

AMWA NEWS



FROM THE PRESIDENT
Looking Forward

Elise Eller, PhD / 2022-2023 AMWA President

As I write this, it's January. There's snow on the ground, and now that I've gotten through the end-of-the-year deadlines and the holidays, I've had a chance to look back at our conference in Denver. I am so pleased that we were able to have our annual conference in person. I enjoyed talking with people face to face and attending the wonderful sessions that the 2022 Annual Conference Program Committee put together. (Note that for the first time this year we recorded select sessions, which are available for purchase through the end of March.) I got to meet up with fellow members of the Rocky Mountain Chapter for our chapter dinner, including several people I had seen only on Zoom. Best of all, I saw a lot of people, from newbies to old hands, enjoying their time at the conference.

In addition, our Medical Writing Executives Advisory Council had a successful Executives Forum at the annual conference. The Executives Forum offers programming to senior level pharma/biotech professionals whose responsibilities include recruiting, training, and managing medical communicators. A summary of what happened at this year's forum will be in the June issue of the *AMWA Journal*.

A new year has started, and we have a lot to look forward to.

Our Diversity & Inclusion Assessment Task Force is analyzing data collected from the survey that was sent out last summer to AMWA members. The task force will report back to the AMWA Board of Directors to advise on next steps. I am eager to discover how we can improve serving our members and make sure members with a variety of backgrounds and areas of expertise are heard.

One of our other great initiatives, the Value of Medical Writing Working Group, continues to make great strides in defining and quantifying the value of medical writing. Last year, the Working Group published a series of 3 articles in the *AMWA Journal*, and, at the annual conference in Denver, they presented 2 posters, one on empowering medical writers and the other on measuring the success of medical writing. The Working Group plans to continue to create and publish tools, resources, and articles to help medical communicators develop leadership and other important interpersonal skills to empower medical communicators. Look for Working Group updates in the *AMWA Journal* and at future AMWA conferences.

For those of you who like to stay connected throughout the year by attending AMWA's webinars, we are developing a great webinar schedule for this year. Webinars will be announced in the biweekly AMWA updates, so be on the lookout for those.

Finally, we're already gearing up for our 2023 Medical Writing & Communication Conference in Baltimore. We have a great location on the waterfront, and I have crab cakes and a Chesapeake Bay cruise on my personal to-do list. Our 2023 Annual Conference Program Chair, Michele Sequeira, writes more about this year's conference in this issue of the *AMWA Journal*. I hope you will be able to join me in Baltimore for what I am sure will be an excellent mix of educational content and networking.