

A case history of EC membership—or how I became involved

I joined EMWA in 1999 and during my first 7 years I attended around 25 workshops and made friends with many other members. As a freelancer working alone, EMWA really opened my horizons for training and networking and I often wished I could give something back to the association that had helped me so much—but I didn't really know what I had to offer.

Finally, an experienced workshop leader, Pamela Johnson, convinced me that we should develop a workshop together ('From Clinical Study Report to Manuscript'). I was very reluctant (i.e. downright terrified) at first and it was a lot of hard work to develop the workshop. However, when we gave the workshop the first time in Lyon in 2006, it went really well and it was approved for credit. Suddenly I felt really proud and

excited and I realised that my hard work had paid off! Since then I have given the workshop 5 more times on my own and it seems to be popular.

After that my involvement with EMWA just snowballed: I joined the EMWA Professional Development Committee (EPDC) in 2006 and then became Vice President in 2007. Now I can't understand why I waited in the wings for so long instead of stepping forward much earlier. I'm really glad I did finally get involved: it's very interesting and challenging to help manage such a fast-growing professional organisation as EMWA and I'm really proud to be a part of it!

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Call for nominations for executive committee positions

The following positions will be up for election at the 2009 Annual General Meeting: Vice President, Treasurer, Public Relations Officer, Education Officer, and Honorary Secretary.

This is an early announcement to give you plenty of time to consider whether you would like to nominate yourself or if there is somebody else you wish to nominate for one of the posts.

Each position has an important function in the organisation. In addition, as a member of the executive committee (EC), you or your nominee will be involved in the decision-making process behind the scenes. EC membership is an opportunity to contribute your ideas and help form the future of EMWA.

Any EMWA member can be nominated for the position of Treasurer or Public Relations Officer. For the position of

Education Officer, candidates must have served on the EMWA Professional Development Committee. For the Vice Presidency, the candidate must have served on the EC or represented EMWA in an official capacity in the last 5 years. Nominations can be given to Head Office or any current EC member no later than 1 February 2009. Candidates will need to prepare a written summary about why they feel suited for the position, which will be published in the March 2009 issue of *The Write Stuff*.

This is an opportunity to get involved in the medical writing community. Being on the EC is a good way to gain management skills and it looks great on your CV. So think about the idea and start nominating.

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