

EMWA News

Last month, EMWA members had the pleasure of attending another successful spring conference, this time in the picturesque city of Vienna. We had 442 attendees from 34 countries, with 167 people attending their first EMWA conference. There were 52 workshops, including 6 new additions to the EMWA Professional Development Programme (EPDP). The theme of the symposium was “Real-World Evidence: A Central Role for Medical Communicators”. The Freelance Business Forum was a huge success, with 85 attendees and a long, fun after-event. Various social events were offered, and no fewer than 97 attendees joined the double-blind randomised dinner. The air at the InterContinental Vienna was filled with networking opportunities, new ideas, and collaborations.

We want to congratulate and welcome the new Executive Committee (EC) members: Barbara Grossman (President), Beatrix Doerr (Vice President), Sarah Choudhury (Honorary Treasurer), Claire Harmer (Honorary Secretary), and Maria João Almeida (PR Officer). James Visanji received the “EMWA Hero” mention, a way to acknowledge and thank him for his many years of dedication to EMWA. We also want to take this opportunity to encourage all members to actively participate in EMWA activities, including EC elections, as this is a core part of how we will be represented.

The scholarships committee decided to award the 2018 Geoff Hall Scholarship to Abbie Fearon for her essay on the topic “The Medical Writer: Partner or Servant?” For those of you inspired by Abbie’s success, the 2019 competition is now open. The essay title this time is “How would you go about identifying a predatory journal?”, a perennial hot topic. The deadline for entries is September 30, 2019. You can find more information on the EMWA website.

We also have some interesting, practical news from our Website Manager. The Pharmacovigilance, Regula-

tory Public Disclosure, and Medical Devices Special Interest Groups (SIGs) now have their own tab on the EMWA home page. SIGs allow EMWA and its members to contribute to important conversations around topics that will affect our industry in the coming years.

Additionally, two new SIGs were created during the conference in Vienna: the Veterinary Medical Writing (VMW) and the Medical Communications (MedComm) SIG. The VMW SIG is co-chaired by Karim Montasser and Cemile Jakupoglu. Other committee members are Jessica Lin, Jennifer Freymann, and Miyuki Tauchi. The committee members, and other volunteers such as Marianna Ricci, Vera Faigl, and Sandra Goetsch-Schmidt, are veterinarians by education and founded this group to support the visibility of veterinary medical writing. Details on the new MedComm SIG are available in the column on the next page.

You will find more EMWA updates in the next issue of *Medical Writing*. Stay tuned!



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EMWA Ambassador's Programme

The Ambassador's Programme is continuing to reach out to students and young scientists at career events across Europe.

Walther Seiler represented EMWA at JobWonder, an annual career event held 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 at the OBA library in Amsterdam. The event was attended by 15 writers and young scientists. The group, organised by EMWA members Sally Hill, Jackie Johnson, Gabriela Plucinska, and Mariella Franker, 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, which was followed by refreshments and a networking session. It was an informative and highly enjoyable meeting.

On 6 June, Amy Whereat and the French medical writers' group held a careers meeting in Paris. John Carpenter will be attending a NetworkPharma event at the University of Westminster in London on June 20. Last but not least, 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.

We are always looking to find out about forthcoming career events at universities and elsewhere where EMWA Ambassadors might attend and speak about EMWA. If you know of such an event or if you are an experienced EMWA volunteer interested in becoming an Ambassador, please contact Abe Shevack at aspscientist@gmail.com.

Abe Shevack

A new Special Interest Group on medical communications!

The MedComm SIG was established at the spring conference in Vienna. The intent is to support publication activities of EMWA members by 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 audiences
- 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 Faoite, Martin Delahunty, Beatrix Doerr, Art Gertel, Phil Leventhal, and Miyuki Taichi have confirmed their willingness to act as supporting members.

The first activity of the MedComm SIG will be to finalise and ensure higher visibility of the AMWA-EMWA-ISMP Joint Position Statement (JPS) on predatory publishing. Several activities have been planned to maximise the impact of the JPS. These include a seminar, a webinar, and related articles in *Medical Writing*, development of further educational materials, and liaising with AMWA and ISMP to maximise educational activities within these associations.

Articles and EMWA presentations on different topics will be presented in the soon-to-be created MedComm SIG section of the EMWA website.

As EMWA is an organisation of members for members, we look forward to establishing the programme of the MedComm SIG group based on unmet needs of EMWA members working in medical and scientific communication. Therefore, we welcome your suggestions for topics to be addressed and seek your support based on your know-how and expertise in this field.

Andrea Rossi and Slavka Baronikova