

Incoming President's Message

Dear EMWA friends and colleagues, as I draft this message, we are coming to the close of EMWA's 53rd conference in Berlin, Germany. By all measures, it was a great conference with almost 400 delegates participating in our full programme comprising workshops, symposia, expert seminar series, other short seminars, and of course, the social events. What makes this conference special is that after 2 years of virtually "meeting", it was our first in-person, face-to-face conference under the new "normal". And the joy of seeing each other in the flesh was such a palpably honest and genuine emotion; we are truly social animals.

A lot has changed in the past 2 years, for some of us more than others. And yet, not only did our volunteers maintain our association's activities, but in fact we added to them. We showed a remarkable innovativeness and adaptability in organising conferences and bringing our widespread membership together, even if it was on the computer/mobile screens in our home

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offices. For this, I would like to particularly thank the past three Presidents – Barbara Grossman, Beatrix Dörr, and Carola Krause – and the Executive Committee (EC) members for their stewardship as we traversed these unprecedented times. As I begin my tenure as EMWA President

for 2022-23, I would like to share with you that our association is in the best shape in its 30-year history, both financially and in terms of membership numbers. It is the result of the vision, perseverance, dedication, and teamwork of EMWA's volunteers, and it is an honour to be one of them.

At the first EC meeting of my presidency held during the conference, I had the opportunity to share with the team my goals for 2022-23. Of key importance is continuing to build awareness of medical writing as a profession and of EMWA and its outreach. EMWA's Ambassador Programme has been working on this for a few years; now that travel restrictions have been eased, it is time to ramp up the programme to reach

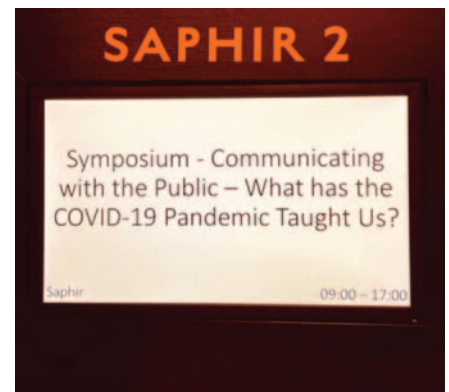
universities and career fairs and canvass for EMWA. In addition, we now also have the

Getting Into Medical Writing programme which seeks to inform fresh life science graduates on the various opportunities in medical writing and communications. Working in conjunction, it is my hope that we will see an uptick in EMWA membership over time.

Collaboration and teamwork being the bedrock of success, I am also keenly interested in furthering our partnership with organisations that are involved in activities similar to ours such as the American Medical Writers Association, the Australasian Medical Writers Association, the International Society for Medical Publication Professionals, and others. In this, we have a healthy history which has resulted in a number of key Joint Position Statements, one of the most

important being the one that establishes the role of professional medical writers in development of medical and scientific publications (<https://www.emwa.org/about-us/position-statements/joint-position-statement-for-professional-medical-writers/>). My goal is to strengthen our collaborative efforts with existing partners and reach out to others with similar aims.

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As medical communicators, I believe we occupy a key role in bridging medical and scientific information and public messaging. And the need of the hour is our active involvement. In order to promote this, I also plan to work closely with and support our Communicating with the Public Special Interest Group. Should you be interested in volunteering for this please contact me or the SIG Chairperson, Lisa Chamberlain James.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued involvement with EMWA.

Happy reading!



Satyen Shenoy

EMWA President 2022-23