



## Message from the President

by Geoff Hall

Dear Fellow EMWA members,

After a year as vice-president of EMWA, it is comparatively relaxing to take on the role of president. As vice-president, your duties are clearly defined, revolving mainly around the job of managing the annual conference. Although it was a busy time, the Copenhagen conference ended up being great fun for me because so much of the hard work had been done on the ground by Susanne, Mary and our other friends at Novo-Nordisk and Julia Cooper made our joint task of planning the content a pleasure. The only tension came from the knowledge that if anything went wrong, I was ultimately responsible. Thanks also to Philippa for ensuring no disasters occurred.

Now, however, as president there are no clearly defined duties, and so at the beginning of my period of office it makes sense to lay out objectives for the coming year. Then in Dublin next year, everyone will be able to check progress.

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First there is the need to expand and extend membership. Julia Forjanic-Klapproth, our new membership officer, has already made a fine start. I would hope that everyone will find the opportunity during the coming year to mention EMWA to colleagues, freelancers, CROs and others. Word of mouth recommendation can't be beaten. We still do not have members in every pharmaceutical company so we need to find other ways of publicising EMWA. If you see an opportunity, let any member of the EC know and in particular Jane Stock, our PR officer.

The second objective is to establish EMWA as an educational/academic body that can stand on its own. To this end we have established an eminent academic committee to approve workshops and leaders. Julia Cooper is heading this as part of her big job as education officer. By the end of the year, I hope we will have established the foundation for EMWA's courses to be acknowledged as professionally useful, academically valid and respected.

## ***The Write Stuff***

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### ***From the President's Desk***

I would like to see the website and the magazine *The Write Stuff* grow and get better and better. Marian Hodges has done a great job establishing a site of which we can all be proud. Please use it and in particular use the dialogue pages to communicate and air views. In the early days of the site, it seemed to be buzzing with issues, but more recently people have gone a little quiet. The website is an important outward face of EMWA so let's make sure everyone who visits gets the impression of a professional lively body. *The Write Stuff* goes from strength to strength under Barry's inspirational editorship. Please consider what you can contribute.

Finally, I plan to build on my predecessor Jerry's thinking about sponsorship to establish a base of sponsors for various aspects of the EMWA effort: 1. the conference; 2. the executive committee, so that travel for EC meetings is funded; 3. the academic committee, for meetings, travel and contact with other institutions, 4. a president's fund so that future presidents can spend a little time going to meetings of like-minded bodies around the world building a network, without being a drain on the general pool of funds. I sent out a plea with the last mailing for contacts who could be approached for sponsorship. Response so far? A very disappointing nothing. Come on now. EMWA is only the sum of its members and we need a bit of support here. All I

need to know is the name and contact address of the person in your corporation who could sanction a small degree of financial support for EMWA. I will try to do the rest.

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Another objective, is to have our first ever one-day local conference. This is now set for December in the UK, in Henley which is fairly close to London Heathrow Airport. If you would like to suggest a venue for

future mini-conferences and would like to get involved with organisation, please let me or Julia Cooper know.

The final and most obvious objective of my year, however, is to have the best-ever conference in Dublin. This though is no longer my responsibility but is in the capable hands of Keith and Julia. I am expecting the conference to be the biggest ever, both in terms of attendance and content. If you have any suggestions, please pass them to any member of the EC.

And if you have any ideas, thoughts, or criticisms about the things the Executive Committee are doing or the general direction of EMWA, by all means, share them with me, after all, we're only here to further the interests of you – the members.

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