

EMWA celebrates 25 years



As recounted by past President Geoff Hall in the March 2008 issue of *The Write Stuff*, EMWA got its start in 1992, when the first formal meeting was held in Brussels.¹ This first meeting was quite small – only 32 people attended – and there were no workshops. EMWA actually started out as a chapter of the American Medical Writers Association but struck out on its own in 1997.

So much has happened over the years. In 25 years, we have grown from those first 32 attendees and annual meetings with no workshops to more than 1,000 members and bi-annual meetings with more than 130 active workshops plus symposia at spring conferences. EMWA is more dynamic than ever thanks to a large group of volunteers and an excellent Head Office.

Here are some of our main accomplishments since Geoff Hall wrote his article in 2007:

- Instituted 5-year plans to prepare for EMWA's future and better represent members' needs
- Moved from in-house volunteer management to professional management and moved the headquarters from Switzerland to UK. These transitions were definitely not easy, but

thanks to the efforts of many EMWA volunteers and our current management company, things are going very well.

- Became recognised as the principal representative of professional medical writers, including participating in Good Publication Practice Guidelines, organising the CORE Reference, and preparing with ISMPP and AMWA the Joint Statement on the Role of Professional Medical Writers
- Expanded the Executive Committee to include Public Relations and Conference Director officers
- Created an Educational Committee to manage workshops
- Modernised and elaborated the EMWA website
- Created a Social Media Team
- Established the Geoff Hall Scholarship for new medical writers
- Stabilised the finances of EMWA
- Instituted webinars
- Created the Freelance Forum
- Moved EMWA's journal from a small in-house publication of a few pages to a dynamic

and professional format with a full Editorial Board; made feature articles open access

- Expanded the reach of EMWA outside of Europe and built relationships with other professional organisations
- Created the Expert Seminar Series and Special Interest Groups
- Created the Internship Forum

So much more can be said. We have an excellent and dynamic volunteer organisation that is constantly striving to improve and better serve our members. More on our history and progress will be coming in the March 2018 issue of *Medical Writing*, so stay tuned!

Abe Shevak

aspscientist@googlemail.com

References

1. Hall G. The History of EMWA: Personal (and possibly unreliable) recollections. *The Write Stuff* 2008;17(1):9–11.