

# President's Message

## The past – The present – The future

**D**ear colleagues, friends, and EMWA members,

Happy 30th EMWA anniversary!

We have an exciting new year ahead of us. To celebrate EMWA's 30th anniversary, we will take a deep dive into EMWA's history, celebrate our present accomplishments, and aim to set the outlines for EMWA's Five-Year Strategic Plan.

On p.9, please see a reprint from our website of the story of EMWA's history by Geoff Hall, a founding father of our organisation and one of our first presidents.

According to Geoff's article, EMWA's first meeting took place in Brussels in February 1992. Fun fact for all conspiracy theorists: Besides Mike Matthews, Stephen de Looze, and Brenda Moore, the SmithKline vaccine crew were the key drivers of the formation of a European-based Medical Writers Association. Did the SmithKline vaccine crew foresee back then that 30 years later, the medical writing profession would be pre-occupied with vaccine-related communications?

Throughout this year, we will share such

anecdotal stories on our social media channels (#EMWA30) and within each issue of this year's MEW, you will find information on the history of EMWA.

To commemorate this milestone, we even created a special EMWA logo (see it below) You can download it from our website and even use it in your email signature.

With this MEW issue on *Sustainable communications: Emerging health topics and debates*, we aim to make our profession aware of this important topic that surely was not on the agenda 30 years ago. As a UN Sustainable Development Partner Organisation, EMWA is committed to the UN Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs; see our issue cover and the infographic opposite). For this purpose, EMWA set up its own Sustainability Special Interest Group (SUS SIG) in 2019. As the chair of the SUS SIG, I am very proud that a group of people – who have never met in person – have the dedication to promote sustainability within our profession and beyond. The SUS SIG interacts with many other

SIGs (see infographic opposite) and this year we hope to be organising Meet & Share sessions where we can facilitate the interconnectivity of SIG topics.

In the near future, EMWA aims to collaborate with the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE).

We are hopeful that we can organise a Face-2-Face EC meeting this spring where we will discuss our vision for EMWA's future to be embodied in the Five-year Strategic Plan. If you wish to engage in that process, please write an email to [president@emwa.org](mailto:president@emwa.org).

Greetings from Germany!



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