

President's Message

See you in Valencia ...

Dear EMWA Members, Friends, and Colleagues,

Time is flying and we just left the autumn conference and now are approaching our main EMWA event – the spring conference, to take place May 7– 11, 2024. This time we go to Valencia, and I am sure that no one needs to be encouraged to travel to this fantastic Spanish city. It is not just the destination that is attractive, but also a superb programme that both the conference and the EMWA Professional Development Programme (EPDP) Teams are working on. I do not want to disclose too much, as it is a work in progress, so just two headlines.

The first one I would like to mention is Expert Discussion Groups (EDG), the initiative that started last spring during the conference in Prague. It was created in 2023 by Jules Kovacevic, Laura Collada Ali, and the EPDP Team to address experienced medical writers and provide a platform for expert discussions on specific, advanced topics. The meetings of rather small groups (8-10 participants) are planned for 1.5 to 2 hours and the discussions are led by a carefully chosen moderator. The participants need to be professional medical writers for more than 10 years and have a special interest and experience in the current topic for discussion. The pilot EDG sessions were very much appreciated and attended. The 3 sessions were on wide ranging subjects from an initial discussion on artificial intelligence (AI) in medical writing, patient voice in medical publications, and authorisation pathways. This year, there will be up to 5 EDGs run on varied topics from the nuances of writing for rare diseases, and including master protocols lessons learned. Finally, I would like to underline that the EDG formula requires from all attendees preparation and their active contribution; a few thought-provoking questions to facilitate it are provided before the meeting and there are experience requirements set by the moderator to ensure the discussion is at a very high level.

The second headline is about the Expert Seminar Series (ESS), started by Sam Hamilton during her EMWA presidency in 2016. The idea was to provide experienced and senior medical writers with in-depth knowledge on key



topics of importance. Over the years a number of very interesting seminars were presented and now an exciting selection is being prepared by the ESS Organizing Committee members – Tiziana von Bruchhausen, Eva-Maria Damsgaard-Nielsen, and Bente Riis – for the upcoming conference. This year for the first time, EMWA's Creative Team, led by Carola Krause, is organising an ESS on visual healthcare communications to explore the growing significance of visual aids in the medical field. We will also have a dedicated ESS session to address a truly hot topic, AI in medical writing. I am also going to mention one more ESS organised by a new Regulatory Special Interest Group (Reg SIG). It is devoted to non-clinical writing, quite a niche area of regulatory writing, and for sure will attract many experienced medical writers.

Speaking of the Reg SIG, you may remember that I planned to write about EMWA's new baby in the previous *Medical Writing* issue but my message became too long, so I had to skip it. Now, I am very happy to update you on this very active group, created just a few months ago as a continuation of the Regulatory Public Disclosure SIG. We at the Executive Committee felt that EMWA should have a SIG that covers much broader scope of regulatory aspects than just public disclosure; regulatory writing is such an important part of our professional engagements! Therefore, a general regulatory SIG was created with Sarah Hopwood and Jules Kovacevic, who are co-chairs. Not only does the SIG meet



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regularly to discuss different topics of interest, but also a LinkedIn group has been created with the following subgroups:

1. Transparency and Disclosure led by Zuoyen Lee
2. Clinical Regulatory Writing led by Sarah Hopwood
3. Non-Clinical Writing led by Sally Hill

I am sure more subgroups will be created as the SIG grows and many more regulatory topics will be covered, such as drug applications, advanced therapy medicinal products, or documentation for paediatric studies.

Finally, during the next Meet & Share, the group will access the AI programs that are out there in the regulatory space. The Reg SIG is looking into:

- AI shared experiences
- Protocol redaction/Statistical Analysis Plan anonymised documents
- Clinical Trials Information System after Q4 2024

Now, getting back to Valencia. Apart from the EMWA conference programme, including new initiatives such as EDGs, and very exciting ESS topics, there are “must-see” sites, such as the City of Arts and Sciences, the Cathedral, La Lonja, Barrio del Carmen, and Central Market. I suggest you spend some extra time there beyond the conference. On top on that, be aware that the 2022 Expat City Ranking named Valencia the world's top destination for expatriates, because of its unbeatable “happiness level” offered at affordable costs!! Sound inviting?

See you all in Valencia!

Maria

Reference

1. Doyle L. Valencia named top city for expats. Independent. 2022 Dec 5 [cited 2024 Jan 21]. Available from: <https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/news-and-advice/valencia-top-city-expats-spain-b2239265.html>