

A snowy start to the year at EMWA's Head Office

During early January 2010, the UK experienced some unusually severe weather which called for a temporary re-brand at EMWA's Head Office. We wish to apologise for any inconvenience if you experienced a delay in our normal response times during this period.



The EMWA ski lodge



As you can see, the roads were impassable for several days



During the second week we managed access on foot and closed early to make sure our colleagues could get home before dark

Thankfully we are now back to normal



Call for Workshop Leaders

Since the EPDP brochure was last updated in October 2009, I am delighted to have received a number of new workshop proposals on a range of topics including publication ethics, medical devices and advanced statistics, all of which have been suggested by members in EMWA's recent surveys and conference evaluations. I hope that some of these workshops will be available to members for the Nice conference or in spring 2011. If you are interested in becoming an EMWA workshop leader, a good place to start is to study the EPDP Brochure and the Workshop Leaders Handbook, both available from the EMWA website. Even though the EPDP has been expanding rapidly over the last three years (doubling in size and now comprising about 100 workshops), there are still areas that are under-represented in the programme, and there are many topics of interest to medical writers that are not covered at all.

Prospective workshop leaders are welcome to propose a topic of their own choice for consideration by the EPDC. Workshops in the options Medical Communication and Medical Science, and in all options at advanced level, would be especially welcome. Specific topics that have been mentioned in responses to the surveys include:

- The risk management plan
- Clinical trial registries
- Appendices to clinical study reports
- Investigational medicinal product dossiers
- Health economics
- Non-clinical writing
- Management and training of medical writers
- Medical marketing and promotional material
- Medical journalism
- Medical writing for the media

If you would like to join the EPDC, or become a workshop leader, or would like more information, please contact me and the EPDC at epdc@emwa.org.

Stephen de Looze

Education Officer

How many 'F's are there in the following text?

FINISHED FILES ARE THE RESULT OF YEARS OF SCIENTIFIC STUDY COMBINED WITH THE EXPERIENCE OF YEARS...

Answer on page 27

What's news at EMWA

Call for Applicants for the EMWA Professional Development Committee

Vacancies have arisen on the EMWA Professional Development Committee (EPDC). I invite applications from EMWA members for this position. Ideally you will be an experienced EMWA workshop leader, or have other experience that will be of benefit to the EPDC. As an EPDC member, you will be involved in all aspects of developing and maintaining the EMWA Professional Development Programme (EPDP), ensuring quality of the workshops in the programme and supporting the development of new workshops through mentoring of new workshop leaders. By serving on the EPDC you can help shape the future of this vital programme at the heart of EMWA's activities. Furthermore, candidates for the post of EMWA Education Officer must have served on the EPDC.

Stephen de Looze

Education Officer

TWS call for Regulatory Section Editor

TWS is looking for a volunteer to write a quarterly column on developments such as changes in FDA and EMEA regulations that affect regulatory writing. A column format similar to the current 'Biomedical publishing shorts' and 'Words, Grammar & Co.' columns is envisaged but alternative formats are also possible if preferred by the prospective section editor.

This is a chance to 'get into writing', extend your CV, and keep yourself as well as your colleagues up to date. If this might interest you, please contact me, Elise, by e-mail to editor@emwa.org.

Meet the EMWA Executive Committee candidates... 2010

EMWA's Executive Committee will be elected based on voting by members present at the Annual General Meeting in Lisbon on 12th May 2010. If you will not be present you may also vote by proxy in advance by sending your vote to EMWA's Head Office (info@emwa.org) before 15.14 hours on Monday 10th May or appoint another EMWA member as your proxy and provide that member with your voting form to take to the AGM. You will receive your voting form in the post as part of your AGM pack.

For the position of Conference Director:
Sunethra Wimalasundera



I would like to apply for the position of Conference Director as I believe that I have the ideal combination of skills and personality to conduct this role.

I have experience of organising meetings from my time as a CRA where I was involved in setting up site initiation meetings for study investigators. This required liaising with venues, caterers and delegates to ensure their availability. I have also had the opportunity to organise several weddings including my own and am aware of the many aspects of ensuring a successful social event.

I believe, I have very good interpersonal skills as I am very communicative, approachable, persuasive and enjoy being part of a team.

Finally, I would like to apply for this position as it would be a great honour to assist EMWA as an organisation which has been an integral part of my professional development for over 5 years.

For the position of Vice President:
Rita Wellans



I am honoured by the invitation of several EMWA colleagues to forward my candidacy for the position of EMWA Vice President. My involvement with EMWA started in the late 1990s when I returned to Europe, after an academic career in the USA, to pursue a professional career in the pharmaceutical industry.

A workshop on 'Basics of epidemiology for medical communicators' already developed for the core curriculum of the American Medical Writers Association was soon adapted for EMWA. Motivated by the generous feedback from workshop participants and fellow workshop leaders, a second workshop was rolled out for the advanced curriculum. As a member of the EMWA Professional Development Committee since 2008, I continue to enjoy being actively involved in supporting the development of new workshops by mentoring of new workshop leaders. I hope to contribute further to the booming bright future of EMWA as Vice President.