

AMWA e-news

July 2008

Greetings!

AMWA's 25th annual conference, Friday 17 and Saturday 18 October, 2008. (Registration opens on Fri at 8.00am; conference commences 9.00am and finishes 5.00pm each day)

The conference organising committee have been extremely busy confirming speakers, sifting through papers, organising workshops and finalising details for the upcoming annual conference. The registration form will be available on the AMWA website (www.medicalwriters.org) soon - look out for an email broadcast with a link to the registration details. We are excited to announce the following confirmed speakers: Gold Walkley award winner Hedley Thomas; Professor Michael Good, Queensland Institute for Medical Research director and NHMRC chair; Professor Mark von Itzstein, Director of the Institute for Glycomics, Griffith University; Professor Ross Homel, Griffith School of Criminology and Criminal Justice; and ABC journalist Ian Townsend.

The conference will also offer AMWA workshops allowing members to aim towards their Professional Development Program (PDP) including: writing about medicines (Katherine Baverstock and Judith Brimer), evidence based medicine (Prof. Chris Del Mar) and writing and designing web content (Nikki Accornero).

The 25th conference looks set to be a fantastic opportunity to meet your peers, attend interesting and informative sessions, get the latest insight on hot topics, and ultimately support your association. We encourage you to book your flights now so you don't miss out on this valuable experience.

We look forward to seeing you there!

AMWA membership renewal time

Your annual membership (08/09) is now due for renewal. Renewing your membership will ensure you continue to receive the latest news and information, attend networking opportunities, complete the AMWA PDP, as well as contribute to the growth of the association. If you do not receive your renewal form in the post over the next couple of weeks, please download and complete the following form, ensuring you notify AMWA of any change in details.

http://www.medicalwriters.org/attachments/amwa_membership_renewal_form.pdf

What's new

- Hepatitis Australia is once again running the Professor Geoff Farrell Award for excellence in reporting on hepatitis C. Two journalists who excel in investigating topics relating to hepatitis C will be awarded prizes. Entry forms are available for download from www.hepatitisaustralia.com
- The World Federation of Science Journalists (WFSJ) in collaboration with Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) is offering journalists the chance to interview the top world's experts on health and the environment. Applications are required by 2nd September 2008; see www.wfsj.org for more information
- The 2008 Excellence in Health Journalism Awards are now open. Further information can be found at: www.npc.org.au/journalismAwards/healthJournalismAwards.html
- Simren Kaur Gill, currently completing a master's degree in science communication at ANU, would

like you to take a few minutes to complete a survey. Simren is surveying medical journalists to compare perceptions of professional medical writers, and to discover factors that influence effective reporting within the context of the print media. If you can help, follow the link <https://apollo.anu.edu.au/default.asp?pid=2824>

- The Blackmores Research Symposium - Exploring a Lifestyle Prescription for the 21st Century - is on in Oct 08. To register, go to www.blackmores.com.au/symposium
- The Sixth International Congress on Peer Review and Biomedical Publication, only held every 5 years, is on in Vancouver (Sept 2009). If you're interested in finding out more visit their website at <http://www.ama-assn.org/public/peer/peerhome.htm>
- The Association of Regulatory and Clinical Scientists (ARCS) have a number of upcoming workshops including, Fundamentals of Project Management, and Business Writing Skills. To find out more or register for a workshop, visit their website www.arcs.com.au
- The World Conference of Science Journalists (WCSJ) is holding their next meeting in London in 2009. AMWA was pleased to be a part of the last WCSJ in Melbourne 2007. If you would more information see link for registration details <http://www.wcsj2009.org/delegates.php>
- The Medical/Media Awards for 2008 are now open. If you are a health reporter/journalist who would like to nominate two health professionals for their services to the media then send your reason for nomination to Rebecca Stanton at medicalmedia@fleishman.com by 1st August. For more information, please call Rebecca on (02) 8905 6307 or visit www.researchaustralia.org

Getting to know one another: Andrea Malcolm

Freelance medical writer

Andrea started writing for a career over 10 years ago when she was responsible for the preparation and roll-out of all standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the biometrics department at Pfizer in the UK. Although the writing side of her job interested her, it became apparent that SOPs were not viewed by others in the same light.....

Andrea transferred to the clinical communications department in 2001 where she changed from writing SOPs to preparing clinical and marketing documentation. When she was asked to transfer to the Sydney office to cover the entire Asia-Pacific region, this was an opportunity Andrea was delighted to accept. In 2004 she packed her bags and her young family to head south of the equator.

Medical writing is a career that allows you to work from home providing that ultimate work-life balance. Hence, in 2007 Andrea set up as a freelance medical writer preparing clinical study reports, protocols, manuscripts for peer-reviewed journals, abstracts, conference proceedings, meeting reports, as well as training in regulatory report writing and publication planning.

Andrea joined AMWA in 2004 and was appointed Secretary at the last AGM. She contributes to the development and growth of the association and thoroughly enjoys the interaction with other committee members. Andrea is looking forward to seeing other members at the upcoming annual conference in Brisbane.

AMWA executive committee

The committee met by teleconference on 1 July, and would like to welcome the following new members: Alison Dear, Natalie Cooper, Deborah Early, Dawn Barker, Julie Milland, Samantha Lucia, Jane Scott, and Jacqueline Cuthbertson.

Websites we like

Want to know more about rhetoric? Silva Rhetoricae (<http://humanities.byu.edu/rhetoric/Silva.htm/>) has everything you need to know about rhetoric, and is aimed at all kinds of writers

<http://www.robertniles.com/stats> If you are a journalist or writer and require tips and explanations of basic statistical terms the statistics section of Sensible Talk is a useful tool
<http://www.robertniles.com/stats>

To unsubscribe to this newsletter please email treasurer Katherine Baverstock:
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