

# President's Message



## Dear EMWA Members,

As you are well aware, we have been celebrating our 25th anniversary as an organisation and have sent out specially designed buttons with the December issue of *Medical Writing* to commemorate the occasion. To continue the celebration, we are offering a prize for the most creative picture of the anniversary buttons. So go out and take some photographs. They can be posted on Twitter (@Official\_EMWA) or sent to the Executive Committee for judging. The winners will be announced at the conference in Barcelona.

The monthly EMWA News Blast has been receiving positive reviews from our members who have been receiving these short digests of current news about our conferences, webinars, and information of general interest. We will be archiving all past News Blasts in the members' section of the website.

Our ambassador programme is in full swing. Experienced EMWA members have been featured speakers at university career events and seminars in Europe. Our first speakers have already presented lectures at universities in Reading and Zurich, at clinical development training academies in Rome and Berlin, and at the National Clinical Research Conference in

Bucharest. So the momentum is growing and we are spreading the word about medical writing and EMWA across Europe. If you would be interested in giving an official EMWA presentation, please contact the Executive Committee.

The AMWA-EMWA-ISMP Joint Position Statement on the Role of Professional Medical Writers in preparing manuscripts for publication has now been translated into Chinese and Japanese. Links to these translations have been posted on the EMWA and International Society for Medical Publication Professionals websites. We have now completed the first planned translations, but more are to follow in Romanian, Hungarian, and Portuguese in order to publicise this important document among non-native English speakers.

The results of the current EMWA salary survey (last survey published in 2012) are now available and appear in this issue of *Medical Writing*. As you may remember, the survey took place between April 7 and May 31 last year. Altogether, 317 members responded. One very interesting result is that salaried employees and freelance writers who hold EMWA Professional Development Programme certificates earn more than those without. This is very encouraging news since it shows that the EMWA educational programme is helping our members to increase their potential value to employers and clients.

Our next conference will take place in Barcelona May 1–5 and features a comprehensive EMWA programme with 50 workshops at the foundation and advanced levels covering a broad range of topics.

Important developments have recently taken place in the field of medical devices in the wake of changes in the European legislation. This has led to an increased demand for medical writers who are knowledgeable in this highly challenging area. We are therefore proud to announce the 6th EMWA one-day symposium on May 3,

“Medical Devices and Technologies – Emerging Opportunities for Medical Communicators”. The symposium is designed for regulatory writers and medical communicators alike and will seek to update participants on the perspectives of legislators, notified bodies, medical device companies, patent representatives, and reimbursement professionals.

In this regard, we have initiated a new special interest group (SIG) on medical devices in order to stimulate future discussions on the latest trends and requirements in this fast-changing field. This new SIG will also develop topics for future expert seminar sessions.

Experienced members will be delighted to hear that we will be offering several Expert Seminar Sessions at this year's conference. The topics will include medical journalism, changes in the guidance for pharmacovigilance risk management plans, orphan drugs and rare disorders, data protection and EMA Policy 0070, clinical trial registries, and clinical study reports for Cochrane reviews.

In addition to all this, we will be offering special early morning seminars that include “Disaster Recovery: A Case Study of a Medical Writing Department's Response to a Cyber Attack”, and two “Full English Breakfast” sessions. As always, we will host the Internship Forum and Freelance Business Forum, as well as an introductory talk on medical writing for new writers, the “Show It and Share It session”, and a variety of social events.

We hope you enjoy reading this very interesting issue of *Medical Writing* dedicated to vaccines and immunotherapies.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Barcelona.

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