



Message from the President

by Julia Forjanic Klapproth

Who are we and where are we going? Where do we want to go? How can we make sure that our organisation continues to grow and develop in ways that meet the needs of our broad membership? These are all questions that have been occupying EMWA's Executive Committee (EC) for some time now. And after having spent the past 2 years behind the scenes streamlining the administrative side of running EMWA, we are now poised to focus our time and energy on tackling these broader questions. The time that all of us dedicate to EMWA can now be spent developing concrete, long-term strategies for continued growth and development of our association.

We have taken the first major step in hiring an international Head Office service provider offering a wealth of resources. This means that as we identify potential new programmes—such as further extracurricular activities, sponsorship plans or scholarship schemes—we will have dedicated teams at Head Office at our disposal to help us put them in place. Members, who provide support to EMWA on a voluntary basis, alongside full-time professions (not to mention family and other obligations!), understandably have limited amounts of time to give to EMWA. This precious resource will be of much greater value to EMWA if our dedicated members act more as “think tanks” for events and programmes that would best contribute to our professional development and promote the public view of medical writing: teams at Head Office will then coordinate and implement these ideas.

The next step will be to develop a 5-year plan for EMWA, focusing our time on exploring or strengthening many areas of our activities. Over the next year, the EC will list and prioritize initiatives, and develop a business plan to make them happen. For example, we all have an interest in raising the awareness and perception of medical writers as professionals who bring expertise and add value to our clients' or colleagues' endeavours. As members of an esteemed organisation, we all benefit from increased recognition in our professional domains. One way of increasing visibility would be to have teams of members at hand to address topics of concern to medical writers arising in the media and industry, and in regulatory or communications arenas. The goal is of course to further strengthen EMWA as a respected authority and the voice of the medical writing community in Europe. If you have other ideas, please let us know; with your help we can identify and explore other important ways to make EMWA an organisation that works for us all.

The next two conferences are already set, and planning is underway. This year, our autumn conference will be held in

London from 20-22 November and will offer a diverse programme of workshops to be added to your EMWA Professional Development Programme (EPDP) accreditation. The spring conference in 2009 will be held in Ljubljana from 26-30 May, and will have a theme of regulatory writing. I am still looking for members working in this area who would be willing to share their ideas and expertise to make the theme events of the Ljubljana conference as memorable as those of the Barcelona conference. If you are considering getting involved, you do not need to worry that this will mean a huge workload. What EMWA really needs are your ideas. If you give me suggestions, for example for speakers or topics for discussion, I will work with Head Office to make the suggestions happen. Of course, if you are good friends with an EMEA or FDA reviewer and can convince him or her to come and talk at the conference, even better! But no commitment from your side would be necessary other than to participate on three or four telephone conferences over the next few months, and brainstorm with other writers to help us put together our “dream conference”. So please let me know if you are willing to get involved.

One last point before I sign off. The feedback from the Barcelona conference has been resoundingly positive and I really felt that the programme had a fantastic selection of workshops and seminars for everyone—new and experienced writers across the medical writing spectrum. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this conference something special.

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MET members: Thank you and TWS subscriptions

EMWA would like to thank the MET members who contributed to the great success of the translation session at the EMWA conference in Barcelona.

Also a reminder that MET members are entitled to a subscription to *TWS* at the reduced rate of 30 euro per annum. Please contact EMWA head office (see inside cover) for further details.