

President's Message

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Dear medical writers



I can't believe that we are now at the end of 2014 – the ideal time to look back upon the achievements of the past year and opportunities for 2015. One of the greatest landmarks was the launch of the revamped EMWA

website in March. With a new look and intuitive navigation, we now have a website to be proud of without double-login. Diarmuid De Faoite and Kieran Zealand, thank you for your remarkable efforts.

In May, we went to an unseasonal Budapest (oh for the sunshine we had in 2004 on our previous visit!). The conference was exceptionally well-supported and the number of delegates was the highest for a non-UK-based location. The EMWA Professional Development Committee, headed up by Jo Whelan and her successor, Barbara Grossman, delivered a comprehensive programme which ranged, as usual, from 'over-subscribed' to 'well attended'. We were treated to a full-day symposium on 'Transparency of clinical data – where does medical writing fit in?'. The educational value of the day has been prolonged by the publication of a post-meeting supplement, which includes papers from each of the speakers. Thank you to Kathy Thomas and Alistair Reeves for their immense efforts in bringing this initiative to fruition. Also, Sam Hamilton (Vice President) and Art Gertel (EMWA fellow) set up the EMWA Budapest Working Group, a collaboration of medical writers, professional associations, regulators, and industry experts, with the remit of reviewing the ICH E3 and E6 guidelines over the next 2 years.

Florence was the venue for our Autumn 2014 conference. Amazingly, 28 workshops were delivered over four sessions from Thursday until Saturday. Our past president, Andrea Rossi, welcomed EMWA to his stunning home town and Professor Fusco described *What scientific societies need from medical writers in the Mediterranean region*. In addition to Helen Baldwin's *Introduction to medical writing and the freelance business forum*, Sam and Art presented an update of the progress of the Budapest Working Group. The social programme encouraged us to explore the local sights and

flavours. The continued success of our conferences is due to the hard work of many committee members, workshop leaders, and volunteers, as well as the Conference Directors (Alistair Reeves and Slavka Baronikova), Candi Bond Gunning, and the whole of the Head Office.

This is the fourth issue of *Medical Writing* in 2014. Phil Leventhal, his co-editors, and all contributors work ceaselessly to deliver our bespoke journal, with its unique and wide-ranging content. Previous issues in 2014 have presented journal software for medical writers, introduced the basics of regulatory writing, and have explored non-clinical health writing. The possibilities for writing on cosmetics, chemical products, and veterinary medicine indeed broaden the horizons for writers looking for new applications and challenges.

In between the conferences, the first EMWA webinars were delivered by Laura Collada Ali and her colleagues in the PR team; this initiative will be developed and expanded over the coming years. Executive Committee members attended careers events for post-graduate students, organised by Pharma Network and represented EMWA at meetings of related societies. In addition to the visible achievements, Sarah Choudhary as Honorary Secretary and James Visjani as Treasurer, with the capable support of Lynne Fletcher and the team at Kingston Smith, have maintained the constitution and finances of EMWA throughout the year.

In 2015, we will be visiting Dublin in May and The Hague in November. The Spring conference will see the launch of the EMWA expert sessions, complimentary groups which will offer experienced members the opportunity to learn about new areas and applications as well as sharing their experiences. Further progress with e-learning is anticipated and the new 3-year EMWA strategy will be in place. It certainly will be another busy year.

Finally, I would like to thank Head Office, our committees, volunteers, and our membership for all the success and achievements in 2014. I would like to wish you all Seasons' Greetings and look forward to seeing many of you in 2015.

Best wishes,
Julia Donnelly