

AMWA Southwest Chapter Guide to the 2018 Medical Writing & Communication Conference

November 1 – 3 in Washington, D.C., pre-conference sessions on October 31

Here is some information for AMWA Southwest Chapter members who are attending the AMWA 2018 Medical Writing & Communication Conference. Whether this is your first time, or you are a seasoned attendee, we hope you find this helpful to plan your time at the conference. We have some suggestions for newbies, and we highlighted the involvement of our AMWA Southwest Chapter. We have several members who are presenting at the conference. The [full program](#) is available online.

Some general advice about getting the most from your conference experience

Bring lots of business cards. When people give you their business cards, jot a few notes on the back so you can remember them. Take advantage of the networking opportunities. Never eat alone at a conference. Avoid sticking with the same people throughout the whole meeting; you can catch up later. Connect with people on LinkedIn or other social media soon after the conference. Bring back your notes to share and discuss with chapter members in your region who couldn't attend.

Please sign up for the Chapter Dinner

AMWA Southwest Chapter Dinner Thursday, November 1, 7:00 pm (meet in hotel lobby at 6:30 pm to travel to the restaurant, or join us there at 7:00 pm)

Chapter members will meet in the hotel lobby to go to dinner at City Tap House in Dupont Circle, [1250 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington DC 20036](#). You'll need to register for the chapter dinner. The seated dinner will cost \$40 with salad, main course, dessert and non-adult beverages included. The networking and conversation is free. Please watch your email for registration details.

Great session for newbies

Wednesday, October 31

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

New to AMWA and Medical Communication Session

This is a great session for newbies. Your first AMWA conference can be a bit overwhelming. This session gives an overview of how you can get the most out of the conference.

Wednesday, October 31

Pre-conference sessions

2:00 – 3:30 pm

Identifying Experience and Expertise to Succeed as a Medical Writer

Damiana Chiavolini, MS, PhD, Instructor, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX

J. Kelly Byram, MS, MBA, ELS, CEO, Scientific and Medical Communications Lead, Duke City Consulting, LLC, Albuquerque, NM

Anne Murray, PhD, Scientific Research Writer, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Arlington, TX

4:00 – 5:00 pm

Making a Career Out of Medical Writing

Madison Hedrick, MA, Scientific Writer and Editor, Science Communication Group, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, AR

Thursday, November 1

Education Session

2:00 – 3:30 pm

Master the Disaster

Brian Bass, MWC, President, Bass Global, Inc., Fort Myers, FL

R. Michelle Sauer Gehring, PhD, ELS, CRA, Senior Research Scientist, Center Advanced Heart Failure, University of Texas Health Science Center-Houston, Houston, TX

Larry Lynam, MS, SM, RM(AAM), Principal, The Lynam Group, Coral Springs, FL

Lori L. Alexander, MTPW, ELS, MWC, President, Editorial Rx, Inc., North Fort Myers, FL

Friday, November 2

7:30 – 8:45 am

Roundtable Topic Discussions with Breakfast (additional fee)

Freelancer's Guide to Data Security

J. Kelly Byram, MS, MBA, ELS, CEO, Scientific and Medical Communications Lead, Duke City Consulting, LLC, Albuquerque, NM

Writing Clubs: What, Why, How, and More

Barbara Gastel, MD, MPH, Professor, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX

Workshop (additional fee)

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

WS-43 Usage: Choosing the Right Word for the Job

Stephen N. Palmer, PhD, ELS, Manager and Senior Scientific Medical Writer, Texas Heart Institute, Houston, TX

Saturday, November 3

Education Sessions

10:30 – 11:15 am

Dissecting the Critical 'Specific Aims' Page

Madison Hedrick, MA, Scientific Writer and Editor, Science Communication Group, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, AR

11:15 am – 12:00 pm

NIH Biosketch - Make It Work for You

DeAnn Hubberd, MA, PTW, Associate Director, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, AR

12:15 – 1:45 pm

Giving and Receiving Feedback Effectively

Erica Goodoff, ELS, Senior Scientific Editor, Department of Scientific Publications, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX

12:15 – 1:45 pm

Medical Journalism Do's and Don'ts: Tips for Successful Reporting and Writing

Barbara Gastel, MD, MPH, Professor, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX

Workshop (Additional fee)

2:00 – 5:00 pm

WS-61 Outlining for Writers and Editors

Hope Lafferty, AM, ELS, Hope Lafferty Communications, Marfa, TX