

AMWA NEWS

2023 President’s Award Recipient Don Harting, MA, MS, ELS, CHCP

Elise Eller, PhD / 2022-2023 AMWA President

The recipient of the President’s Award is selected by the AMWA President, and each year this award is bestowed upon a member of AMWA who has made distinctive contributions to the association at the chapter or national level.

I am honored to recognize Don Harting, MA, MS, ELS, CHCP, as the recipient of the 2023 AMWA President’s Award. Don is a professional medical writer with master’s degrees in journalism and biology, 20 years of experience in print journalism, and 15 years of experience in continuing medical education (CME) writing. He is also a board-certified editor in the life sciences (ELS) and a certified health care CPD professional (CHCP). Don is the president of Harting Communications LLC and specializes in developing needs assessments for education grant proposals and instructional content for accredited continuing education in the health professions. Since 2008, he has worked with many accredited CME providers as well as nonaccredited medical education companies to win more than \$4.8 million in education grants, mostly in oncology.

A dedicated CME professional, Don has published original, collaborative research on best practices for writing needs assessments and shared his results in the *AMWA Journal* and as posters, workshops, and a mini-tutorial for AMWA members. Currently, Don and several collaborators are developing the first-ever competency model for the next generation of medical writers who wish to excel in developing content for continuing education in the health professions. The new CME writers’ competency model will be presented at this year’s Medical Writing & Communication Conference in Baltimore.

A member of AMWA since 2007, Don has been involved in the Delaware Valley Chapter in a variety of roles and currently serves as programs chair. He notes that during

the pandemic, he was instrumental in helping the chapter transition to Zoom meetings for networking events, and he and the other attendees learned how to use the breakout room feature together. At the Delaware Valley’s in-person chapter conference this year, Don organized a panel discussion on training the next generation of medical writers. Don has also served on several committees at the national level, including the certification task force.



When I reached out to Don to congratulate him on receiving this award, he said, “I would just like to remind readers (including myself!) of what we already know: AMWA is a wonderful, well-built organization, and its future will be what we make it. Our profession depends on people helping people, and not always in ways that yield direct financial benefits. If we give generously, AMWA will gain strength, and we will all benefit. If we withhold our gifts, AMWA will weaken, and we will all suffer. So, let’s all encourage each other to keep volunteering and giving back to our profession through AMWA. We’ll be glad we did!”

I couldn’t agree more. Thank you, Don, for your passion for CME, your expertise, and your support of AMWA.

It is my pleasure to present Don with this well-deserved honor for his contributions to AMWA and to the medical writing and editing profession at large. Please join me in congratulating Don as this year’s President’s Award recipient.