

# Roundtables

## Lively Discussion of Topics in Medical Communications



**Wednesday, December 9, 2020, 6 pm CST (Virtual)**

**Registration details coming soon**

Please join us for the Southwest Chapter's December 2020 Roundtables event. We have a great lineup of topics for you to choose from. The roundtables format is meant to encourage discussion of topics relevant to the medical writing community, to offer an opportunity to learn something new that will help you in your career, and to make new connections. We are grateful to all of our discussion leaders who have volunteered their time for this event. Below is a list of the roundtables. You will choose one of these topics when you register. Each roundtable is limited to 6 participants and slots will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. We hope to see you (virtually) there!

### **1. Role of the Medical Writer in Continuing Medical Education (CME)**

This roundtable will cover the role of a medical writer in continuing medical education (CME). Topics will include an overview of the organization of a CME company, the projects a medical writer may work on, career progression within a CME company, and breaking into the field. We will highlight strategies to develop comprehensive needs assessments and content, including how to effectively collaborate with expert faculty. Are you worried that you don't have the right experience for this role? Join the discussion to learn about the transferable skills you may already have!

#### **KarryAnne Belanger, PhD**

*Senior Medical Writer*

*Academy for Continued Healthcare Learning, Houston, TX*

KarryAnne has been a medical writer at the Academy for Continued Healthcare Learning for one year. Her primary role is developing content for continuing medical education activities. She also assists in the development of grant proposals for CME

initiatives. She has a PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the University of Texas Medical Branch.

## **2. Building a Thriving Career in Medical Writing When English Is Not Your First Language**

Medical communicators whose first language isn't English may face obstacles and biases when looking for jobs or when working toward building a fulfilling career. At this roundtable, non-native English speakers can share successes and barriers in entering but also thriving in the medical writing field. Alternative career paths to medical writing, but still related to communications, will also be discussed. We also welcome native English speakers to discuss the challenges of hiring or working with professionals whose first language isn't English.

### **Co-leaders:**

#### **Damiana Chiavolini, MS, PhD**

*Instructor, Department of Radiation Oncology, UT Southwestern, Dallas, TX*

Damiana is a writer, editor, and writing educator. Her primary role is to assist and educate faculty, staff, and trainees in developing scientific documents. She also produces content for the department's magazine, progress reports, bulletin boards, and social media platforms. She has a Master of Science in medical microbiology and a PhD in biotechnology, and has previously worked both in research and education. She is originally from Italy.

#### **Jianyi Nie, MSPH**

*Scientific Writer, Rice University, Houston, TX*

*Marketing Associate, NuProbe, Houston, TX*

Jianyi is a marketing and communications professional who is passionate about human health topics. She expanded her skills to scientific writing last year after working as a science writer and media relations specialist at Johns Hopkins Medicine. As a scientific writer at Rice University, she edits research manuscripts, patent applications, and grant applications. She earned her Master of Science in Public Health at Johns Hopkins. She is originally from China.

## **3. Medical Writing on the Road: How to See the World While Doing What You Love**

Are you ready to take your career on the road? This roundtable will explore location-independent lifestyles while assessing compatibility with a career in medical writing. We will examine the following topics during this presentation: tools and technologies

designed to make taking your medical writing trade on the road easier than you may think; the nuts and bolts of working as a medical writer while traveling; and the potential pitfalls that may be encountered when working location-independently. We will also address questions like “How do I choose where to go?”, “How do I afford it?”, “What about my family?”, and any others you may have as we explore how to make international travel part of your everyday life without missing a beat in your career.

**Bryce Marquis, PhD**

*Medical Writer, Whitsell Innovations, Inc.*

Bryce has been a medical writer and consultant for Whitsell Innovations, Inc (WI) for 3 years specializing in regulatory writing. Prior to joining WI, he was a clinical researcher and educator at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. In 2019, he and his family sold their home and all of their possessions in order to pursue a life traveling the world while he works as a medical writer remotely.

#### **4. Examining the Context of Care: A Cognitive Approach to Understanding Usability in Healthcare Contexts**

This round table will examine how the locations where patients engage in healthcare activities or receive healthcare affects how they use different kinds of medical communication materials. A central focus of this session will be identifying the psychological processes that shape usability expectations and behaviors in medical situations and presenting methods for researching such factors. Attendees will examine research approaches medical writers can use to identify such expectations. They will also review research partnerships medical communicators can engage in to examine such topics and assess the usability of materials.

**Kirk St.Amant, PhD**

*Professor, Eunice C. Williamson Endowed Chair, Director of Center for Health and Medical Communication, Louisiana Tech University*

Kirk St.Amant is the Eunice C. Williamson Chair in Technical Communication at Louisiana Tech University, and he is a member of the University’s Center for Biomedical Engineering and Rehabilitation Science (CBERS). Kirk also serves as the Director of Louisiana Tech’s Center for Health and Medical Communication (CHMC), and he is an Adjunct Professor of Health and Medical Communication with the University of Limerick in Ireland.

## 5. Communicating Science with Integrity in a Headline Era

One of the most important goals of science and medical communication should be to disseminate scientific and medical findings to the general public in a way that is both accurate and understandable. However, with the rise internet-based reporting platforms and social media, the accuracy of scientific reporting is often sidelined for eye-catching headlines. In this roundtable discussion, we will be contrasting examples of published scientific accuracy versus misinformation. We will be discussing ways to ensure scientific integrity and accurate reporting to the general public. We welcome all science and medical communicators to join us!

### **Kandice L. Tessneer, PhD**

*Scientific Technical Writer, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation  
Founder, SciComm Solutions, LLC*

Kandice is a scientific technical writer with more than 5 years of experience writing and editing scientific publications and research grants. As a PhD student and post-doctoral research fellow, she studied biochemistry, molecular biology, genetics, and epigenomics. As a scientific writer, she has now co-authored scientific publications in the fields of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and autoimmune disease, and has played an integral role in garnering grants from the NIH, Presbyterian Health Foundation, and other resources.

## 6. Health Habits: Stress Less, Feel Great, Work Better

Fit for Freelance Back hurts, can't concentrate, and always feel stressed out? I bet that's not why you started freelance or remote work. Big companies focus on employee wellness to increase productivity, attendance, and retention, while reducing health care costs. Home-based writers can barely focus while they work themselves sick. Are you ready for energy to enjoy the reasons you work? Join the discussion for simple food, activity, workspace, and lifestyle choices you can make right away to feel great while you work!

### **Reggie Wilson, MS**

*Certified Worksite Wellness Program Manager  
Founder, Fit for Freelance, Naples, Florida*

Reggie has 8 years of experience in public health, with 4 years as a nutrition educator, 4 years as a worksite wellness program manager and consultant to worksites. Certified personal trainer, BS in Food Science and Human Nutrition, Graduate certificate in Positive Behavior Support.