

EMWA Newsblast - June 2019



48th EMWA Conference, Vienna 7th - 11th May 2019

This year's EMWA Spring conference, held in Vienna, Austria, hosted over 440 medical writers and representatives from related fields. The 48th EMWA conference was the [biggest event](#) the organization has ever put on!

Save the date for the next one!

The 49th EMWA Conference in Malmö will be held on the 7 - 9 November 2019 at the Scandic Triangeln Hotel, Malmö.

The Joint Position Statement

on the Role of Medical Writers is available in Greek. You can read the statement in a variety of different languages by clicking on the relevant language tabs from the English language [Joint Position Statement](#) page.

A new Special Interest Group on Medical Communications is set!

Medical Communications Special Interest Group (MedComm SIG) has been established at the Spring Conference in Vienna. The intent is to support wide medical communication activities (including scientific disclosure & publications, lay language summaries/communication, etc) of EMWA members acting as a source of affordable and updated information.

To date the following topics have been identified:

- predatory journals/conferences
- medical journalism
- writing for patients/lay audience
- big data disclosure

The group will be co-chaired by Slavka Baronikova and Andrea Rossi; Andrea Bucceri, Julia Donnelly and Thomas Schindler are members of the committee and Evguenia Alechine, Tiziana von Bruchhausen, Lisa Chamberlain-James, Diarmuid De Faioite, Martin Delahunty, Beatrix Doerr, Art Gertel, Phil Leventhal, and Miyuki Taichi have confirmed their willingness to act as supporting members.

The first activity of MedCommSIG will be to finalise and ensure higher visibility to the AMWA-EMWA-ISMMP Joint Position Statement (JPS) on predatory publishing. Some activities, including the preparation of a seminar, a webinar and related articles in MEW, development of further educational materials as well as liaison with AMWA and ISMPP to maximise educational activities within these associations are planned in order to enlarge the JPS impact, knowledge and training.

Articles, EMWA presentations on the different topics will be selected to be easily located in the MedCommSIG section of our website.

As EMWA is an organisation of members for members, we look forward to establishing the program of MedCommSIG group based on unmet needs of EMWA members in this field. Therefore we welcome your suggestions for the topics to be addressed as well as we seek your support based on your know-how and expertise in medical/scientific communication-related topics of interest.

From the Education Committee

Thanks to all the workshop leaders who ran their workshops in Vienna, and to everyone who completed the workshop evaluation forms. The EMWA Professional Development Committee (EPDC) looks at all of them and values your comments.

We've added new or updated workshops on a range of topics to the education programme. These include workshops on clinical study protocols, clinical evaluation reports for medical devices, development safety update reports, clinical study reports in oncology, and statistics.

We enjoyed talking to conference delegates at our open session at the conference, but we are pleased to hear from members at any time. Contact us with any queries or comments on education@emwa.org

Now we're starting planning the workshop programme for Malmö in November.

Marian Hodges, Education Officer

Webinars

The webinar team is looking for a volunteer who can help host webinar practice and live sessions. The time needed will be a maximum of 5 hours a month, at the time practice sessions and live webinars are scheduled. You need to be comfortable using an online meeting platform and acting as host for webinar speakers. Please contact us at webinars@emwa.org if you would like to receive further information or have questions.

Regulatory News

Regulatory Public Disclosure (RPD) Regulatory News

1. [ICH E8\(R1\)](#) – 'General Considerations for Clinical Trials' Updated
2. Further ICH Planned Guideline Updates - [2019 and Beyond](#)
3. EMA Policy 0070 [Updated 21 March 2019](#)
4. Academia and Clinical Trials [Results Posting](#)
5. [Privacy for America](#)
6. CORE Reference – [3 years on](#)
7. Data Sharing Resources
 - a. [VVL](#)
 - b. [FAIR Data Guiding Principles](#)
 - c. [BioMedCentral Series](#): BMC Research Notes

Read more [here](#)

Ambassador's Programme Update

The [EMWA Ambassador's Programme](#) continues to make progress in spreading the word about medical writing at universities and career events all over Europe.

At the Vienna conference, we had two lunch table discussions on 9 and 10 May. In attendance were Alison Rapley, John Carpenter, Andrea Rossi, Derek Ho, Raquel Billiones, Gauri-Jawdekar-Abraham, Phil Leventhal, Satyen Shenoy, Anne McDonough, and Miyuki Tauchi. We discussed the current status of the program, ideas on how to reach out to universities and career events, and how to promote the "Getting into Medical Writing Session" during our EMWA Spring conferences.

Our newest Ambassador, Walter Seiler represented EMWA at the JobWonder career event held yearly at the Technical University in Berlin. He shared his knowledge in the field of medical writing and the benefits of joining EMWA, which was highly appreciated.

Abe Shevack attended a career event organised by the SciMed medical writers group in Amsterdam at the OBA Congress Library attended by 15 writers and young scientists. The organisers of the SciMed networking group are Sally Hill, Jackie Johnson, Gabriela Plucinska, and Mariella Franker. This group meets regularly to share information on topics of interest to medical writers and scientific editors. Abe spoke about careers in medical writing and the benefits of joining EMWA. He also participated in a panel discussion that included 6 in-house and freelance writers who answered questions from the audience about how they got started in the field of medical writing. Sally held a short training session on editing followed by refreshments and a networking session. It was an informative and highly enjoyable meeting.

On 6 June, Amy Whereat and the French medical writer's group in Paris will be holding a meeting dedicated to careers.

John Carpenter will be attending a NetComms event in London at the University of Westminster on June 20. Tiziana von Bruchhausen is planning to give a talk on medical writing and EMWA at the Dr. Notghi clinical training academy in Berlin. The date of Tiziana's talk will be announced soon. Last but not least, Raquel Billiones is planning to give another presentation at the University of the Philippines in the not too distant future.

We are always looking to find out about upcoming career events at universities or elsewhere where EMWA Ambassadors may attend and promote our profession and organisation.

If you hear about such events or if you are an experienced EMWA volunteer interested in an Ambassador please contact Abe Shevack at aspscientist@gmail.com.

BELs Exam Update

For the convenience of our members attending the May 2019 EMWA Conference in Vienna, the Board of Editors in the Life Sciences (BELS) held its examination on 7 May before the start of the conference. The exam is offered worldwide and tests proficiency in manuscript editing. Candidates who pass this certification exam are allowed to add the initials "ELS" after their names (Editor in the Life Sciences). Altogether 9 candidates took the exam, 4 of whom were also attending the conference. We will continue to collaborate with BELS for next year's conference in Prague. For more information on future examination dates please go to the bels.org website.

MedComms Day is coming up on 12 June

The 8th such annual global event will start just after midnight, New Zealand time, on 12 June. It will end as the sun sets somewhere on the West coast of the USA. And who knows what'll happen in between? If the past seven years are anything to go by, it should be busy - and hopefully fun. Read more [here](#).

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