



AMWA e-news April 2009

AMWA is excited to announce that our 26th annual conference will be held at the Veterinary Science Conference Centre at the University of Sydney on Friday 16 and Saturday 17 October 2009. You may remember this beautiful new purpose built conference venue from the 2006 annual conference in Sydney three years ago. We urge you to secure this date in your diary now and forward this e-newsletter to as many colleagues and affiliated organisations as possible.

The AMWA conference organising committee is currently developing the program. If you have any ideas for speakers, topics or workshops for our conference please forward them to Tina Allen. Keep checking the AMWA website (www.medicalwriters.org) for further information on the conference program and registration details.

We would also like to inform our members of some changes to the AMWA Executive Committee. Katherine Baverstock has resigned from the position of president and also from the AMWA Executive Committee due to work and post-graduate degree commitments. I have stepped back into the role as president again and vice president is Rhana Pike, who is also the webmaster. I would also like to welcome Jacinta Miller as our new membership secretary. If you have any problems with your membership, please email either [Tina Allen](mailto:Tina.Allen@amwa.org.au) or [Jacinta Miller](mailto:Jacinta.Miller@amwa.org.au). If you have any changes to your contact details or freelance entry on our website please contact [Rhana Pike](mailto:Rhana.Pike@amwa.org.au).

Tina Allen

AMWA President

On behalf of the AMWA Executive Committee

Event

AMWA Victoria Branch Event

AMWA is holding an event in Melbourne on the topic of using nanotechnology in medicine and health practice. We are pleased to have Dr Peter Binks and Dr Bob Irvine of NanoVentures Australia who will present on this topic. Please join us on **2 June 2009 at 6.30 pm** at The Redback Hotel, North Melbourne. An email broadcast will be distributed to the AMWA members in Victoria during April. Inquiries and RSVP to L.E. Ohman: leohman1@bigpond.net.au or Jacinta Miller: jacmil@bigpond.com

Social secretaries wanted

Medical writing can be a lonely job, and networking events are very important to maintain a sense of connection with each other. We are looking for 'social secretaries' who would be willing to organise and host one or two social events each year for local members, with support from the executive committee. Please contact the President, [Tina Allen](mailto:Tina.Allen@amwa.org.au), if you are interested in learning more.

What's new?

- The 28th conference of the European Medical Writers Association (EMWA) is to be held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 26–30 May 2009. The focus is regulatory writing and over 40 workshops will be available. See [link](#) for further information.
- Too often what is conveyed about health by journalists is wrong or misleading. Should medical journalists describe the bigger picture or simply to report what is new? To read about this issue, in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, click [here](#)
- The 2009 Australian Museum Eureka Prizes are now open. If you would like to enter yourself or nominate someone for their excellence in science journalism and communication see their [website](#) for more details. Entries close 1 May 09!
- The School of Health and Preventive Medicine at Monash University offer short courses throughout the year on aspects of science, research and communication. For a full list click [here](#).
- Ever wanted to try to write a book? The Katharine Susannah Prichard Writers Centre and Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation are holding a Write-a-Book-in-a-Day competition for a Children's Hospital. The competition is open from 1 April until 31 Aug 2009. You can participate in a group of 5 to 10 persons. To find out more click [here](#).
- Generic Medicines Australia is holding its 2009 annual conference in Sydney on 18–20 May 2009. To find out more about the generic pharmaceutical market in Australia click [here](#).
- The 45th annual meeting of the Drug Information Association (DIA) is to be held in California on 22–25 June 2009. See [link](#) for further information.
- The Association of Regulatory and Clinical Scientists (ARCS) is holding its 18th annual conference in Sydney on 1–3 June 2009. To find out more about this event click [here](#).
- The World Federation of Science Journalists is holding its 6th annual conference in London from 30 June to 2 July. If you want to know what the future holds for science - this conference is for you. For more information see their [website](#).
- The Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP) is an accreditation program to ensure the protection of humans in early stage research. Pfizer Inc. is the first pharmaceutical company to be awarded with the accreditation. To find out more about the program see the AAHRPP [website](#)
- The International Publication Planning Association (TIPPA) is holding its 7th annual meeting in San Francisco, 15–16 June 2009. The theme is Strategies & Solutions for Publication Planning Excellence. If you would like to find out more information and registration details, visit their [website](#).
- The Council of Science Editors in the USA is having its annual meeting in May in Pittsburgh. The theme is 'Show Me the Data: the Science of Editing and Publishing'. See [link](#) for further information.
- Will the advice of Strunk and White make you a better writer? Maybe not. See '50 years of stupid grammar advice' in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* [here](#)

Getting to know one another

LE Ohman, freelance medical writer—Melbourne



I started my working life in the US as a basic researcher studying the brain and the role it plays in the development and progression of conditions such as hypertension and diabetes. However, I soon realised that I enjoyed writing about research more than actually doing it, and returned to university to study journalism. Upon finishing, I found work as a newspaper health reporter in a small town with a nationally recognised medical school and hospital. Constant stories coming from these institutions and a dedicated weekly health page made the job exciting and challenging. But small papers have their downside, and after also covering umpteen blizzards, community works projects and car accidents, I jumped at the chance to join the medical school communications team where I could write about health and medicine full time.

After immigrating to Australia, I worked in the Public Affairs office at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne and at the Howard Florey Institute at the University of Melbourne managing and writing for Addiction Neuroscience Network Australia (ANNA). I have recently come full circle to just writing. I am a freelance medical writer in Melbourne and work on everything from university publications to patient education material to science for kids. It's all fun.

I joined AMWA nearly 10 years ago; it is a good way to stay connected to the medical writing community and it is great for networking and continuing education. I am pleased to be able to contribute to AMWA as a member of the Executive Committee.

Websites we like

Ever wondered where you can go for guidelines and resources on the communication of health research? We like to use the Equator Network website. It has comprehensive and up-to-date information on how to accurately report on health research: <http://www.equator-network.org/>

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

www.medicalwriters.org

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