

# AMWA MID-ATLANTIC CHAPTER

Volume 1, Issue 1

February, 2012

## **Registration is Open for the 2012 Mid-Atlantic Chapter Conference!!!**

Conference brochure: <http://www.amwa-midatlantic.org/images/AMWA-MAC2012ConfBrochure.pdf>

**Who:** For all professional medical writers interested in expanding their knowledge and growing their networks.

**What:** This is a scaled-down version of a national conference, including breakfast roundtables, workshops, open sessions, and a luncheon speaker.

**Where:** Hilton Garden Inn, 730 Waverly Street, Bethesda, MD, 20814; (301) 654-8111

**When:** Friday, March 23, 2012, 7:00am – 5:00pm

**Why:** Many reasons! The workshops can help fulfill your AMWA Certificate requirements, add to your skill set, and improve your resume. The open sessions can help you land a job, and networking opportunities abound at the roundtable breakfasts and luncheon.

**REMINDER!** Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> is the last day to reserve a room at the conference rate of \$119 / night!

➤ Enjoy a warm breakfast of scrambled eggs, bacon, and potatoes while you learn about one of the following topics (8:00-9:15am):

- ❖ Social Media Work\$ - How?
- ❖ Bench Scientist to Biomedical Writer
- ❖ Copyediting References & Figures
- ❖ Writing Meaningful Informed Consent Documents
- ❖ Needs Assessments for Continuing Medical Education\*
- ❖ Networking tables\*

\*Due to space constraints within the hotel, the Needs Assessment and networking tables will be outside the roundtable breakfast room, but you are welcome to enjoy the breakfast buffet in that area.

➤ In the morning, choose one of these three options (9:30-12:30 am):

- ❖ Tables and Graphs [ES/G] by Cindy Hamilton (credit workshop)
- ❖ Fundamentals of Ethics and Practical Applications [RR] by Art Gertel (credit workshop)
- ❖ Get the Project! Get the Job! Tailored Interviewing by Fran Daniel (open session)

➤ Enjoy a delicious lunch of soup, steak, chicken piccata, and desserts while you learn how to network and create an elevator speech (12:30-2:00 pm).

➤ In the afternoon, choose one of these three options (2:00-5:00 pm):

- ❖ Ethical Standards in Medical Publication [CP/EW/PH] by Cindy Hamilton (credit workshop)
- ❖ Electronic Regulatory Submissions [RR/PH] by Art Gertel (credit workshop)
- ❖ Successful Freelance Medical Writing: Bringing it All Together by Debra Gordon (open session)

For all details, view the

Conference brochure at: <http://www.amwa-midatlantic.org/images/AMWA-MAC2012ConfBrochure.pdf>

## *We are looking for...*

We are open to new ideas for the newsletter's content and are looking for your articles! For example, we'd love to know how AMWA has helped your career, or how you use AMWA's listservs or website. Articles can be simple and brief (up to 350 words). If you have some ideas, please contact Cherie Dewar at [cherie.writer@gmail.com](mailto:cherie.writer@gmail.com).

## *Did You Know...?*

AMWA posts **FREE** Pocket Trainings, which are short, simple tutorials written by fellow AMWA members. Some topics include how to create hotlinks or a podcast, editing in EndNote, and making the most of your ad in the freelance directory. You too can submit a pocket training! To access them:

1. Log onto the AMWA website, <http://www.amwa.org>
2. In the left-hand column list, under Education/Certificates, click "Pocket Trainings".
3. There are 9 Trainings currently available.

### **AMWA-MAC Newsletter Staff**

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## *More Upcoming Events...*

Please see page 3 for more networking opportunities in your region. All members are welcome to these events!



## **How AMWA Helped My Career**

By Cherie Dewar  
Hummingbird Medical Communications

As a mother of two who could see the light at the end of the toddler-time tunnel, I was seeking a new challenge. For the past five years I had been freelance writing for a parenting newsletter, and, before motherhood, I had worked at the bench in biochemistry. I wondered to myself, "How could I combine my love of writing with my science background?" A friend told me about AMWA, which turned out to be the ideal vehicle to launch my second career as a freelance medical writer.

After attending some local chapter events to query AMWA members about medical writing, I signed up for the 2007 National AMWA conference in Dallas, TX. The lecture selections were exciting, and it took me a few hours to sift through all the choices of roundtables, workshops, and open sessions. The "How to launch your freelance career" and "Business aspects of freelance" workshops filled me in on how to establish a company by filling out a "Do Business As" form, and how to start a portfolio of medically-based writing samples by volunteering to cover a health seminar for my local paper. This was all very helpful, but I unexpectedly found my first big "break" at a roundtable breakfast regarding medical journalism. During the breakfast, I asked questions about confirming quotations and where one could find work as a medical journalist. Afterwards, another participant at the table informed me that her company was looking for writers. We exchanged cards and a few months later her organization assigned me my first writing project.

Additional networking at this conference brought about a second client. Being that it was my first conference, I met with a conference coach. After the conference we continued to email each other, and a few months later my coach referred me to a friend of hers who was an editor at a medical newsmagazine. With my coach's recommendation, the editor assigned me some projects, and has continued to over the years.

I will always be grateful to AMWA for giving me the ability to start a rewarding second career. The key has been to regularly attend my local chapter's networking events and the national conferences, which I do every other year. You never know whom you will meet and what doors they may open up!

## *Save the Date...*

### **Frederick, MD -- April 26th**

**Who:** AMWA-MAC members and all others interested in medical writing  
**What:** Frederick area organizational meeting  
**When:** Thursday, April 26, 2012  
**Time:** 6:30-8:30 pm  
**Why:** Network, get to know fellow medical writers, and have some good food  
**Where:** Mimi's Café <http://www.mimiscafe.com/>  
5120 Buckeystown Pike, Frederick, MD, 21704  
**Contact:** Regional Coordinators\*  
Michelle Eby, [michellel@mail.nih.gov](mailto:michellel@mail.nih.gov)  
and  
Terry Mainprize, [tmainprize@mail.nih.gov](mailto:tmainprize@mail.nih.gov)

**\*Please RSVP to one of these two coordinators!**

### **Charlottesville, VA -- May 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Who:** AMWA Members and Potential Members  
**What:** Central VA Networking Dinner  
**Where:** Mas Tapas Restaurant, 501 Monticello Road, Charlottesville, VA [www.mastapas.com](http://www.mastapas.com)  
**When:** Tuesday, May 1, 2012  
**Time:** 6:00 -8:00 pm  
**Why:** We will have a brainstorming session to generate ideas for future meetings with an educational component.  
**Contact:** Regional Coordinators\*  
Jill Roberts, [jillwroberts@msn.com](mailto:jillwroberts@msn.com) ,  
(434) 944-7922 or  
Kim Bullock, [kim.bullock@comcast.net](mailto:kim.bullock@comcast.net),  
(434) 882-5918

**\*Please RSVP to one of these two coordinators!**

### **Bethesda, MD -- May 17th**

**Who:** Open to all AMWA Mid-Atlantic Chapter (MAC) members and potential members  
**What:** Networking Event  
**When:** Thursday, May 17, 2012  
**Time:** 6:30-8:30 pm  
**Why:** Network, get to know fellow medical writers, and have some good food  
**Where:** La Madeleine Restaurant, 7607 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD, 20814  
Just one block from the Bethesda Metro station. [www.lamadeleine.com/](http://www.lamadeleine.com/)  
**Contact:** Fran Daniel, MPH, Regional Coordinator  
[francesdaniel@comcast.net](mailto:francesdaniel@comcast.net)

**No RSVP needed, just show up!**