Preface
2018 Postconference Issue

Each year ~900 members, nonmembers, presenters, volunteers, awardees, exhibitors, and staff take time from their busy lives to come together for the AMWA Medical Writing & Communication Conference. This 4-day meeting is the flagship event of the year for AMWA members and provides an opportunity to attend open sessions and for-credit workshops, listen to presentations from our esteemed award winners, meet and greet exhibitors, view posters, and network with hundreds of colleagues. Yet, most of our members are unable to attend and therefore miss out on this amazing wealth of information and opportunity.

This is why I chose again to devote this issue of the AMWA Journal to showcasing our conference content.

First, let me thank our volunteer reporters who attended and have provided brief reports of many of the open sessions presented this past November in Washington, DC. These brief reports are designed to share some basic information from each session so that those who could not attend might nevertheless be informed of topics and trends of interest among our colleagues in the industry. If you see something particularly interesting, please feel free to reach out to the individual presenter. If you are on the fence about whether to spend your time and money in attending the 2019 conference, perhaps this glimpse into what you’re missing may help clarify your decision!

Claire L. Jarvis leads off our postconference content with an expanded report on the “Jam Session for Early-Career Freelances” with commentary from Freelance Forum contributors Brian Bass, Melissa Bogen, Sherri Bowen, Lori De Milto, and Cathryn D. Evans. Bart Harvey, MD, MSc, PhD, MEd, FRCPC, FACPM, is the recipient of the 2018 Harold Swanberg Distinguished Service Award; his award address can be found on page 18. Next, we present several of our Open Session reports.

Additional postconference coverage can be found as an online-only supplement (https://www.amwa.org/page/Members_Only_Issues), including a presentation by Stacy Robison, MPH, MCHES, recipient of the John P. McGovern Award; additional Open Session reports; information from several of our exhibitors; and reproductions of our conference posters.

But that’s not all!

In addition to these postconference contributions, the print issue also contains a feature article in the Science Series section, as well as articles in the Around the Career Block, Statistically Speaking, and In the Service of Good Writing sections; and AMWA News ... including a report from the Annual Business Meeting, a report on AMWA’s Inaugural Medical Writing Executives Forum, an update on the Chapter Advisory Council, information about the AMWA Medical Communication Compensation Survey, and a message From the President by Cyndy Kryder.

But wait, there’s more!

I am pleased to announce that with this issue we will begin publishing open access abstracts with each of our feature-length articles. These abstracts can be accessed by members and nonmembers via our online Table of Contents on the Journal web page. If you are considering submitting a feature-length manuscript, please read the new abstract criteria in our Instructions to Contributors (www.amwa.org/contribute).

In closing, I hope you find this insight into the annual Medical Writing & Communication Conference to be of value. As you can see, if you missed it, you missed a lot! I hope to see you at the next conference in San Diego, California, later this year!

Yours in AMWA,
—Jim