

CHAPTER CALENDAR

The New England Chapter's operating year begins on July 1, when a new slate of officers takes over. In normal times, we hold six in-person educational meetings from September to June—four programs in the Greater Boston area with a speaker, panel presentation, or roundtables, and two programs in Connecticut. We also hold several informal networking events during the year.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the chapter will continue to offer virtual networking opportunities and educational programs while we look forward to being able to gather in person again!

'AMWA New England E-News' Announcements, Job Notices for Members Only

Keep an eye out for the *AMWA New England E-News*. These occasional eblasts from President@amwa-ne.org will remind you of an upcoming chapter meeting or 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 notices are usually brief, with just enough information for you to follow up if you wish to.

You do not have to be a member to submit an item to the *E-News* for consideration. Meeting notices should be short, with a link to detailed information. Job postings must conform to the submission guidelines, which can be downloaded from the chapter website (www.amwa-ne.org/jobs).

Although the *E-News* is sent only to New England Chapter members, we will send announcements of New England Chapter meetings to prospective members upon request. If you want to be notified about these events, write to Judy Linn, membership chair, at judyhlinn@aol.com. Nonmembers are always welcome at chapter events.

Coming Events

Connecticut Meeting

There may be an in-person New England Chapter meeting in Connecticut in May. Watch for details.

Professional Roundtables

The New England Chapter will hold a roundtable meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, June 7, at 7:00 p.m. ET. Save the date! You won't want to miss this event, in a perennially popular format featuring small-group discussions on skills and career paths in medical writing. Discussion leaders will share their insights, offer valuable advice, answer questions, and guide the conversation.

Business Meeting

There will be a brief Annual Membership Business Meeting in June at which we will install the chapter officers for the 2022-23 year.

Chapter Meeting at AMWA Annual Conference

AMWA's 2022 Medical Writing and Communication Conference will be in Denver, Colo., November 2-5. During the conference New England registrants will get together as usual for informal networking, either at a restaurant near the conference site or virtually. . . to be determined!

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REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS

Networking Meetings

In October, during AMWA's virtual 2021 annual conference, we held an hour-long Zoom speed networking session for New England Chapter registrants. And in December we held a similar event, which was open to prospective members and guests as well as members. After each of these networking meetings, we emailed the attendance list to all participants so they could continue their conversations if they wanted to.

In November, Margaret Burke, Connecticut programs chair, hosted a meetup at a brewery in Manchester. Several members and guests joined Margaret for the New England Chapter's only in-person event since the beginning of the pandemic. The informal get-together was scheduled for 4:30-6:30 p.m. but didn't break up until almost 7:30—a good indication of the event's success.

Educational Programs

Troubleshooting Some Common MS Word Problems

Members and guests from around the country were aboard for the New England Chapter's virtual event in September, a presentation on “Your MS Word Emergency Kit: 5 Things to Check When Your Document Breaks Down.” Kelly Crossett, a quality reviewer and publishing specialist at Whitsell Innovations Inc., shared tips on troubleshooting some of the problems commonly encountered in MS Word—specifically, issues with tables, hyperlinks, styles, lists, and tabs.

A recording of Ms. Crossett's presentation is available at <https://bit.ly/3LfKxHc>. For information on specific issues, you can check out details at the specified time points.

TABLES

Errors in tables seem to be the most common issue with Word documents. The two major problem spots are table captions appearing on a separate page from the table itself and header rows not repeating (5:15). If the table caption and table do not appear together (6:20), the Paragraph Settings set to Keep with Next is often the cause of the issue. Once Keep with Next is not selected the issue should be resolved. To fix header rows not repeating, the solution most likely to work is to select the Text Wrapping Settings and set it to No Wrapping (9:42).

HYPERLINKS and CROSS REFERENCES

It is difficult to tell the difference between hyperlinks and cross references (13:26). Setting Field Shading to Always (File>Options>Advanced), will add a gray background to the cross references and will distinguish them from hyperlinks. There are also tools available for keeping the formatting for cross references from disappearing (15:28).

STYLES

Styles can be useful in making sure formatting and numbering stay consistent. However, Word documents may be corrupted when others have manipulated them without applying the styles already set in the document. Ms. Crossett addressed corrupted styles (17:16), first by showing how to spot them, and then by showing how some of these can be fixed via the Style Pane (19:17). For example, an editor can import and export styles from another document to select those that are required for the document at hand (20:30). Also, a style can be changed throughout the document with Advanced Style and Replace (24:00).

LISTS

Problems with lists are often due to incorrectly applied numbering styles or the addition of manual numbering that then corrupt the Numbering Style in the document (26:44). Nonsequential numbering (27:50) or multilevel numbering is often visible in strange headings in the Navigation Pane and Table of Contents. The styles applied to the document paragraphs can be checked using the Draft View, located on the View Ribbon (28:55). One can then make changes to the text style via the Style Pane at the problem locations. (30:55)

Incorrect multilevel numbering is also a difficult issue to deal with. In this case, the document sections are numbered, but the heading numbering does not follow the appropriate order, and numbers may be skipped or repeated. This can be

Troubleshooting MS Word continued on next page

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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fixed using the Multilevel Numbering Settings located in the Home ribbon (31:20). While there may be many reasons for the anomaly, it is best to first look at the styles linked to the different levels to make sure that the appropriate heading styles are linked to the numbering level, because this is often the problem (32:00). Another way to deal with multilevel numbering issues is to define a New List Style (34:10).

TABS

Tabs are required throughout most documents. They can cause particularly troublesome issues in headers and footers and the table of contents of a document (36:30). Making tabs consistent for landscape versus portrait formatted documents was addressed. Word has a tool called the Insert Alignment Tab under the Header and Footer Tools Ribbon. A user can link formatting, including tab alignment and margins, to a previous portion of the document with the Link to Previous Section option (37:42).

Tab issues within the Table of Contents issues were addressed as well (40:14). The Ruler needs to be adjusted for the page numbers to line up (41:09). Resetting the hanging indent can resolve the problem (42:20). Once the indent is set up properly, the style of the table of contents can be updated to match the change, and the entire table of contents will automatically be changed.

For further help in troubleshooting MS Word issues, Ms. Crossett recommended *Word 2016 For Professionals for Dummies* by Dan Gookin.

—Alba I. Cid

Cellular Immunotherapies

In February, Dr. Max Jan, pathologist at Mass General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, and the Broad Institute, gave a virtual talk on “Next-generation Cellular Immunotherapies.” A report on this event will appear in the next chapter newsletter.

If you would like to view the recording of Dr. Jan’s presentation, it’s available at <https://bit.ly/3IO01Rc>.

Pop-up Book Club Discussion on You Bet Your Life

In March, chapter members met via Zoom to discuss *You Bet Your Life: From Blood Transfusions to Mass Vaccination, the Long and Risky History of Medical Innovation* by Paul A. Offit, MD (Basic Books, 2021). The book is about successes—and failures—in the history of medical research. This is not a conventional book about medical triumph over disease. It describes occasions when new treatments or techniques actually hurt patients or their caretakers for a variety of reasons. The book is broken up into subsections delving into causes of failures, with chapters illustrating each one with a technique or treatment, such as heart transplantation, antibiotics, and chemotherapy. Each explains the history of treatment approaches, interspersed with anecdotes about the innovations and the positive and negative outcomes for each. For example, one chapter examines the history of X-rays, from the discovery of their usefulness in imaging, to the eventual discovery that X-ray imaging is a high-risk procedure.

Offit wants us to know that we should not lose faith in medicine even though medicine does not have immediate solutions for all problems and that mistakes can be made, even after careful research and analysis suggest a treatment seems promising. He points out that promising animal research does not always translate to success in humans and that the FDA’s oversight is not foolproof. The anecdotes throughout the book are meant to show that all treatments were at one time experimental and that medical science takes time to improve and is not infallible. Every medical treatment is a gamble: when you undergo medical treatment, you bet your life.

Most participants enjoyed the book, but there was disagreement regarding its structure. Some members liked the short anecdotes throughout and believed they helped the author make his points. Others thought the book was disorganized and not cohesive enough to make its points clearly.

One topic of discussion was that the public and the medical community pay more attention to successes than to failures. Obviously, it is exciting to find that a novel technique works, but failures are also important in perfecting treatments or techniques. In a number of Offit’s examples, the physicians whose techniques or treatments did not prove immediately successful became outcasts in the medical community. For instance, Dr. Jim Wilson’s group performed gene therapy on a young man who died from unexpected effects due to the experimental treatment. Wilson went from being a “rock star” in gene therapy, as Offit puts it, to being an outsider in the field. While he was being held in contempt, Wilson continued his research.

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Eventually he figured out what went wrong and developed techniques allowing gene therapy to be used successfully.

According to Offit, an individual should not be afraid of a new procedure or treatment but should analyze its risks and benefits. Although a treatment may fail, it could be a better option than no treatment, and progress in medicine is made even when a treatment goes awry given that much is learned from mistakes in research. Offit asks, “When do we get past the point where we have eliminated a critical amount of uncertainty? When do we cross the line into relative certainty? Do we ever cross it?”

A major part of the group’s discussion was about whether a reader unfamiliar with medical research would be reassured by Offit’s recounting of medical misfortunes. Would that reader be willing to seek medical help after reading descriptions of patients getting hurt or dying when undergoing novel treatments? Would they “bet” their life? For example, some of Offit’s anecdotes give readers an unrealistic view of current medical treatment. In one case he writes of the preventable deaths of individuals who took an antibiotic in a product that was formulated with a toxic substance. In other words, the antibiotic was beneficial, but due to an error in manufacturing, the product was lethal. This mishap could have been prevented had there been oversight, but the FDA did not exist at the time. This kind of error would be extremely unlikely today.

So, would the idea that all treatments are fallible scare individuals from seeking medical care out of fear that treatments could actually hurt or kill them? Offit wants readers to think the opposite: all medical treatments are worth considering after risk-benefit analysis, but there will always be a degree of uncertainty. Many in the book club thought he did not make this point clearly with his examples and that his writing might have the opposite effect.

—Alba I. Cid

Personal Notes

Lynne Munno, MA, MS, director, medical writing at Pfizer, is on the 2021-22 AMWA Board of Directors as a member at large.

Alexis Khalil, MPH, ELS, previously with Agios Pharmaceuticals, has joined Foghorn Therapeutics in Cambridge, Mass. as senior director, medical writing.

Judy Foreman, EdM, of Newton, Mass., has published her first work of fiction, *CRISPR'd: A Medical Thriller*

(Skyhorse Publishing, 2022) An award-winning journalist, Judy is a former *Boston Globe* health columnist and author of three nonfiction books.

Jeanette Towles, MA, and **Jason Casavant, JD**, are coauthors of “Agile Strategies in the Rigid Regulatory Environment,” a feature article in the Spring 2022 *AMWA Journal*. Jeanette is owner and president of Synterex Inc., Dedham, Mass. Jason is executive director, medical writing and quality assurance at Synterex.

Ana Bozas, PhD, CMPP, has joined Pear Therapeutics in Boston as director of medical communications. She was previously with Ionis Pharmaceuticals. In May Ana will participate in a panel on “Breaking tradition: Publishing non-peer review” at ISMCC’s annual conference. Ana is treasurer of the New England Chapter.

OBITUARY

Mary Page Gallagher, an early supporter of New England Chapter programs in Connecticut, died on September 4, 2021, at the age of 94.

Mary had a BA in psychology, a master’s in sociology, and was a certified rehabilitation counselor. A freelance writer and editor, she also was for many years a vocational rehabilitation counselor for the State of Connecticut. She managed to juggle an astonishing number of balls, all while raising seven children including our AMWA colleague and past chapter president, my friend Siobhan Gallagher.

Mary joined AMWA in 1989 and soon attended her first chapter meeting in Connecticut. A “regular” at every local meeting after that, she served on the Connecticut Programs Committee from its inception in 1992 until 2004. She was vice president for Connecticut from 1999 to 2001 and in that role, engineered unusually interesting and well-attended meetings such as a dinner program at the world-renowned psychiatric hospital, the Institute for Living in Hartford, and a nearly 5-hour blockbuster event (“The Medical Writing Pipeline”) at Pfizer’s central research facility in Groton. The Pfizer program drew nearly 80 members and guests.

In 1999 Mary was on the Sturbridge Conference Committee. That year and at later conferences she was a warm and gracious presence at the registration desk. She was also a judge in chapter writing competitions. And during her tenure as Connecticut VP she served on the chapter’s Executive Council and as a delegate to AMWA’s Board of Directors. For her service to the chapter, most especially her contributions to Connecticut programs, she received the chapter’s Good Sport Key Chain Award—a light-hearted recognition, not given lightly.

For me personally, to know her was a privilege and a joy, and I shall continue to cherish her memory.

—Judy Linn

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.

Zohair Ali, MD

Northwell Health
Manhasset, New York

Pauline Alperin, MS

Norwalk, Massachusetts

Shelley Batts, PhD, MWC

Analysis Group Inc.
Boston, Massachusetts

Trisha Berger, PhD

Massachusetts General Hospital
Charlestown, Massachusetts

Maryann Bishop-Jodoin

North Scituate, Rhode Island

Katharin Blackerby, BS

Mersana Therapeutics
Cambridge, Massachusetts

David Boffa

MedThink SciCom
Hopkinton, Massachusetts

Colleen Brady, PhD

Relay Therapeutics
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Rebeca Cardoso, MSc

Karolinska Institutet
Solna
Sweden

Suchitra Chari, MS

Arlington, Massachusetts
MedIndia

Monica Chavan, PharmD, RPh

Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Boston, Massachusetts

Nancy Delgado-Fabian, BS

Fairfield, Connecticut

Maria DeModena, RN, BSN

Saugus, Massachusetts

Mawulorm Denu, MD

Harvard T.H. Chan School of
Public Health
Boston, Massachusetts

Joseph Druso, PhD

University of Vermont
South Burlington, Vermont

Jerry Eberhart, PhD

Merck & Co. Inc.
Boston, Massachusetts

Kimbra Edwards, PhD

CISCRP
Boston, Massachusetts

Samuel Entwisle, PhD

Harvard Medical School
Boston, Massachusetts

Amy Gates, MPH, RN

Waban, Massachusetts

Rita Gelman, MS, CPTC

Biogen Inc.
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Debra Glazier, ASN, RN

Hartford, Connecticut

**Rajaneesh Karimpurath
Gopinath, PhD**

Viscira/VMLY&R
San Francisco, California

Jennifer Harris

Preston, Connecticut

Christina Hatch, BA, RN, LVT

North Yarmouth, Maine

Blake Heath, PhD

Cambridge, Massachusetts
University of Michigan Ann Arbor

Kenton Hetrick, PhD

Massachusetts Institute of
Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Daphne Hosmane, PhD

Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Boston, Massachusetts

Kelly Jackson

West Bethel, Maine
Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc.

Mustafa Janoudi, PharmD

Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Boston, Massachusetts

Eliza-Beth Lerch, PhD

Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Boston, Massachusetts

Miao-Chong Lin, PhD

University of Vermont
Burlington, Vermont

Te-Yueh Lin, PhD

University of Massachusetts
Medical School
Worcester, Massachusetts

Melissa Long, PhD, PharmD

Health and Wellness Partners
Canandaigua, New York

Anna Luke, MA

Mersana Therapeutics
Boston, Massachusetts

Amanda McCabe, PhD

Boston Children's Hospital
Harvard Medical School
Boston, Massachusetts

New Members continued on next page

New Members from previous page

Robert McEachern, PhD
Hamden, Connecticut

Chad McQueen, PharmD
Total CME
Washington Crossing,
Pennsylvania

Liana Merrill, PhD
Middlebury, Vermont
Curry Rockefeller Group

Jennifer Mirra
BioBridges
Waltham, Massachusetts

Donna Mitchell-Magaldi, MSRA
Columbia, Connecticut
Beckton Dickinson

James Monahan, MA
Advanced Instruments LLC
Norwood, Massachusetts

Deirdre Moore, MPhil
Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Kim Morris, BA
Mashpee, Massachusetts

**Brigitta Mueller, MD, MHCM,
MSJ, CPPS, CPHR**
Blue Bell, Pennsylvania
ECRI

CC Mullen, MS, MA
Acumen Medical Communications
Boston, Massachusetts

Paul Nugent, PhD, DABT
Old Saybrook, Connecticut
Pfizer

Cristina Naranjo Ortiz, PhD
Watertown, Massachusetts

Hetu Patel
Lowell, Massachusetts

Sydney Post, MA
Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Boston, Massachusetts

**Jessica Reeves, MSN, MPA,
APRN, FNP-C**
Keene, New Hampshire

Iffe Richards, MD
Milton, Massachusetts

Susan Sfarra, BA, CPM, ELS
Merck & Co. Inc.
Boston, Massachusetts

Mala Sivanandy, MD
Winchester, Massachusetts
*Beth Israel Deaconess Medical
Center*

Frances Slater, PhD, GCHE
Guilford, Connecticut
QIAGEN

Dawn Snow
Kirwan Surgical Products
Marshfield, Massachusetts

Peter Stein, DC, PhD
Roslindale, Massachusetts

Kristin Stephan, PhD
Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Boston, Massachusetts

Monique Tello, MD, MPH
Agenus Inc.
Lexington, Massachusetts

Barbara Thomson, MS, MPH
Alnylam Pharmaceuticals
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Jessica Vinson, BA
Marblehead, Massachusetts
Merck & Co. Inc.

Chinenye Wachuku, DPM
Hoboken University Medical
Center
Hoboken, New Jersey

Katherine Webster, MD
Cumberland, Maine

Samuel Whitney, MS, PA-C
Tufts Medical Center
Boston, Massachusetts

Kathi Wood, BS
Pfizer
Groton, Connecticut

Members' Input Welcome

The New England Chapter's leaders are always open to members' suggestions, comments, and critiques. Please feel free to contact the president or any other leader via the New England Chapter website (<https://amwa-ne.org/contact/>).

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. If you have any questions, contact Sami Heimer, LinkedIn subgroup coordinator, at 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. The award covers AMWA dues for one year and offers free registration for the chapter's educational programs during that year. For details and an online application form, go to <https://amwa-ne.org/awards/>.

Local Networking Coordinators

The chapter now has four local networking coordinators or LNCs (pronounced "links") who plan and coordinate informal events. In addition to the LNCs in Cambridge and in Worcester, a local network for Maine members is starting up, with Katherine Webster as LNC, and Elisabeth Moore will coordinate events for members in Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts.

If you are interested in becoming a chapter LNC for your area, please get in touch with President Jessica Solodar via the chapter website (<https://amwa-ne.org/contact/>).

Candidates for Office

Thank you to all those who responded to the letter from AMWA encouraging members to take on a volunteer role in the chapter. We are contacting each person who indicated interest and trying to match their interests with current needs.

In addition, our Nominating Committee, chaired by President-Elect Patricia Fonseca, is beginning to select candidates for officer positions that start July 1. If you want to learn more or wish to submit a nomination, contact Patricia at pfonseca@medical@gmail.com.

The Nominating Committee will announce the slate of officers in May.

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER 2021-22 LEADERSHIP

Board of Directors

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Jessica Solodar

PRESIDENT-ELECT: Patricia Fonseca

SECRETARY: Ellie Lin

TREASURER: Ana Bozas

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Haifa Kassis

Advisory Council

CONNECTICUT PROGRAM CHAIR: Margaret Burke

LOCAL NETWORKING COORDINATORS:

Andrea Gwosdow (Cambridge, Mass.)

Ellie Lin (Worcester, Mass.)

Elisabeth Moore (Rhode Island, southeastern Mass.)

Katherine Webster (Maine)

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR: Judy Linn

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS CHAIR: Debbie von Rechenberg

POLICIES & PROCEDURES TASK FORCE CHAIR: Deborah Ferguson

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Judy Linn

WEBSITE COORDINATOR: Sami Hiemer

LINKEDIN SUBGROUP: Sami Hiemer

REPRESENTATIVE TO AMWA CHAPTER ADVISORY COUNCIL: Dara Chadwick

COUNCILORS-AT-LARGE:

Marisa Greenfield

Brian Head

Dora Levin

Karishma Manzur

Joyce O'Connell

Jill Shuman

Theresa Singleton

Linda Valsdottir

Other Positions

AMWA New England E-News Editor: President Jessica Solodar

Program Director: President-Elect Patricia Fonseca

Nominating Committee Chair: President-Elect Patricia Fonseca