

UPCOMING MEETING

The Future of Medical Publishing — June 28

AMWA-DVC's June 28, 2006 meeting will feature David Woods, PhD, who will speak on "The Future of Medical Publishing."

David Woods is founder and CEO of Healthcare Media International, where he has published, consulted, and provided editorial services on management, communications, risk management, managed care, and healthcare policy. Currently he edits a UK-based online newsletter for health economists and publishes *Philadelphia Medicine*. Woods is a Fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, a Senior Scholar at Jefferson Medical College Department of Health Policy, and a member of numerous advisory and editorial boards. Before moving to Philadelphia in 1987, he was editor of the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*.

After the program, we will hold our annual business meeting where we will elect new AMWA-DVC officers and hear the annual and financial reports. We will also honor long-standing AMWA-DVC members.

Details

- Wednesday, June 28: 5:30 p.m. Networking, 6:00 p.m. Dr. Wood's presentation, 7:00 p.m. Dinner.
- Holiday Inn City Line
4100 Presidential Blvd.
Philadelphia, PA 19131
- Cost (with advance registration)
Members: \$40, Nonmembers: \$45, Full-time Student Members: \$10
At the door: \$10 more, SPACE PERMITTING

Registration

- Please mail the registration form that was sent via the broadcast e-mail and your check payable to AMWA-DVC to:

Loretta Spotila
ScienceScribe
161 Merion Ave.
Haddonfield, NJ 08033

Registration is by U.S. mail only. Checks must be received no later than June 19. If you have questions, please send an e-mail to: Loretta Spotila at lspotila@earthlink.net.

CALENDAR

- **Wednesday, June 28, 2006** — "The Future of Medical Publishing," Philadelphia, Pa.
- **September** — Pa. meeting (Topic, speaker, date, and location to be determined)
- **October 26-28** — 66th Annual Conference, Albuquerque, N.M.
- **October/November** — N.J. meeting (Topic, speaker, date, and location to be determined)

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News from National Highlights from the Spring AMWA Board of Directors Meeting

By Scott Metsger and Debbie Early

The Spring AMWA Board of Directors meeting was held March 31 through April 1, 2006, with 32 attending.

The annual conference in Albuquerque, N.M. (October 26-28, 2006) will have:

- 96 workshops, the most we have ever held (approximately 14 will be new)
- 37 open sessions (12 chaired by DVC member Lori De Milto)
- 60 breakfast roundtables
- 17 poster sessions, to date
- 21 coffee klatches (organized by DVC member Robert Hand)

Some planned activities include a spelling bee and opportunities for morning hot-air balloon rides.

On-line registrations will be accepted beginning July 17. Negotiated room rates are \$129. There will be no increase in registration costs or fees from last year because the organization has had such a good year.

The keynote speaker will be Dale Alverson, MD, a pediatrician who brings telemedicine to rural communities. The Alvarez speaker will be Neil Shulman, MD, who promotes preventive medicine and improves doctor-patient communication using humor.

Nominations

The leadership of the national organization remains sound. The board approved the nomination of Sue Hudson for President-Elect, Tom Gegeny for Secretary, and Cindy Hamilton (continuing) for Treasurer.

Member Benefits

The board of directors enthusiastically agreed to accept provider offers that would allow all AMWA members to receive discounts on products and services commonly used by medical writers. There is a strong awareness of the need to expand member benefits and to offer member extras, and the

board is receptive to following DVC's example in adding value to membership in the association. Benefits will be made available on the members-only page of AMWA's Web site. Scott Metsger was appointed to the Web and Internet Technology committee to facilitate the availability of new member benefits.

Recent software improvements will allow members more flexibility in participating in AMWA listservs. Members will be able to access the listservs from the Web and to receive digests.

See National on 5.

Delawriter

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AMWA-DVC Celebrates Long-Term Members

We would like to recognize AMWA-DVC members who have achieved 10 or more years of AMWA membership. This includes one member with 27 years of membership. Congratulations to:

27 Years – AMWA Member since 1979

- James E Bates, DPM, Philadelphia, Pa.

20 Years – AMWA Member since 1986

- Robert J Bonk, PhD, Chester, Pa.
- Silba Cunningham-Dunlop, Philadelphia, Pa.
- Dorothy Hoffman, Lansdowne, Pa.
- Lee R Martin, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.
- Susan Tobin, Philadelphia, Pa.
- Valentina J Witek, Chester Springs, Pa.

15 Years – AMWA Member since 1991

- Judith Ann Borak, Coatesville, Pa.
- Susan C Glasser, PhD, Raritan, N.J.
- Linda Lewis Grigg, Mount Laurel, N.J.

- Alison T Kelley, Newtown, Pa.
- Mercedes McLaughlin, BS, Phoenixville, Pa.
- Joann Nash, MA, ELS, Bryn Mawr, Pa.
- Michelle Perate, Malvern, Pa.
- Janice Pruch, PhD, New Hope, Pa.
- Arlene C Reiss, Hillsborough, N.J.
- Steven C Sibley, MS, Wilmington, Del.
- Paul P Sokol, PhD, Titusville, N.J.
- John A Taylor, PhD, Camden, N.J.
- Gregg Truitt, Wilmington, Del.
- Charlene A Tucker, MS, Frazer, Pa.
- John A Tumas, Wilmington, Del.
- Joyce S Weiner, PhD, Wyncote, Pa.
- William J Wheeler, PhD, Somerset, N.J.
- Mary H Whitman, MS, PhD, West Chester, Pa.

10 Years – AMWA Member since 1996

- Patricia L Cavender, PhD, Princeton Junction, N.J.

- Carl Chelle, MS, Bedminster, N.J.
- Naina D Chohan, BSc, ELS, Plymouth Meeting, Pa.
- Lisa Cotter, Mount Laurel, N.J.
- John F Decker, PhD, Allamuchy, N.J.
- Karyn L Frey, BS, Bloomsbury, N.J.
- Terry Ann Glauser, MD, MPH, Bryn Mawr, Pa.
- David E Hartree, PhD, Edison, N.J.
- Sandra A Hayes-Licitra, PhD, Somerset, N.J.
- Roberta Dunn Higgins, Skippack, Pa.
- Kathy Holtzman, Philadelphia, Pa.
- Wendy Horn, PhD, Westfield, N.J.
- Stewart W Jaslove, PhD, Kenilworth, N.J.
- John F Kross, DDS, Lincoln University, Pa.
- Hollis C Lattime, PhD, Princeton, N.J.
- Donna JG Lee, Princeton Junction, N.J.
- Sandra J Masse, Media, Pa.
- Monica Nicosia, PhD, Bryn Mawr, Pa.

See Members on 6.

AMWA-DVC Nominations for 2006-2007

The AMWA-DVC Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following nominations for the 2006-2007 calendar year: Karen Dutka for President-Elect and Linda Felcone for Secretary.

The biographies of each candidate follow:

Karen Dutka

Karen Dutka has a BS in Chemical Engineering from Rutgers University and over 10 years of experience with communications and technical documentation in the pharmaceutical industry. Her experience includes creating strategically targeted scientific and medical content for pharmaceutical sales representatives, editing, and more recently, developing regulatory submission documents. Karen is currently a Senior Medical Writer at Theradex, Inc. in Princeton Junction, N.J., specializing in regulatory submissions in the therapeutic area of oncology.

During 2004-2005, Karen served on the AMWA-DVC Membership and Newsletter committees, which included sending welcome packets to new members, and copy-editing and writing articles for the *Delawriter*, respectively. She also assisted at the registration desk at the 2005 Princeton Conference and co-chaired the June 2005 business meeting. For the past year (2005-2006), Karen has served as the Membership Chair and Secretary. In these roles, she has actively promoted AMWA

membership while networking at dinner meetings and through correspondence with new and non-members, and has recorded the proceedings of AMWA-DVC board meetings.

Linda Felcone

Linda Felcone, B.A., M.A. William and Mary (English), is a freelance medical writer in Princeton, N.J. She has been teaching writing for several decades in various venues including community colleges, an Air Force base, the College of New Jersey (Engineering Department), and now at USIP (formerly Philadelphia College of Pharmacy) in Philadelphia. Having decided to specialize in medical writing in the early 1980s, she learned the pharmaceutical industry on-the-job, first as a copy editor and then as a managing editor of medical and dental journals, then as a journal article writer, clinical manager, and regulatory manager. She has contributed to hundreds of publications—journal articles, drug applications, and drug prescribing documents (labeling), and she has designed and written sales training materials on pharmaceutical products and related topics. She worked for 14 years at Bristol Myers Squibb and then launched a freelance career in 2002 writing about drugs, diseases, clinical studies, managed care, and biotechnology. Formerly a member of the NY Chapter of AMWA, she now participates in the Delaware Valley Chapter helping with registration

and occasional roundtables and presentations. For years she has served as a trade book reviewer for national AMWA.

Nominating Committee

- Brian Bass
- Lori De Milto
- John Smith

Changes to DVC Bylaws

National headquarters has completed a review of all chapter bylaws for compliance with four specific housekeeping points. AMWA-DVC has been asked to make two minor amendments to our bylaws. The first is to acknowledge that we will schedule chapter meetings in accordance with national AMWA policy, and the second is to correctly note that the national board of directors, not the national executive committee, must approve all changes to our chapter bylaws.

These proposed amendments will be voted upon at the June business meeting.

National from 2.

Education News

Members can now access their education records and track progress towards a certificate on AMWA's Web site.

Development of the science curriculum continues. Courses to be offered at the annual conference this year are *Biochemistry, A Taste of Orthopedic Medicine, Hematology, Microbiology, Basic Immunology, and Topics in Clinical Neurology*; all will be offered as non-credit workshops.

The self-study course, *Punctuation for Clarity and Style*, will be available at the annual conference at a discounted member rate of \$125 (regular member rate is \$155).

Communications from National

National is considering sending a short monthly bulletin to all members that will provide timely links to pages on AMWA's Web site and relevant announcements in order to reduce the number of broadcast e-mails and to increase Web traffic.

Member Solicitations

DVC members who will be attending the DIA meeting in Philadelphia from June 18 to 22 are encouraged to visit AMWA's booth and greet the executive director, Donna Munari, and the staff. If you could offer to remain at the booth for a few minutes to give one of them a short break, they would appreciate it.

DVC Member Responsibilities at Albuquerque

Some DVC members will be performing key behind-the-scenes functions at next year's annual conference in Albuquerque as they serve on the conference committee:

- Susanna Dodgson, Short session coordinator
- Robert Hand, Coffee and dessert klatch coordinator
- Lori De Milto, Open sessions coordinator

Upcoming Annual Meetings

- 2006: October 26-28, Albuquerque, N.M.
- 2007: October 11-13, Atlanta, Ga.
- 2008: October 23-25, Louisville, Ky.
- 2009: October 22-24, Dallas, Tx.

Gunther von Hagens' Body Worlds

AMWA-DVC's April 4, 2006 meeting, which was held at the Franklin Institute and culminated with a tour of the *Body Worlds* Exhibit, was terrific. We had almost 60 attendees, great food, and a very interesting exhibit! Much thanks to Christina Valente and her program committee for organizing the event, and to Maitland Young and Jun Yan for dealing with the contracts and all of the checks.

Princeton Conference

AMWA-DVC's annual Princeton conference celebrates its 10th year of providing continuing education for professional medical communicators. Held on Saturday, June 10, 2006 at the Harrison Conference Center in Plainsboro, N.J., it included the following core curriculum workshops:

- *Writing Abstracts* (EW/PH)—Cindy W. Hamilton
- *Writing and Designing Materials for Patient Education* (EW/PRAM)—Edie Stern
- *Project Management* (PH)—Art Gertel
- *Writing the Final Report of a Clinical Trial* (PH)—Lawrence Liberti

In addition, two noncredit classes were offered: *Developing a Publication Plan: From Research to Writing* led by Cynthia Landis Kryder and *Writing for Video: A Different Animal* led by Ann L. Davis. Be sure to look for a report of the day's events in the next issue!



AMWA-DVC
c/o Alan Struthers
623 Chicago Blvd.
Sea Girt, NJ 08750

News and notes from the American Medical Writers Association — Delaware Valley Chapter

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Members from 3.

10 Years – AMWA Member since 1996

- Pamela K Roth,
Schwenksville, Pa.
- Karen M Rutkowski,
Somerville, N.J.
- Diane M Schneider, PhD,
Wallingford, Pa.
- Debra Share, ELS(D),
Elkins Park, Pa.
- Mary A Tom, PharmD,
Yardley, Pa.
- Barry M Weichman, PhD,
Skillman, N.J.
- J Maitland Young, PhD,
Bryn Mawr, Pa.

2005-2006 Board of Directors

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Deborah Early, PhD**
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PresidentElect@amwa-dvc.org