

AMWA NEWS



FROM THE PRESIDENT
It's a Journey

Elise Eller, PhD / 2022-2023 AMWA President

It's hard to believe that summer is over, and the 2023 Medical Writing & Communication Conference is coming soon. I am looking forward to being in Baltimore. The conference offers wonderful content, including General Session presentations by our McGovern Award and Alvarez Award recipients. Other articles in this issue of the *Journal* have more information on the 2023 award recipients and what the conference has to offer. I am excited for the opportunity to learn and connect with you there, while also recognizing that the annual business meeting at the conference marks the transition of our governance year.

With my year as AMWA President nearly over, I have been reflecting on how much the organization has accomplished this year. Thanks to the AMWA Board of Directors (BOD), our volunteers, and AMWA staff, we have made great strides with 2 major initiatives that began during the presidency of my predecessor, Katrina Burton.

First, our diversity and inclusion (D&I) initiative continues to move forward. The BOD has engaged a diversity, equity, and inclusion consultant to guide the development of a strategy to implement inclusion, equity, and diversity enhancements throughout the organization. This strategy will include a vision and overarching goals and objectives. Based on the recommendations of the D&I Assessment Task Force, we will develop plans to operationalize those goals, measure outcomes, and create systems to monitor progress and improve our processes. This is a multiyear effort, and I am grateful that the BOD has approved the resources to support this important work.

Second, the new Health Communication Curriculum Development Task Force has begun its work to develop an AMWA health communication curriculum. This initiative will support our efforts to recognize and honor the legacy of **Lori L. Alexander**, who did so much for AMWA and the medical writing profession at large. Lori had a passion for health literacy and clear medical information and believed that clear communication is essential to scientific research, meaningful patient-health care professional interactions, and better health outcomes. AMWA's expanded health content will include topics such as tactics for creating effective communication about health, science, and medicine; strategies for presenting information on health and medicine to a variety of audiences; how to develop inclusive health communication; the use of inclusive language in medical communication; and health equity and health disparities issues. I thank the task force members for their hard work and for sharing their professional expertise.

I have never seen AMWA do so much at one time. Keep in mind that AMWA has other priorities as well, including organizing the annual conferences, creating and updating educational content and our online learning platform, and enhancing the member experience. I am confident that these initiatives will strengthen the organization. In addition, the BOD already has a list of future initiatives to consider. The continuous work to improve organizational effectiveness, promote excellence in medical communication, and increase member value never ceases... It's a journey.