

President's Message

Dear EMWA Members,

In my first President's message I would like to say how honoured I am to represent EMWA and how excited I feel about the tasks of my new role. I would like to thank Abe Shevack and the other Executive Committee members for their great support and collaboration over the last year, and to warmly welcome Barbara Grossman in her role as Vice President. In the last year I had the opportunity to fully appreciate how essential the support of our volunteers is to make EMWA the great organisation it is. Various new initiatives and new structures have been set up, with new subcommittees and a new special interest group, and will need further efforts and development. Dear EMWA members, your support is highly welcome! Whether new to medical writing or experienced, your suggestions on topics for training, your feedback on the conferences, and your active support are highly appreciated.

The Spring conference in Barcelona was, once again, a great success and offered a broad spectrum of events and educational opportunities for new and experienced medical writers, with an extended workshops programme, a symposium on the opportunities for medical writers in the up-to-date area of medical devices, and four half-day Expert Seminar Sessions (ESS) with eight seminars on medical journalism, pharmacovigilance, and regulatory topics, including the hot topic of the General Protection Data Regulation. The symposium and the ESS sessions had excellent speakers from the industry, regulatory bodies, and international societies. Due to the relocation activities related to Brexit, the European Medicines Agency could not send a representative to the Spring conference this year, but expressed its interest in resuming soon the good collaboration with EMWA. The Freelance Business Forum and the Internship Forum rounded up the conference with their good attendance and successful initiatives.

The planning for the next conferences has already begun and we have started identifying a few up-to-date topics that deserve deepening in the ESS seminars and symposia. Let us know which topics you would like to be addressed in future conferences, in order for EMWA to timely react to a quickly evolving regulatory environment. On one hand, this represents a valuable opportunity for tailored and advanced professional education. On the other hand, it strengthens EMWA's role as the association of reference for training and network, and increases

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EMWA's presence in current discussions through ESS sessions and symposia, which establish a dialogue between medical writers and international matter experts.

One of the most recent initiatives at EMWA is the Ambassador Programme, aimed to raise public awareness about medical writing through synergies with universities and research institutions. The first lectures were well received and confirmed the potential of this initiative to further spread the word about the professional role of medical writers and about EMWA. We plan to keep a track of the Ambassador lectures and to coordinate future efforts. Beside this, we plan to further develop our contacts with other professional organisations through reciprocal promotion and collaborative opportunities, as it has been done for CORE, the Joint Position Statement, and the BELS exam.

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We will be constantly exploring how to further promote our organisation, to intensify our presence in the social media, to reach potential new members, to enhance the quality of our conferences, and to improve the offer to our members. I look very much forward to contributing to EMWA's further growth in this year as President!

Tiziana von Bruchhausen
President@emwa.org

