

June 17: Virtual Event, 6-7 PM

Medical Writing During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a tremendous impact on everyone. How the pandemic has affected the biomedical communications profession in particular will be the focus of a **Zoom webinar on Wednesday, June 17, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.** Come hear a panel of experienced New England Chapter members discuss what we have learned so far and what we can do to prepare for the future.

The four panelists, all long-time AMWA members, are medical writers and editors with varied educational backgrounds and areas of expertise:

- **Andrea Gwosdow**, who will moderate the discussion, has a doctorate in systems physiology with a specialty in endocrinology. She is president of Gwosdow Associates Science Consultants, a freelance business she started 23 years ago. She focuses on publications writing but also has some regulatory experience, and she is the author of a book on scientific manuscript writing.
- **Francesca Coltrera** is the editor of the Harvard Health Blog and a senior content writer and editor at Harvard Health Publishing. She coauthored two books on breast cancer for a lay audience and worked as a freelance medical writer for more than 20 years, often acting as a bridge between scientific and medical experts and a general audience.
- **Theresa Singleton** has a doctorate in microbiology and immunology. In 2013, after a two-year stint as a full-time scientific writer/editor at Cell Signaling Technology, she established her own freelance writing business, Singleton Science LLC. She specializes in scientific publications and plain language writing.
- **Jeanette Towles**, with cumulative industry experience of over 15 years, is president and owner of Synterex Inc., a woman-owned, disability-owned business that provides publishing, clinical science, project management, medical writing, and regulatory writing services, and IT collaboration services. She previously held in-house consulting and FTE medical writing and clinical science positions at both small and large companies.

This chapter event is free, but you have to sign up ahead of time. As always, prospective members are welcome to participate.

To register, send an email with your full name to Judy Linn at judyhlinn@aol.com. The deadline for registration is 5:00 p.m., Monday, June 15. The link to the webinar will be sent to registrants on Tuesday, June 16.

Participants will be able to send questions to the panelists via the Zoom webinar Q&A feature.

Many thanks to BioBridges LLC for sponsoring this webinar.

—*Haifa Kassis*
President-Elect/Program Director

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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, but there would normally be a regular meeting in September—a dinner program in the Greater Boston area with a speaker or a panel presentation. However, with the course of the coronavirus pandemic still uncertain, there are no plans to hold in-person events in the near future. This may change as the weeks and months go by. Please keep an eye out for the *AMWA New England E-News*—emails from the chapter president—to find out what's coming up, virtually or otherwise.

Chapter Leaders Welcome Member Input

The New England Chapter's Board of Directors will be meeting via Zoom on June 23.

Along with the customary agenda, the officers and directors would be happy to consider any suggestions, comments, or critiques you may have. Please feel free to share your thoughts with President Brian Head at president@amwa-ne.org.

Annual Business Meeting & Special Meeting via Zoom on June 29

This year's AMWA-New England Chapter Annual Business Meeting will be held virtually, via Zoom, on **Monday June 29, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.** All chapter members are invited to attend.

The new chapter officers and directors for the 2020-21 term will be announced at the meeting.

The chapter will also be holding a Special Meeting in conjunction with the Annual Business Meeting. At the Special Meeting, the vote on the Chapter's revised Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws will take place virtually. Although it will be possible to cast your vote at this time, we urge you to complete the voting process ahead of time by submitting your proxy vote via DocuSign. If you did not receive the voting information from DocuSign, please email Debbie Ferguson at bylawsvote.amwane@gmail.com as soon as possible.

All members in good standing will be sent a link to the virtual meeting at least a few days ahead of time via the *AMWA New England E-News*. Please join us for this important occasion to help ensure the continuing operation of our regional chapter.

—*Brian Head, President
& Debbie Ferguson, Chair, Governance Committee*

AMWA Annual Meeting

As of now, this year's national Medical Writing & Communication Conference is still scheduled for October 11-14 in Baltimore, Md. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the association is "exploring ways to make the 2020 Conference a safe and meaningful experience." Watch the *AMWA Update* and other communications from national headquarters to keep informed, or check out the AMWA website (amwa.org) from time to time.

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

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Chapter Officers for 2020-21 Year

The New England Chapter's Nominating Committee, with the unanimous approval of the Board of Directors, has proposed the following slate of officers for the chapter year beginning on July 1, 2020.

PRESIDENT: Haifa Kassis

Haifa Kassis is a freelance medical writer in Boston, specializing in continuing education for health care professionals and scientific publications. In 2007 she received an MD from the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology and subsequently held 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. She is currently the New England Chapter's LinkedIn group manager as well as a local networking coordinator.

PRESIDENT-ELECT: Jessica Solodar

Jessica Solodar is a freelance medical writer and editor specializing in educational content for health care professionals and the public. She entered the field in 2001, editing materials for parents and educators for the Child & Adolescent Bipolar Foundation. At Massachusetts General Hospital's Department of Psychiatry, she created patient and family reference material and edited the newsletter *Mind, Mood & Memory*. For an educational initiative on diagnosing and preventing seizures in photosensitive epilepsy, she wrote for both clinicians and consumers, with articles in medical and lay publications and a blog on seizures from flashing electronic media. She joined AMWA in 2017 and has written for the New England Chapter newsletter. She holds the AMWA Essential Skills certificate and a certificate in editing from ACES: The Society for Editing. She is a graduate of Brown University.

SECRETARY: Ellie Lin

Ellie Lin is a freelance medical editor specializing in copy editing manuscripts and physician-oriented communications. She has a BA in journalism from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and an MS in environmental microbiology from the University of California Riverside. She has completed the AMWA Essential Skills certificate and holds Board of Editors in the Life Sciences certification. She has served as chapter secretary since 2017 and is the chapter's local networking coordinator for the Worcester area.

TREASURER: Ana Bozas

Ana Bozas is nominated for a fourth term as Treasurer. Ana is assistant director, global medical communications at Akcea Therapeutics, Boston. Previously, she worked for Sanofi and Akebia Therapeutics in the medical publications function and Analysis Group as a medical writer for the HEOR consulting arm. She graduated from the University of Utah with a PhD in biochemistry, followed by a postdoctoral fellowship on adult stem cells at the now-defunct Boston Biomedical Research Institute. She has been an AMWA member since 2014, when she received a Linn Membership Award from the New England Chapter. She is also a member of the International Society for Medical Publication Professionals and is certified as medical publication professional.

Personal Notes

Jenny Thayer, MBA, EdM, MA, vice president, medical, regulatory, scientific communication at BioBridges, Wellesley, Mass., will be a panelist in an AMWA webinar on “How to Be Successful Working Remotely,” scheduled for June 24.

Karen Eisenhauer, PhD, of North Grafton, Mass., with more than 20 years of experience in medical writing, has established her own business, Eisenhauer Medical Writing Inc., to help biotech and pharmaceutical companies meet their communication objectives. Karen was previously at Vertex Pharmaceuticals, most recently as vice president, medical writing.

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.

Laura Cahill, PhD

Brigham and Women’s Hospital
Harvard Medical School
Boston, Massachusetts

Reeve Chace, MPH

Portland, Maine

Maureen Curran, BS

Angion Biomedica
Boston, Massachusetts

Kristin Edwards, BS

Pfizer
Groton, Connecticut

Jennifer Ford, BA

PentaVision LLC
Boston, Massachusetts

Tiffany Gareski, BS

Pfizer
Groton, Connecticut

Diana Gernhardt, MS

Sea Glass Consulting Inc.
Old Saybrook, Connecticut

Samantha Grimsley, BS

Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates
Boston, Massachusetts

Anna Justis, PhD

JoVE
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Sarah Keates, PhD

Acceleron Pharma Inc.
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Sabrina Kurtz-Rossi, MEd

Tufts University School of Medicine
Boston, Massachusetts

Jordan Leonard, BA

Mansfield, Massachusetts

Chia-Cheng Li, DDS, DMSc

Miltenyi Biomedicine
Somerville, Massachusetts

Lori MacCausland, MSc, PMP

Blue Hill, Maine

Rebecca Martin, PT, DPT, PhDc, NCS

North Lawrence, New York

Prachi Matsye, PhD

Vertex Pharmaceuticals
Boston, Massachusetts

John McCartney, PhD

Verastem Oncology
Needham, Massachusetts

Molly McKeown, MS

Boston, Massachusetts

Chad McQueen, PharmD

Total CME
Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania

Jenny Meyer

Foxboro, Massachusetts

Christine Olsen, PhD

Norwalk, Connecticut
[from Empire State-Metro New York Chapter]

Camila Pierart, MD, MHE, MSc

Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut

Douglas Rioux

New Haven, Connecticut

Daniel Singer, BA

Key Bank, Alaska

Vicki Stone, DPM

Stoneham, Massachusetts

April Welch, BS, BA, ELS

Vertex Pharmaceuticals
Boston, Massachusetts

Zack Wildemore, MS

Chatham, New Jersey

John Wilkinson IV, PhD

Danvers, Massachusetts

Samantha Yohn, PhD

Vanderbilt University
Nashville, Tennessee

LinkedIn

Do you know that our chapter has its own LinkedIn subgroup? It’s 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, sign up for the main AMWA group, and then sign up for the New England Chapter subgroup.