June 29, which we were allowed to hold via Zoom because of the pandemic, President Brian Head announced the slate of officers for the operating year beginning July 1, 2020. (See Leadership panel in next column.)

In another matter, members approved the chapter's revised Articles of Organization and revised Bylaws. Thank you to all the members who voted, whether at the business meeting or by proxy submitted ahead of time. And special thanks to Debbie Ferguson, chair of the Bylaws Task Force, for herculean efforts in seeing this through. The necessary paperwork will be submitted to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to support our continuing status as a 501c(3) nonprofit organization and to AMWA to comply with association regulations.

### Website to be Rebuilt

The chapter's website is in need of a major overhaul. The Website Migration Committee, chaired by Brian Head, immediate past president, has been exploring options and plans to roll out a new content management system in the coming months. Once the migration has been completed, the information on the site—much of which is out of date—will be modified and updated.

## Chapter Leaders Welcome Member Input

The New England Chapter's leaders are always willing to consider any suggestions, comments, or critiques you may have. Please feel free to share your thoughts with President Haifa Kassis at [president@amwa-ne.org](mailto:president@amwa-ne.org).

Keeping in mind that for now and in the foreseeable future our meetings will be virtual, send your ideas for programs to Jessica Solodar, president-elect and program director, at [jessica@writeronhealth.com](mailto:jessica@writeronhealth.com).

### 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

BYLAWS TASK FORCE: Deborah Ferguson

MEMBERSHIP: Judy Linn

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS: Debbie von Rechenberg

WEBSITE MIGRATION: Brian Head

##### LOCAL NETWORKING COORDINATORS:

Andrea Gwosdow (Cambridge, Mass.)

Haifa Kassis (Dedham, Mass.)

Ellie Lin (Worcester, Mass.)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Judy Linn

REPRESENTATIVE TO AMWA

CHAPTER ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Andrea Gwosdow

LINKEDIN SUBGROUP MANAGER: Haifa Kassis

WEBSITE COORDINATOR: TBD

##### COUNCILORS-AT-LARGE:

Dara Chadwick

Marisa Greenfield

Jennifer Hellwig

Jill Shuman

Theresa Singleton