



AMWA e-news August 2009

Greetings!

The AMWA 26th annual conference is fast approaching! It will be held at the Veterinary Science Conference Centre at the University of Sydney on Friday 16 and Saturday 17 October, 2009. Registration will be available soon, so keep checking the AMWA website (www.medicalwriters.org) for further information

This year we have a full program, which has workshops in the morning on Friday and Saturday and speaker sessions held in the afternoons. AMWA is pleased to announce the following sessions and highly regarded speakers.

- **Transparency in research and publishing:** Professor Warwick Anderson, chief executive officer, National Health and Medical Research Council, and Dr Sally Murray, deputy editor, *Open Medicine*
- **The writer's choice: pandemic or panic?** Professor Dominic Dwyer, medical virologist, Westmead Hospital; Dr Julie Leask, social scientist, senior research fellow and lecturer, National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance; Professor Robert Booy, head, clinical research, National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance
- **The digital approach to media campaigns:** Camilla Cooke, digital strategist
- **Birth choices — what choice do women, doctors and midwives have?** Professor Lesley Barclay director, Northern Rivers University Department of Rural Health, University of Sydney; Dr Sue Jacobs, obstetrician, RPAH Medical Centre, Sydney
- **Medical writing for dabbling doctors and serious scribes:** Dr Linda Calabresi, GP and medical editor of *Australian Doctor*; Dr Justin Coleman, GP and medical writer; Paula Goodyer, freelance health writer; Melissa Sweet, freelance health journalist

Also on the program are 3 workshops:

- Advanced technical writing (NEW for 2009)
- Analysing clinical papers
- Public relations techniques for medical writers

To enable you to attend as many workshops as possible and head towards gaining your AMWA Personal Development Program certificate, the new workshop (Advanced technical writing) will be available on both days.

It looks set to be a fantastic conference – we hope you can join us!

AMWA Annual General Meeting

If you are a current AMWA member, don't forget to join us at the Annual General Meeting on Friday at 4.30 pm to elect the AMWA office bearers. If you feel you could contribute to the development of AMWA this is also a great opportunity to nominate yourself for a position on the committee. The nomination forms can be obtained from the [AMWA website](#). Nomination forms should be sent to the AMWA [secretary](#) before the AGM.

What's new?

- The Katharine Susannah Prichard (KSP) Writers Centre is offering a 2010 Emerging Writer-In-Residence program. Applications close Fri 28 Aug 2009. For more information contact Katrin Kuenstler on 08 9294 1872 or visit their [website](#).
- If you have ever wondered how British journalists get round defamation and print or broadcast anything like a critique, you may like to watch the following broadcast on the [ABC](#). One British science journalist was skeptical of chiropractic therapy and is now being sued!
- The book 'Smallpox, Syphilis and Salvation' by Sheryl Persson uncovers the compelling stories of the men and women, innovations and accidents that have led to diseases from polio to syphilis, diphtheria to diabetes, tetanus to leukaemia no longer being the death sentences they once were. The stories behind these miraculous cures are those of intense rivalries and jealousies, bitter public humiliation, unswerving dedication, subterfuge, and great personal struggles. If you would more information on where to purchase click [here](#).
- The Australasian Sexual Health Conference 2009 is to be held from 7–9 Sept 2009 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. The conference will discuss a range of issues making news in Sexual Health. For more information click [here](#).
- The 'Freelance Market' is based in New Zealand and hosts a wide variety of jobs for freelance writers. You can subscribe to their free newsletter by clicking on the website [here](#)

Getting to know one another

Paula Goodyer, freelance health writer



[Ed: Paula will be a member of our medical writing careers panel on Saturday afternoon at the annual AMWA conference in October]

I began working as a journalist on a fashion and design magazine in London, and after migrating to Australia ended up as fashion writer on the Sydney Morning Herald and then deputy editor of *Cleo*.

I think the stepping stones that got me from fashion to health were writing sealed sections on sexual health and women's health features for *Cleo*, as well as a feature on sexuality and ageing published in *Cleo* that won a Walkley in 1977.

I love to be able to take a text written in a clinical style and turn it into information that anyone can understand. I'm a big fan of using plain English in consumer health information and my pet hate is seeing health material written for the general public using clinical jargon.

I also write the healthy eating blog Chew on This for the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age* online which can be a lot of fun, and have written *Fit and Firm Forever* (Random House (2009) *BodyGuard* (ABC Books, 2003) and *Kids & Drugs* (Allen and Unwin, 1998).

I live in Sydney with my partner, photographer Rick Stevens, and have two daughters, Rebecca and Shabana.

Member's corner

Brian Shanley, a long time AMWA member, has recently had an article published on 'Who wants to be a medical writer' by the Queensland Writers Centre. This makes for a great read. If you're interested in the varying routes of medical writing, check it out [here](#).

Members

The AMWA Executive Committee meet by teleconference monthly and discuss new members for approval. We are pleased to announce the following new AMWA members.

Karen Burge, Alison Evans, Amanda Harris, Nanda Kumar, Lynette Tozer, Linda Crofts and Paul McQueen

Websites we like

During these economic challenging times, all resources are necessary! The technical writing job directory is a website that lists writing opportunities.

<http://ctws.certificationtestingservice.com/jobs>

The Age has some interesting articles on their blog site. Check out Nick Miller's latest here

Contacts

To unsubscribe from this newsletter please email: webmaster@medicalwriters.org

www.medicalwriters.org

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