

## **The EMWA Professional Development Programme**

**by Virginia Watson**

The EMWA Professional Development Programme, to be known as the EPDP, was introduced at the Ninth Annual Meeting in Dublin. An EMWA Professional Development Certificate will be awarded on completion of the programme.

Training will be provided through workshops at the Annual EMWA Meeting and at separate one-day meetings. Each course will consist of a pre-workshop preparation exercise and questionnaire, attendance at the workshop, and post-workshop homework, which should be completed within a defined period after the workshop and returned to the workshop leader. A credit will be awarded on satisfactory completion of all course requirements, including the homework.

To gain an EMWA Professional Development Certificate, candidates will be required to complete eight workshops as follows:

- four workshops from the 'foundation' section  
and
- four workshops from the 'option' sections.

To qualify for the **multidisciplinary** certificate, candidates will be required to obtain credits for four workshops from two or more 'option' sections. To qualify for a **specialised** certificate, candidates will be required to obtain credits for four workshops from a single option.

All workshops in the EPDP will be led by an approved leader. At the moment there are 16 approved workshops and a further 6 are being assessed. A full list of approved workshops will be circulated to members after the next EMWA Professional Development Committee (EPDC) meeting.

***What does it cost?*** A single fee (currently £50) to register for the programme plus the individual workshop fees.

***How long do I have to complete the programme?*** Six years after registering for the programme.

***I have partly completed the American Medical Writers Association (AMWA) Core Curriculum, what happens to me?*** Your AMWA credits will be valid for the EPDP; an EMWA Professional Development Certificate will be awarded on completion of eight workshops.

***I wish to transfer to the EPDP but do not have a statement of the credits obtained through AMWA?*** Please contact Lillian Sablack ([lillian@amwa.org](mailto:lillian@amwa.org)) to request written confirmation and pass this information to Phillipa Clow or Julia Cooper so that we can update our database.

## ***The Write Stuff***

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***I do not wish to transfer to the EPDP. Can I continue with the AMWA Core Curriculum?*** Yes, you may continue in the AMWA programme but none of the workshops provided by EMWA will qualify for credit.

***The workshops I attended in Dublin required pre-workshop homework. There was no homework to be completed afterwards. Do these qualify for EPDP credit?*** The programme for the Dublin meeting was planned before the EPDP had been finalised. All approved workshops offered at Dublin qualify for credit. At future meetings, you will find that all newly approved workshops will follow the EPDP format but that during this transition period some of the original workshops will retain their present format.

***Can I have both a multidisciplinary and a specialised certificate?*** Yes. When you have obtained your first certificate, you may register for a second programme. Your credits for the four foundation workshops that you completed for the first certificate will be valid for all subsequent certificates. It is not planned to impose any restrictions on the number of certificates a candidate may obtain.

***Will EMWA be providing an advanced course?*** We hope to develop an advanced course in the future.

If you have any queries concerning the new EMWA Professional Development Programme, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Julia Cooper or any other member of the Professional Development Committee.

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