

EMWA News

Editorial

Time to say goodbye.

As I will step down from my role as EMWA's Public Relations Officer in May 2017, I will no longer be on top of the EMWA news and will, therefore, step down from my role as section editor. It is with great pleasure though that I introduce my successor, Evguenia Alechine ("Jenia"), who will take over from the June issue onwards. Jenia is an instrumental part of the Twitter team and, as such, "on top" of EMWA news. Therefore, she is the ideal successor. Jenia's move also shows the opportunities you face when volunteering for

EMWA. Being her first EMWA conference in May 2016, she is now becoming section editor. Certainly, the good job she did so far and her adorable personality were prerequisites for this fast move.

We continue our collaborations with other organisations to increase our visibility, which includes reciprocal advertisement arrangements. For instance, we have provided promotional material including *Medical Writing* issues at the January ISMPP conference and the eRegulatory Summit. There was also a strong EMWA presence at the MedComms Forum in Berlin.

SECTION EDITOR



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Moreover, the EMWA-AMWA-ISMPP joint position statement on the role of professional medical writers has been released at the ISMPP meeting on 17 January.

Furthermore, we are busy preparing the spring conference in Birmingham. It is to our Vice-president's credit to have connected with the Board of Editors in the Life Sciences (BELS) and organised the BELS examination to take place in Birmingham on 2 May.

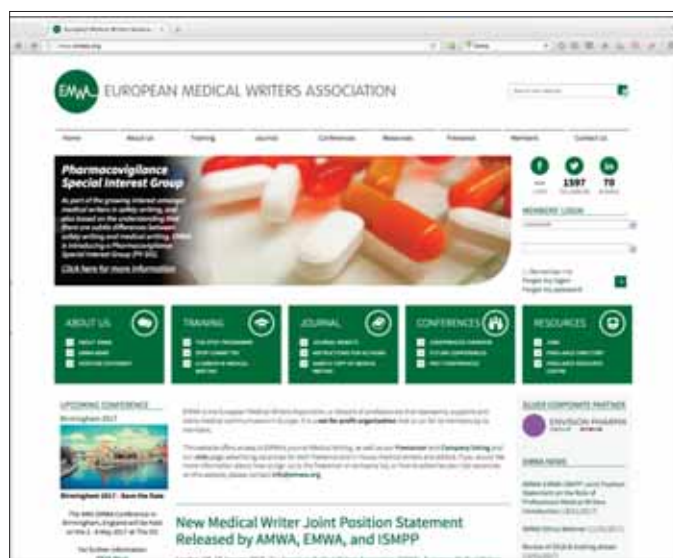
EMWA website

Have you taken time lately to browse the EMWA website? If you are an infrequent visitor, it is worthwhile exploring the site in a little more detail. We are continually adding content and new sections – not to mention the Sisyphean task of keeping links and data up to date!

One new section we are pleased to present is "A Career in Medical Writing", especially for new or aspiring medical writers. You can find it using this shortcut link: <http://tinyurl.com/h4besvu>, or by navigating from www.emwa.org > Training > A Career in Medical Writing.

The centrepiece of this section is EMWA's Career Guide to Medical Writing (November 2016 edition), which is available at http://www.emwa.org/Documents/Training/MW_Career_Guide_Ver_Nov_2016.pdf. The authors, Sally Jackson and Raquel Billiones, cover essential questions that people interested in a career in the industry typically have. In an attractively produced online document, topics covered include:

- What is medical writing?
- What skills and qualifications do I need?
- Where do medical writers work and what do they do?
- How much can I expect to get paid?
- What are the career prospects for medical writers?
- In addition, the webpage contains a selection of useful downloads from other EMWA sources for anyone starting out in medical writing.



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BELS exam in Birmingham

For the very first time since 1996 and for the convenience of EMWA members attending the May 2017 conference in Birmingham, the Board of Editors in the Life Sciences (BELS) is planning to hold its examination in Birmingham on the day before the conference is due to start (2 May 2017 at 12:00 at the Royal Angus Hotel, about 0.9 miles from the ICC). The exam is offered

worldwide and tests proficiency in all aspects of manuscript editing. Candidates who pass this certification exam are allowed to use the credentials "ELS" after their names (Editor in the Life Sciences).

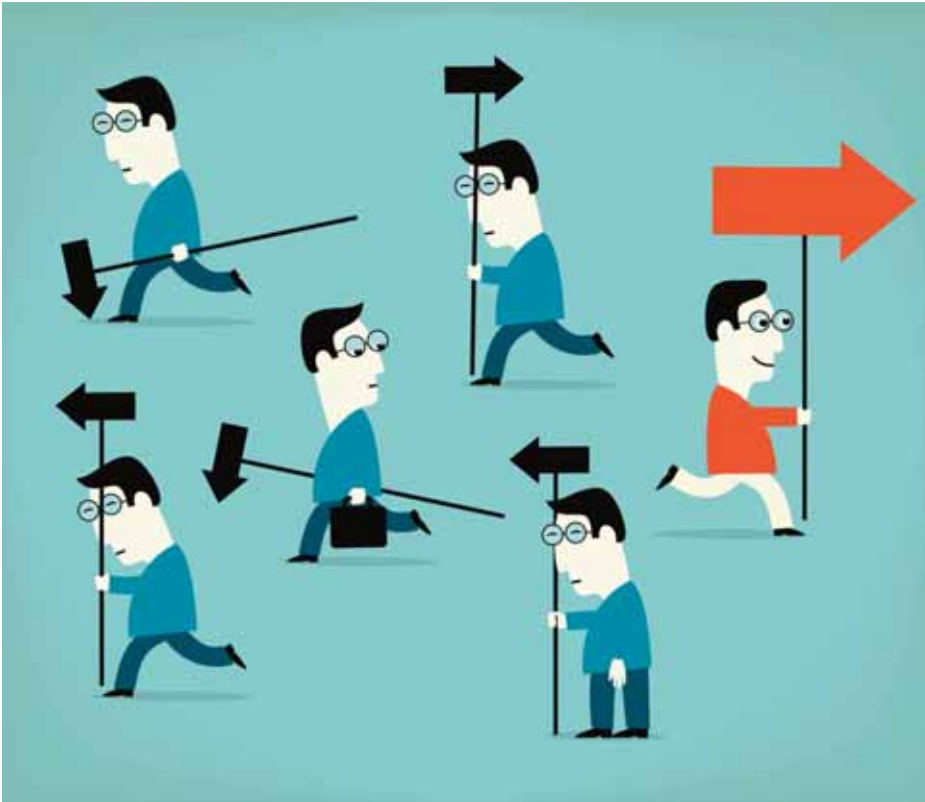
Delegates wishing to register for the BELS exam should contact BELS via www.bels.org. Delegates should note that while EMWA and BELS are coordinating the timing of these events, the BELS examination is an independent event

and not part of the EMWA conference. EMWA accepts no liability arising from registration for, conduct of, or potential cancellation of the BELS examination event, and is not able to provide assistance with BELS registration or authorised to answer any queries regarding the BELS examination.

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Want to leave academia and become a medical writer? Visit the career coaching at the internship forum!



At the 2nd annual Internship Forum, in addition to meeting companies, attendees will have the opportunity to meet with specialised career consultants for a 30-minute, one-on-one session to learn how to leverage their unique skills and successfully land a job as a medical writer. This special session is targeted to master students, PhDs, and postdocs who want to transition from academia (or another profession) into medical writing. The topics covered will include:

- tailoring academic CVs into medical writing-specific resumes.
- mastering the medical writing interview process
- leveraging LinkedIn profiles to build a strong personal brand.
- using social media to network effectively.

All these topics will be discussed to provide the necessary tools for a successful transition into the medical writing field. Contact us in advance to book a time slot and send your academic CV for a one-on-one consultation during the forum. Be aware that spots are expected to fill up quickly. See you in Birmingham!

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New CORE Reference publication

EMWA members may be interested to read the latest publication related to the CORE Reference initiative: Hamilton S, Forjanic Klapproth A. A new standard for medical writing. *WorldPharma Clinical Trials Insight* 2016 (2):13-14

(<http://viewer.zmags.com/publication/ad20d93c#/ad20d93c/12>)

You can find more information and further publications on www.core-reference.org.



The second EMWA Live Internship Forum at the spring 2017 conference in Birmingham

Due to the success of the inaugural EMWA live Internship Forum in Munich this past May, the second live Internship Forum will be organised on 4 May 2017 at 08:00-13:00 during the spring 2017 conference in Birmingham.

The EMWA Internship Forum was established to bring together prospective medical writers seeking experience with companies willing to support their development. Internships provide prospective medical writers with practical training in an established commercial environment. Participating companies benefit from the enthusiasm and talent of interns, and internships may facilitate the recruitment process

by acting as precursors to full-time positions.

Interested? For full details, visit the Internship Forum page under the Training section of the EMWA website. In brief, prospective medical writers must be EMWA members to participate and should provide a CV and application letter to participating companies. Prospective medical writers should also ensure that they are eligible to work and live in the country where the internship is based. Companies interested in participating should provide a position of at least 3 months, along with sufficient resources to train and mentor the intern. As we do not promote unpaid positions, suitable remuneration should

be provided. Company participation in the Internship Forum is free. At the time of this writing, Costello Consulting, St Gilesmedical, Publicis LifeBrands International and Scinopsis have confirmed their participation.

For more information, please visit the EMWA website or contact the Internship Forum team directly (internship@emwa.org). We hope to see you at the next live Internship Forum in Birmingham!

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EMWA supporting the Pre-Christmas MedComms Forum in Berlin

A mixed group of writers and editors from the world of medical, regulatory, and device writing met at the Patisserie Sarina in central Berlin on Friday, December 16. The aim was to participate in several educational sessions, network, and, most importantly, eat delicious pastry all washed down with amazing coffee. This event was once again organised and supported by St Gilesmedical as a service to the MedComms community and better patient care.

The meeting started with Abe Shevack, VP of EMWA, saying a few welcoming words and providing details of the forthcoming spring conference in Birmingham on May 2017. Afterwards, Steven Walker from St Gilesmedical, who will be leading an Expert Seminar Series



Call for advice

Are you a company with experience in hiring non-EU/non-EEA citizens? Are you a non-EU/non-EEA citizen with experience in navigating work and residency permits in Europe? We want to hear from you! Please contact us at internship@emwa.org.

(ESS) in Birmingham, presented data from a research paper which examined the relative quality of life of writers working in pharma and medical devices. Claudia Frumento, who leads the EMWA's workshop "Writing Clinical Evaluations for Medical Devices" provided an overview of the recently revised MEDDEV 2.7/1 Rev. 4 guideline on clinical evaluations. The

afternoon finished with a lively debate across a range of issues including careers in MedComms.

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The ICMJE Recommendations: December 2016 update

In December 2016, the ICMJE (International Committee of Medical Journal Editors) once again updated its Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals (commonly referred to as the ICMJE Recommendations).¹ The key changes are outlined below.²

- Authors should now bear responsibility for establishing the credentials of the journals they submit to.
- New guidance is provided on dealing with unintentional errors that affect the results and conclusions of a paper. In such cases it might be appropriate to retract and republish ("replace") the paper. The differences between the retracted and new versions should be presented as supplementary material or an appendix.

- Issues related to sex/gender:
 - The need to correctly distinguish between "sex" (a biological property) and "gender" (linked to personal identity and defined by psychosocial/cultural factors) is now emphasised.
 - The sex/gender of study participants and sex of research animals and cells should be established and reported (as applicable).
 - The influence of sex/gender (and other variables) on study findings should be discussed, along with any data limitations.
- If they are to be included in figures, "before" and "after" images should be taken under comparable conditions.

References

1. Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals. International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. 2016 Dec [cited 2017 Jan 09]. Available from: <http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/>.
2. Up-Dated ICMJE Recommendations (December 2016). International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. 2016 Dec [cited 2017 Jan 09]. Available from: http://www.icmje.org/news-and-editorials/icmje-recommendations_annotated_dec16.pdf.

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