

Membership announcement

SECTION EDITOR



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We recently announced with deepest sadness the loss of Nicky Dodsworth, a long-term EMWA supporter and workshop leader. Nicky enriched our educational programme with her knowledge and our hearts with her bright personality. We are thankful for her valuable contribution, the good memories, and the friendships that developed at EMWA. Nicky will be truly missed by her EMWA friends. Here are a few memories of Nicky from EMWA members:

Marian Hodges, chair, EMWA Professional Development Committee

"Very good workshop. Good energy, great interactivity." "Workshop was very well delivered, interesting, informative, and Nicky made the 'dry' nature of the subject of quality more exciting." These comments, typical of those from many participants in Nicky's workshop, demonstrate how very fortunate EMWA was to have her support for our education programme. She imaginatively and engagingly shared her expertise with fellow medical writers in her workshop on Quality Awareness in Clinical Study Report Development. This was a valuable part of the programme since she first presented it in 2010, and many EMWA colleagues have benefited from learning from her extensive knowledge and experience.

Sam Hamilton

Nicky gave me my first break in medical writing. She was my manager for several years in the "noughties", when we worked together in a large CRO; Nicky and I soon became firm friends. She was very funny and kind and we stayed in touch. After we parted ways at work, we looked forward to catching up in person at EMWA conferences – I often heard her from across the room before I saw her – laughing and charming those around her. She was a beautiful person, inside and out, with her mass of blond curls, bubbly persona, and her warm way with people. She was always so interested in my family – both my children were born when I worked for her, and she and my husband Paul got on famously. As well as her successful multidisciplinary clinical research career – most recently in QA – Nicky freely gave her time and expertise as a member of her local health authority's research ethics committee. She was an energetic "giver" in many other ways too in her local community, especially after her

beloved twin boys, Sam and Tom – now in their mid twenties – left home. Her devoted husband, Steve, accompanied Nicky to the Cyprus conference, where Paul and I, along with Nicky's many other EMWA friends, enjoyed a lively evening in their company. Happy memories. Nicky was so full of life; she was taken far too soon from her family and friends. I, like so many others, will miss her so much.

Debbie Jordan

I am sure many people who have met Nicky will have the same first impression of her as I had – a bright bubbly person with a permanent smile on her face, an infectious laugh, and a mass of gorgeous blonde hair! She was always chatting and laughing and she would get on well with everyone and she always took the time to be friendly and to get to know the people around her. However, as well as being an incredibly nice person she was also extremely knowledgeable. She spent the early part of her career in QA as an auditor, before moving out for a while into the medical writing field, where she ended up heading up the medical writing group in a large CRO, working with all sorts of documents as well as handling many large submissions. She also spent a lot of time training and mentoring other writers, all of whom I am sure learnt a lot from her since she was a natural trainer with real empathy. However, her natural calling was QA so she returned to this field, gradually working her way up to become the Vice-President for QA, but she couldn't break her bonds with medical writing and was a regular EMWA trainer teaching on the QA aspects of clinical research.

On a personal note, Nicky took me on as a freelance writer when she was Head of Medical Writing at PRA and she provided me with a lot of work in my early years as a freelancer, both directly and through recommending me to her colleagues, for which I will always be grateful. However, what I remember most about those days is whenever I had to attend a meeting at the company main office she would always make



time to come out and invite me into her office for a cup of coffee and a chat about all sorts of things – family, children, politics, life, and occasionally a bit about work too (and on several occasions she made me late for the meetings I was there to attend!). The last time I saw Nicky was at the railway station in Birmingham after the EMWA conference in spring 2017. All the workshop leaders had been given a large green umbrella as a thank-you present for running our workshops and I remember seeing Nicky coming along the crowded platform with a suitcase, a laptop bag and a handbag and trying to avoid hitting people with this large green umbrella that she had tucked under her arm. She caught my eye and turned round and smiled, side-swiping some poor man with this umbrella that had us both in stitches laughing (when he was out of earshot of course!). We had a lovely chat and catch-up while waiting for the train, and I feel very sad that I won't get to do so again. Our conferences in the future will certainly be poorer without her laugh, her smile, and her infectious personality.



EMWA webinars coming in the near future

EMWA's outreach for its freelance members: activities and resources
September 28 at 14:00 to 15:00 CET
Satyendra Shenoy

This webinar aims at informing attendees on facilities and resources available to EMWA members who are freelancers. This includes introduction to the Freelance Business Forum at the conferences, OOOO section of MEW, and online resources. Moreover, attendees will be provided a few pointers on how they can also contribute to EMWA.

Veterinary medical writing – same but different: Introduction to medical writing for veterinary medicinal products
October 30 at 14:00 to 15:00 CET
Sandra Götsch-Schmidt – DREHM Pharma GmbH

Have you ever considered writing on veterinary topics? This introduction webinar will point out the similarities and differences that you might face when writing about veterinary medicinal products.

Personal branding through social media for medical writers
December 6 at 12:00 CET
Evguenia Alechine

For many scientists and medical writers, personal branding and effective use of social media to promote your own business or freelance services is still a 'black box.' Although most have a basic understanding of Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn, few understand how to leverage these technologies (and other up-and-coming networks) to positively impact their own business. This webinar will show medical writers the necessary tools and resources to feel comfortable, confident, and enthusiastic about personal branding.

EMWA's webinar series

Full details of EMWA's webinar programme are available at <https://www.emwa.org/training/emwa-webinars-programme/>. Webinars may be recorded or live. For live webinars, you only need to register and then connect to our webinars platform on the webinar date at the above address. A recording will be available shortly after the event in the Archive section. Nevertheless, we advise you to participate to allow you to ask questions and contribute the discussion. For recorded webinars, we encourage you to send us any questions by the date indicated so that they can be answered. For further information about webinars contact webinar@emwa.org.



New member benefit: Discount on PerfectIt licenses

A full list of EMWA member benefits is available at <https://www.emwa.org/members/membership-benefits/>.

The latest EMWA member benefit is 30% off a PerfectIt licence. PerfectIt helps deliver error-free documents. It improves consistency, ensures quality, saves time and helps to enforce style guides. PerfectIt is used by thousands of

editors around the world because it lets editors control every change, giving you the assurance that documents are the best they can be. There's a 14-day free trial available from <http://www.intelligentediting.com>.

EMWA members receive a 30% discount on a single license of PerfectIt. To claim the discount, logged-in EMWA members can use

the special link in the EMWA Member Offers page. There you can also avail of a number of other discounts exclusive to EMWA members.



Joint Position Statement – Russian translation now available

EMWA is involved in the translation of the Joint Position Statement on the Role of Medical Writers (<https://www.emwa.org/about-us/position-statements/joint-position-statement-for-professional-medical-writers/>). This statement was prepared together with our colleagues at the American Medical Writers Association and the International Society for Medical Publication Professionals in order to set out ethical standards for medical writers in developing scientific and

medical publications. We are now spreading the word among non-native English speakers in Europe and beyond.

The position statement has now been translated into Russian and can be accessed by clicking on the relevant language tabs from the English language Joint Position Statement page (<https://www.emwa.org/about-us/position-statements/joint-position-statement-for-professional-medical-writers/russian/>).

Save the date
EMWA Conference
 November 8–10, 2018

For more information:
<https://www.emwa.org/conferences/future-conferences/>

Updated NewsBlast instructions to contributors



Contributions to the NewsBlast should be sent to pr@emwa.org by the 22nd of each month so that it can be published in the following month. Updates should be concise (150–200 words) and can be included on one of the EMWA webpages.

The full archive of EMWA NewsBlasts can be accessed at <https://www.emwa.org/about-us/emwa-news/>.