Greetings!

I am delighted to once again find myself sitting at the helm of the good ship AMWA for another year, sipping tea and mastering all the other vital captain’s duties such as ordering my underlings to steer.

After the high of the Melbourne conference, sadly this year’s crew will be diminished by the retirements of former captain Tina Allen, Mai Maddisson and the erudite Bruce Waxman, who swam for shore at the completion of his conference-convening duties. Bruce will be replaced in all but bow tie by Lisa Yates, who will convene our Sydney conference in late August 2014. Lisa is a former dynamic AMWA committee member whom we have lured back on board with a promise of unpaid deck scrubbing and the smell of a bottle of rum.

Tina is irreplaceable on the executive committee, but we have gone ahead and done it anyway, welcoming aboard Marissa Philpott, Shelley Reid and Ruth Hadfield. As the last on board, Ruth scored this newsletter editing job; standard ship’s rules, I’m afraid.

Brief shipping news: our AMWA logo is about to appear on the National Prescribing Service (NPS) website, and also supporting their Antibiotic Awareness campaign. The logo already appears on the Alltrials website. I recently judged the Guest Column Award for Medical Forum, an impressive WA magazine published by AMWA member Dr Rob McEvoy. I
also regularly judge the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia’s **Luminous Award**. Both these awards provide recognition of the importance of quality medical writing.

A final captain’s order: when in your cabin, have another squiz at our blog **The Beach**, and make sure you follow @AusMedWriters on twitter. Now, get back to work!

Justin Coleman  
AMWA President

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### Latest News

**Special issue of Science**

This special issue of *Science* - Communication in Science: Pressures and Predators - which focusses on current issues in publishing is worth a look.

**The National Science Communication Institute (nSCI)**

nSCI aims to improve science collaboration, discovery, education and public policy by reforming the communication culture *inside* science. Current projects include:

1. Publishing the first ever comprehensive guidebook on science communication.
2. Funding 10 key science communication projects across the country.
3. Nationwide Communications Survey of Researchers and Scientists.

**Social Media Training**

*Science Media Space* is for scientists who want to learn how to maximise their use of social media but may be equally useful for medical communicators. An online course delivers 10 modules over 3 weeks, showing scientists how they can use a range of social media tools and practices more effectively to maximise their interactions with the broader public. The next course starts Monday 25 November 2013.

**Call for newsletter content**

Have you had a piece published that you are particularly proud of? We would love to put
Prizes & awards

DAA Excellence in Nutrition Journalism Award
Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA) Media Program aims to provide accurate and practical nutrition information to consumers through the media. The award has been established to encourage accurate and responsible reporting on nutrition issues in the media and is presented annually to an Australian-based journalist at the DAA National Conference. Nominated entries must have been published, broadcast or televised through Australian media outlets during the calendar year prior to the award being presented. More information is available here.

Attend the Kavli Prize Awards in Norway
Win the opportunity to attend and cover the Kavli Prize Award Ceremony in Oslo, Norway, 8 – 11 September 2014. Up to five science journalists will have the opportunity to attend the Kavli Prize in Olso, Norway, 8 – 11 September 2014. Meet and exchange with the winners of the Kavli Prize awarded in astrophysics, nanoscience and neuroscience. Candidates are asked to submit three articles or audio or video productions on astrophysics, nanoscience or neuroscience in the language of origin, and a one-page essay in English describing why they should be selected and what they will do if they win the competition. Further information is available here.

Gavin Mooney Memorial Essay
A prize of $5000 is up for grabs for an essay of not more than 5,000 words exploring the theme of climate change and equity, at a local, national or international level. Closing date 2nd December. Further information is available here.
In the journals

Discussion on the use of Google Scholar for systematic reviews continues, with this research published in *BMC Medical Research Methodology* 2013, *13*:131.

"Currently, Google Scholar does not provide necessary elements for systematic scientific literature retrieval such as tools for incremental query optimization, export of a large number of references, a visual search builder or a history function. Google Scholar is not ready as a professional searching tool for tasks where structured retrieval methodology is necessary," the authors noted.

And a cross-sectional analysis of the non-publication of clinical trial results appeared in *BMJ* 2013;347:f6104.

"We observed that non-publication is common among large randomized clinical trials. Furthermore, the sponsors and investigators of these unpublished trials infrequently utilize the ClinicalTrials.gov results database. The lack of availability of results from these trials contributes to publication bias and also constitutes a failure to honor the ethical contract that is the basis for exposing study participants to the risks inherent in trial participation," stated the researchers.

Professional Development

Registration is now open for 'Introduction to copyediting', an online professional development workshop. Places are strictly limited to 10 participants, so register now!

**When:** Thursday, 5 December 2013
**Time:** 12 noon to 2 pm AEDT
**Cost:** $85 AUD AMWA members or $90 AUD non-members
**Presenter:** Dr Malini Devadas, Biotext

Completion of this workshop will count toward the AMWA PD certificate. To book please [click here](#).
If you have any questions, please email the AMWA education subcommittee chair, [L.E. Ohman](mailto:).
Dr Marissa Philpott, freelance medical writer and editor

I’m a freelance medical writer and editor based in Melbourne. I obtained a BA/BSc (Hons) in Neuroendocrinology (2003) and a PhD (2008) from Prince Henry’s Institute in medical female reproduction. Following completion of my PhD, I worked in post doc positions before embarking full time into freelance medical writing and editing. As I’m still relatively new to this field, I’m really excited to be a member of the AMWA committee due to the invaluable resources and connections linked with the association.

My areas of expertise include neuroendocrinology, reproductive biology, obstetrics and gynaecology, endocrinology, oncology, cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

Since beginning my career as a freelance medical writer and editor, I’ve worked as a grant writer in Melbourne for the Royal Women’s Hospital and as a freelance writer and editor for several medical organizations including Avant, YTB, MedSci Editing, BioMed Proofreading and BioMed World. In addition, I’ve completed Scientific Communication/Media Training.

In the future, I hope to create greater awareness about the difficulties of obtaining medical research funding in Australia and hopefully assist clinicians and researchers in their grant applications and getting their research and stories heard and recognized.

Aside from my work, I enjoy World War II history, music, theatre and of course travelling.
Fabulous feedback on the mentoring program

Received from Dinethra Nandakoban

“I just wanted to drop you line to provide some feedback on my experience with the mentoring program.”

“I feel very lucky to have been given the opportunity to participate in this program. My mentor, Maha Sawalhy has been truly amazing, and I am very grateful to have her mentoring me for the past few months. She has provided me with invaluable tips, insight, experience, and ideas to recognise my existing skills for a freelance career in medical writing. Prior to participating in this program, I felt quite uncertain that my experience would actually suffice to commence working as a medical writer, but Maha has given me the confidence to how best utilise my current skills, and to furthermore develop a network of professional contacts. I feel very confident to forge ahead and starting setting myself up as a freelance medical writer, and I have to say a lot of my confidence is due to Maha.”

“I also wanted to thank Sarah McKay and the AMWA for this wonderful initiative. I really hope that the program continues - it is a wonderful aspect of my membership with the AMWA.”

For more information on becoming a mentor or mentee, please contact Sarah McKay.
Website we like

**SciJourn**o is a free, open-access professional development website for journalists. The website was funded by The Australian Government’s Inspiring Australia programme, and was developed by the University of Queensland, Econnect Communication, and the AusSMC. Topics covered on the site include: What makes a reliable scientific source, working with big numbers and data & what to do when science gets politicised.

Registrations are now open for the ASC conference being held in Brisbane, February 2-5, 2014. For more information and details on how to register can be found [here](#).

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The Beach

Have you been down to the beach lately? Read the latest from AMWA guest blogger, Adam Jacobs, and his article **'Myths about Ghostwriting'**.

Calling all bloggers. Have you got an issue to air? Don't be shy, submit your contributions [here](#).

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Advance notice & call for EOI for conference committee

AMWA Conference
Sydney August 2014

Do you live in Sydney? Are you keen to get involved in organising the AMWA 2014 conference? If so, please contact Lisa Yates.

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Please take 2 minutes to give us some feedback on the new look newsletter

[CLICK HERE](#)

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Visit the AMWA website for more information: