June 10: Dinner Meeting in Wellesley, Mass.

Exploring the Bridge Between Narrative and Healthcare: An Evening with Award-Winning Physician/Author Dr. Julian Seifter

The New England Chapter is honored to have Julian Seifter, MD, as guest speaker for our final event of the year—a dinner meeting on Monday, June 10, at Papa Razzi in Wellesley, Mass. Dr. Seifter is a Harvard professor and a nephrologist at Brigham and Women’s Hospital who, with his wife, Betsy Seifter, PhD, coauthored After the Diagnosis: Transcending Chronic Illness. Part memoir, part self-help book, part questioning essay, After the Diagnosis is based on Dr. Seifter’s personal experiences as a physician with a chronic illness who also cares for those with chronic illness.

Since its publication by Simon & Schuster in 2010, After the Diagnosis has been embraced by patients and clinicians alike for its compelling illustration of why people with a chronic illness must deal with life in ways that make sense to them. By weaving patient narratives with his own health struggles, Dr. Seifter has created a frank and poignant account of his experiences both as a doctor and as a patient.

The Wall Street Journal named After the Diagnosis one of the five top health-related books of 2010. In 2012, the book received the New England Chapter’s highest writing honor, the Neil Duane Award for Distinction in Medical Communication.

In addition to After the Diagnosis, Dr. Seifter has written numerous scientific papers, journal articles, and textbook chapters, and he is the lead author of Concepts in Medical Physiology, published by Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. He has been involved in medical education at Harvard at every level and has received many faculty teaching awards. He has also been on local, national, and international “top doctor” lists for the last twenty years.

Dr. Seifter will describe his writing process and share strategies for developing a creative writing style that will engage and influence readers who may or may not have a medical background. He will also discuss the benefits of collaborative writing and why storytelling—the medical narrative—is a burgeoning model for medical reporting as well as for humane and effective medical practice.

Please join your colleagues on June 10 for an evening of friendly networking, a fabulous Italian dinner, and professional as well as personal inspiration from this acclaimed physician, teacher, and storyteller.

As always, guests and prospective members are welcome.

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Chapter Calendar

The New England Chapter’s year begins in mid-June, when the new slate of officers takes over. The officers and other members of the chapter’s Executive Council meet during the summer, but there are no general activities during July and August.

Regular Meetings: The chapter holds six regular meetings from September through June. Four of these meetings are in the Greater Boston area, and two are in Connecticut. Typically, these meetings start 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.

Special Events: In addition to the regular meetings, the chapter holds one special event each year. A writing competition, culminating in presentation of the Will Solimene Awards for Excellence in Medical Communication, is held every other year. In the alternate years, the chapter holds the New England Conference, a full day of workshops on a Saturday in the spring.

Occasional Extras: Once in a while, an informal event, such as a networking lunch or a tour, is scheduled.

May 22 – Dinner Meeting
New Haven, Conn.
The chapter’s spring meeting in Connecticut will be held on Wednesday, May 22, at Kudeta, an Asian fusion restaurant in New Haven. Judy E. Harrison, MD, a clinical research and pharmacovigilance consultant, will talk about “MedDRA for Medical Writers: A Common Language for Communication.” For details, go to www.amwa.org and click in the Upcoming Events panel on the home page.

June 10 – Dinner Meeting
Wellesley, Mass.
Details on page 1.

September 11 – Dinner Meeting
Greater Boston Area
Make a note on your calendar: The first chapter meeting of the 2013-14 year is scheduled for Wednesday, September 11. Jill Shuman, MS, RD, ELS, CCMEP, will talk about filling in gaps in your education and experience with professional certifications and other credentials that can differentiate you from your peers.

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER NEWS, published 4 times a year by 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
37 FORTY ACRES DRIVE
WAYLAND, MASSACHUSETTS 01778

Judy Linn, Newsletter Editor
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Fax: 508-358-7081
E-mail: judylinn@aol.com
www.amwa-ne.org

Other Meetings in New England

June 23-27
Drug Information Association
The annual meeting of the DIA is being held in Boston at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. For information, go to: www.diahome.org.

September 28-October 2
Regulatory Affairs Professionals Society
“2013 RAPS: The Regulatory Convergence” will be held in Boston at the Hynes Convention Center. For information, go to: www.raps.org.

Local University Courses

The Health Communication Summer Institute at Tufts University School of Medicine is offering three courses for professional development:

• May 22-June 26 – “Mobile Health Design” (online)
• June 10-14 – “The Health Literacy Curriculum Development & Educational Leadership Institute” (Boston campus)
• July 14-19 – “Institute on Digital Strategies for Health Communication” (Boston Campus)

For information, go to:

2013 AMWA Annual Conference

Medical writers from throughout the U.S., Canada, and beyond will meet in Columbus, Ohio, November 6-9, for AMWA’s 73rd Annual Conference. This year’s conference has been extended to 4 days to allow for an even more expansive program of workshops, roundtables, panel discussions, lectures, poster presentations, how-to sessions, networking opportunities, social events, exhibits, and more. For preliminary information, go to: http://www.amwa.org/default.asp?id=575.

During the conference, New England attendees will have a chance to get together at the “Chapter Greet & Go” on Thursday, November 7, and then go out to dinner as a group. If you are planning to be in Columbus, you won’t want to miss this always popular informal meeting in a nearby restaurant. The AMWA New England E-News will give details once plans are in place.
Chapter Officers

The New England Chapter’s officers for the 2013-14 year will be introduced at our dinner meeting at Papa Razzi in Wellesley, Mass., on June 10—the last event of the 2012-13 year. Their one-year term begins at that time.

Officers (Automatic)

In accordance with our chapter bylaws, the President is elected a year ahead of time to ensure continuity. During the year as President-Elect, he or she serves as Program Director. Then, after a year as President, he or she serves the chapter for still another year as Immediate Past President. In the coming year, Shanna McClennen will be President and Derek Dore will be Immediate Past President.

**PRESIDENT:** Shanna J. McClennen
An AMWA member since 2001, Shanna joined the New England Chapter in 2009, when she moved here from Pennsylvania. She is a graduate of Wellesley College and has a PhD in biochemistry from the University of Michigan Medical School. She has been a medical writer for 13 years, the last 7 as a freelance, specializing in sales training materials, scientific posters, white papers, and other medical writing projects.

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:** Derek Dore
Derek, an AMWA member since 2008, has a doctor of pharmacy degree from the University of Rhode Island and is working toward a master’s in technical communication (biomedical writing concentration) at Northeastern University. He is a freelance writer and clinical consultant, specializing in clinical literature reviews, continuing medical education materials, medical conference coverage, consumer-oriented medical publications, and journal article preparation. He also has over 15 years of experience working in pharmacy practice.

**SECRETARY:** Marisa Greenfield
Marisa has a bachelor’s in chemistry from the College of the Holy Cross and a master’s in chemistry from Northeastern University. After 6 years as a chemist, she transitioned to medical writing, eventually becoming an associate director, medical writing at Genzyme. In 2010 she established her own freelance business, providing research, writing, and editing services to pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, authors of books and articles, and nonprofit organizations. She has been an AMWA member since 1999. Earlier this year Marisa was appointed to the chapter’s Executive Council as a member-at-large.

**TREASURER:** Jill Shuman
Jill is being nominated for another term as Treasurer. She is a graduate of Simmons College and has a master’s from UMass Amherst. She is a Registered Dietitian, a certified Editor in the Life Sciences, and a certified CME professional. She has extensive experience as a writer, editor, teacher, and project manager in many areas of medical and scientific communication. A member of AMWA since 1991, she was chapter president in 1995-96 and since then has played a major role in almost every chapter activity, including the Solimene Awards competition and the New England Conference. Jill has also served on several national AMWA committees. In 2003 she was named an AMWA Fellow in recognition of her professional achievements and her numerous contributions to AMWA and the New England Chapter.

Nominees for Office

The Nominating Committee was chaired by President-Elect Shanna McClennen and included President Derek Dore, Andrea Gwosdow, Michelle Horan, and Kristin Stephan. The committee has presented the following slate of officers to serve along with Shanna and Derek in the coming year.

**PRESIDENT-ELECT:** Theresa Singleton
Theresa, who served as Secretary this year, has a bachelor’s in nutritional science from Cornell University and a PhD in microbiology and immunology from Boston University School of Medicine. After 4 years of postdoctoral training at Children’s Hospital Boston, she decided to transition to medical writing. She took a break from work to network and to sharpen her communication skills and within a few months was offered a position as a scientific writer/editor at Cell Signaling Technology. After 2 years there, she is now building her own freelance writing and editing business. Theresa has been an AMWA member since 2010. Last fall she organized the New England Chapter dinner meeting at the AMWA conference in Sacramento, Calif.

**SECRETARY:** Marisa Greenfield
Marisa has a bachelor’s in chemistry from the College of the Holy Cross and a master’s in chemistry from Northeastern University. After 6 years as a chemist, she transitioned to medical writing, eventually becoming an associate director, medical writing at Genzyme. In 2010 she established her own freelance business, providing research, writing, and editing services to pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, authors of books and articles, and nonprofit organizations. She has been an AMWA member since 1999. Earlier this year Marisa was appointed to the chapter’s Executive Council as a member-at-large.

**VICE PRESIDENT/CONNECTICUT:** Jill Max
After earning a BA from the University of Pittsburgh, Jill spent 14 years producing radio and TV commercials for advertising agencies. Then, with a with a master’s in journalism (health and science concentration) from the Columbia University School of Journalism, she shifted to a career as a freelance science and health writer. She has been an AMWA member since 2001. In 2010 she received an award of excellence from the Association of American Medical Colleges and last year won two Will Solimene Awards for Excellence in Medical Communication. At the New England Conference this spring, Jill was one of the co-leaders of the Freelance Forum and also led a luncheon roundtable discussion on “Interviewing Scientists, Clinicians, and Patients.”

Delegates to AMWA Board of Directors

As one of the larger AMWA chapters, New England has two representatives on the national Board of Directors. In accordance with our bylaws, these board delegates are the President and the President-Elect, with the Immediate Past President and the Vice President/Connecticut serving as alternates.
Linn Membership Awards
New England Chapter Will Pay for National Dues

The New England Chapter’s competitive Judy Linn Membership Awards—named for Judy to honor her for her many contributions to the chapter—provide support for up to three new medical writers at a time.

For each recipient, the chapter covers the cost of one year’s membership in AMWA, which automatically includes chapter membership. The chapter also waives registration fees for all the regular chapter meetings during the award year. As a further benefit, experienced members, including those who serve on the Membership Awards Committee, are available to provide guidance in their various areas of expertise.

The chapter will consider applications from candidates who are at an early stage in their career and are living and working in New England.

Candidates may apply on their own, or they may be nominated by a chapter member. There is no application fee, and an application may be submitted at any time. If you know someone who may be qualified for this award, or if you wish to apply yourself, go to www.amwa-ne.org and click on Awards.

If you have questions, please contact the membership awards director, David Olle, at davidolle@comcast.net.

Chapter LinkedIn Subgroup
Regional Networking Community Open to All

Our chapter’s LinkedIn subgroup is now open to anyone in New England with an interest in medical writing—prospective members as well as AMWA members. To join the local online conversation, go to www.linkedin.com and follow the links to subgroups.

If you have a problem with signup, or any questions about content, please contact Laurie MacDougall, our LinkedIn subgroup manager, at calicomedcomm@gmail.com.

“AMWA New England E-News”
Regional Meeting Announcements, Job Notices

Keep an eye out for the New England Chapter’s E-News, an occasional email with “AMWA New England E-News” in the subject line. The brief messages let you know about local job openings, freelance opportunities, upcoming chapter meetings, and other events of possible interest to New England medical writers.

President Derek Dore (derekdorerrx@gmail.com), editor of the electronic newsletter, will continue to send you the E-News until midsummer, when he will transfer the editorship to our president for the 2013-14 year, Shanna McClennen (shannamcclennen@gmail.com).

The E-News is sent only to chapter members, but others are welcome to submit items to the editor for consideration. There is no charge for listings, but they must be concise, with a link to further information for those who wish to follow up. Job notices must conform to guidelines posted on the chapter website (http://www.amwa-ne.org/jobs).

Personal Notes

Kristin L. Hood, PhD, is now a principal medical writer, scientific communications at Covidien. She was previously a medical writing fellow at Boston Scientific Corporation.

At the Drug Information Association’s annual meeting in Boston this month, Linda Fossati Wood, RN, MPH, a member of the DIA program committee, will chair a symposium on “Protocol Trends and Strategies for Quality” and will be a panelist in another session on clinical trials protocols. Linda is president of MedWrite Inc., which provides consulting services to the pharmaceutical, biotech, and medical device industries. She is coauthor of Targeted Regulatory Writing Techniques, winner of the New England Chapter’s Neil Duane Award for Distinction in 2010. She is a past president of the New England Chapter and a longtime contributor to chapter programs, most recently as a co-leader of the session on “Transitioning to Medical Writing from Allied Fields” at the conference in Sturbridge in April.

Jerome P. Lang, MD, wears many professional hats, among them: physician at Concentra Occupational Health Services, freelance medical writer, and consultant to a CRO. Now he is also the president of Fran Lang Productions Inc., a publishing company he formed to distribute short plays for reading aloud “in front of friendly people.” These plays, authored by his late mother, Fran Lang, are described as “perfect performance activities for senior living facilities, even amateur theaters.” More information is available at www.readersplays.com.

Anthony Palmieri, MPH, formerly at PAREXEL, is now a senior medical writer at Millennium Pharmaceuticals.

CHAPTER CHANGE: Helen M. Wilfearth, PhD, has moved to Santa Fe, N.M., and is now a member of the Southwest Chapter.
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:

Summer Adams, MPH
Bedford, New Hampshire

Justin Allen, PhD
Boston Children’s Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts

Julie H. Baldwin
Baldwin Medical Communications
Westborough, Massachusetts

Cynthia F. Barber, PhD
Wayland, Massachusetts
Brandeis University

Julie Beauregard, MLIS
Medford, Massachusetts
Informed Medical Decisions Foundation

Karen L. Berg, PhD
Danbury, Connecticut

Kristin L. Brooks, MS
Strategic Regulatory & Scientific Communication
Arlington, Massachusetts

Jocelyn W. Burke, PhD
Wallingford, Connecticut

Jingfei Cai
Brighton, Massachusetts

Michelle Calabretta, PhD
Stamford, Connecticut
Articulate Science
[from Southeast Chapter]

Susan Carr
North Canton, Connecticut

Jennifer G. Chickering, PhD
Framingham, Massachusetts

Kenneth Chui, PhD, MPH
Tufts University
Boston, Massachusetts

Alisa H. Colbert, OD
Great Barrington, Massachusetts

Kimberly Cufari
Boston, Massachusetts
Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research

Jennifer DiNieri, PhD
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Thomas J. Doyle, MD
Providence, Rhode Island

Steven Mark Eggleston, PharmD, MBA
Genzyme
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Cecile Galloway, RN, LNC
Tyngsboro, Massachusetts

Linda Geisler, BS, MA
LMG Editorial Services LLC
Fairfield, Connecticut

Rita S. Gelman, MS
Brookline, Massachusetts
Ironwood Pharmaceuticals

Linda M. Gregoire, PT, MS
Boston, Massachusetts

Theresa Griffin, BS
Arlington, Massachusetts

Nancy W. Hoffmann, MSW
Hopkinton, New Hampshire

Derick C. Hoskinson
Boston, Massachusetts

Leslie Ingraham, MSN
Portland, Maine

Adrienne Julien, BS
Ridgefield, Connecticut

MaryEllen Carlile Klusacek, PhD
Biogen Idec
Weston, Massachusetts

Mary Kunjappu, PhD
New Haven, Connecticut

Thom P. LeBrun
CBSET Inc.
Lexington, Massachusetts

Lori D. MacCausland, MA
Lori MacCausland Consulting LLC
Hingham, Massachusetts

Jennifer Markowitz, MD
Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts

Christine McMorrow, BA
Chris McMorrow Communications
Waltham, Massachusetts

Beatrice Mendez, BS
Beverly, Massachusetts

Lydia Morrison, MS
Arlington, Massachusetts
Cell Signaling Technology Inc.

Laveena Muley, PhD
Burlington, Massachusetts
Vertex Pharmaceuticals

Radha S. Narayan, PhD
Belmont, Massachusetts
Sitis Pharmaceuticals

Mona Nolde, PhD
New Haven, Connecticut

Gwenn S. O’Keeffe, MD
Pediatrics Now
Wayland, Massachusetts

Elizabeth Preisinger, MD
Roslindale. Massachusetts
Providence VA Medical Center

Charlotte A. Ringleb, BA
Straumann USA LLC
Andover, Massachusetts

Jane Sherwin, MA, MBA
WordDrive Communications
Belmont, Massachusetts

Shouryaadeep Srivastava, MD, PhD
Biogen Idec
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Debra L. Stamper, PhD
Veristat
Holliston, Massachusetts

Shannon L. Tierney, BA
CBSET Inc.
Lexington, Massachusetts

Roshawn Watson, PharmD, PhD
Saugus, Massachusetts
Synchrogenix
[from Mid-Atlantic Chapter]

Carolyn G. Wisnowski, BS
CBSET Inc.
Lexington, Massachusetts
How to Register for June 10 Meeting
You can register for this meeting either online or by mail, depending on how you wish to pay.

(1) To pay by credit card, use the electronic registration form on the chapter website (www.amwa-ne.org). Fill it out and continue to the PayPal form, where you can enter your credit card information. (You don’t need a PayPal account, and you will not be charged a fee for the transaction.)

(2) To pay by check, download the printable registration form from the chapter website (www.amwa-ne.org), print a copy, fill it out, and mail it with your check to the address on the form.

Directions to June 10 Meeting
Papa Razzi
16 Washington Street (Route 16)
Wellesley, Massachusetts
781-235-4747

The restaurant is located in the Wellesley Hills area, about half a mile west of Route 128.

Heading South on Route 128/I-95: Take Exit 21B (Route 16 West/Wellesley). Merge onto Quinobequin Road. Turn right onto Route 16 West/Washington Street. The restaurant will be 0.4 mi. ahead on the left.

Heading North on Route 128/I-95: Take Exit 21 (Route 16 toward Newton/Wellesley). Turn left onto Route 16 West/Washington Street. The restaurant will be 0.6 mi. ahead on the left.

For detailed driving directions, you can go to: http://boston.citysearch.com/profile/4802944/wellesley_ma/papa_razzi.html.

Need a ride to the meeting?
The restaurant is not easily reached by public transportation. If you don’t have a car, ask Judy Linn (judyhlinn@aol.com) whether there is someone from your area who might be able to give you a lift.

Summer Executive Council Meeting
The Executive Council—the chapter’s officers, committee directors, and council members-at-large—will meet in early summer to begin planning the next chapter year. If there is anything you feel should be addressed by the chapter leadership, whether an idea for a meeting or a suggestion for new or improved services, please feel free to share your thoughts with incoming president Shanna McClennen. Any chapter member is welcome to suggest an item for the council meeting agenda. Send a note to Shanna at shannamcclennen@gmail.com.

EXECCUTIVE COUNCIL 2012-13

OFFICERS
PRESIDENT: Derek Dore
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Kristin Stephan
PRESIDENT-ELECT: Shanna J. McClennen
VICE PRESIDENT/CONNECTICUT: Michelle R. Horan
SECRETARY: Theresa E. Singleton
TREASURER: Jill M. Shuman

DIRECTORS / COMMITTEE MEMBERS
PROGRAMS: Shanna J. McClennen
CONNECTICUT PROGRAMS: Michelle R. Horan
Anita P. Kuan, Manjula Puthenetad
MEMBERSHIP: Judy Linn
MEMBERSHIP AWARDS: David A. Olle
Francesca Coltrera, Nancy Knoblock Hunton, Jill M. Shuman, Debbie von Rechenberg
E-NEWS: Derek Dore
NEWSLETTER: Judy Linn
LINKEDIN SUBGROUP: Laurie A. MacDougall
CHAPTER CONFERENCE: Judy Linn/Laurie MacDougall/
Jill M. Shuman
Siobhan Gallagher
NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Shanna J. McClennen
Derek Dore (ex officio), Andrea Gwosdow, Michelle R. Horan, Kristin Stephan
WEB SITE: Aaron Federman
Judy Linn, Jill Shuman

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE
Francesca Coltrera, Marisa C. Greenfield, Andrea Gwosdow, Laurie B. LaRusso, Margaret Lynch, Joann H. Merriman, Olivier Morteau, Nicola M. Parry, Debbie von Rechenberg

DELEGATES TO AMWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Derek Dore, Shanna J. McClennen

ALTERNATES: Kristin Stephan, Michelle R. Horan