The new Meet and Share sessions are intended to facilitate open discussions amongst peers and to offer a forum to dive deep into topics – well beyond the information that is provided in guidelines or books belonging to the daily practice of medical writers.

The first session was dedicated to acknowledging the support of medical writers/communicators (MW) in scientific publications. Like the Introduction, Method, Results, and Discussion (IMRAD) structure, it is almost common knowledge that medical writing support in the preparation of scientific articles needs to be acknowledged. So why dedicate a Meet & Share session to this topic?

The idea arose during medical writer Andrea Rossi’s webinar on International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) guidelines. There, a newbie MW reported about her difficulties of having her medical writing support acknowledged. Kudos to the colleague who spoke up so openly. Many of us are established MWs and we have no problem with requesting acknowledgement for our work. However, the situation might be different for someone who is new to medical writing and is desperately looking for work and pay to make ends meet.

Even if it is hard at the beginning, it is much better to lose a customer than engage in ghost writing, i.e., accepting that medical writing support is not acknowledged. It will not pay off long term to work with somebody who obviously does not respect a medical writer’s contribution.

If somebody does not want to acknowledge medical writing support, it was suggested to initiate a discussion on the topic by asking for a reason for such a violation of guidelines and common practice. It is strongly recommended to familiarise yourself with the relevant resources, e.g., the various guidelines (ICMJE,1 Good Publication Practices [GPP3],2 EMWA guidelines3), and the publications that demonstrate the value of MWs.4,5

Medical writers are well advised to state in their contract that they work according to the ICMJE and GPP3 guidelines and consequently expect acknowledgement of their work; this will clarify the situation upfront.

We had a lively discussion that brought many different aspects to the attention of the audience and therefore this was a great first Meet & Share session. The collective brainpower and the open and respectful discussions were fruitful and refreshing and we all learned something about different work contexts of medical writers.

The MedComm SIG’s inaugural Meet & Share session delved into the issues surrounding acknowledgement of the support of medical writers/communicators in scientific publications. The intrepid reporters from the Meet & Share session are well known to EMWA members – our very own Beatrix Doerr and Thomas Schindler. They give a fantastic summary of a really interesting and educational session – guaranteed to whet your appetites for the next one!

As 2021 draws to a close, I hope that it has been a good year for you all, and that you and your loved ones remain healthy and happy.

References
1. ICMJE. Recommendations for the conduct, reporting, editing, and publication of
Don’t miss!
A virtual workforce

The September 2022 edition of Medical Writing

Working remotely/working from home has become the norm these days. This issue will focus on various aspects of working from home—the good, the bad, the ugly. We will have articles on the challenges of writing from home, managing teams and also, on how some of us overcome these challenges and enjoy this opportunity.

Guest Editor: Archana Nagarajan


