

# Southwest Chapter

## News



2004–2005

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March 2005

## Annual Membership Appreciation Event

Wednesday, March 30, 2005, 5:30-7:30 pm  
Majors Books, 7205 Fannin, Houston TX

Jason E. Moore, MS, MBA, Manager of Industry Programs at BioHouston, will speak at the Southwest Chapter of AMWA's Annual Membership Appreciation Event on Wednesday, March 30, at Majors Books in Houston.

A former member of AMWA, Jason began his biotechnical career as a medical writer. At BioHouston, Jason is responsible for a range of programs developed to increase Houston's momentum in technology commercialization and to help the city emerge as a top biotechnology center. Prior to coming to BioHouston, Jason was responsible for new-drug development and registration activities, primarily in oncology and infectious diseases, for both established and emerging biotechnology companies.

Jason also has expertise in financial modeling and quantitative risk assessment for business development, product-portfolio management, and strategic decision-making. Jason has been a consultant in regulatory affairs, strategy, and medical writing for biotechnology companies and academic research laboratories engaged in new drug development. Among the companies for which he has worked are Amgen, Antigenics, Aronex Pharmaceuticals, and Introgen Therapeutics. He holds a master's degree in

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# Membership Appreciation Event Scheduled

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medical writing from Texas A&M University and an MBA from the University of Houston C.T. Bauer College of Business.

Come and hear Jason speak while enjoying wine and cheese at Majors Books, located near the Texas Medical Center in Houston (on Fannin between South Braeswood and Old Spanish Trail). White and red wines and various fruits, cheeses, and finger sandwiches will be served.

Feel free to browse the fine collection of more than 50,000 medical textbooks and resource guides at Majors while chatting with other chapter members. The Southwest Chapter is grateful to the bookstore management for agreeing to lend us the facility for the evening's event.

This member appreciation event is free to anyone wishing to attend, and registration forms are not being used. However, so that those planning the meeting know how much food and wine to buy, please register with Natasha Calder by e-mail ([ncalder@amwasouthwest.org](mailto:ncalder@amwasouthwest.org)); include your full name and telephone number in the message. (If you do not have access to e-mail, please call Natasha at 281.228.7519 to register; please be sure to leave your name and telephone number). If you have any questions, please contact Natasha Calder at [ncalder@amwasouthwest.org](mailto:ncalder@amwasouthwest.org). We hope to see you there!

## Southwest Chapter Hosting Essay Contest for Scholarship in Biomedical Communication

The Southwest Chapter of the American Medical Writers Association (AMWA) once again will offer a scholarship in biomedical communication to qualified applicants in 2005. Applicants must be currently enrolled students (undergraduate or graduate) in colleges in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, or New Mexico. The scholarship will be given to the winner of an essay competition on a subject of interest to scientific researchers or biomedical communicators. The recipient will receive a \$500 cash award, a certificate of recognition from the Southwest Chapter, and a complimentary 1-year membership in AMWA. Entries must be received by April 11, 2005. For more information and application forms, visit our Web site at [amwasouthwest.org](http://amwasouthwest.org) or email Grace Darling, Scholarship Coordinator, at [darlingg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:darlingg@sbcglobal.net).

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual John P. McGovern Award Dinner Features Talk by Dr. Alan Blum

On Wednesday, January 26, 2005, AMWA Southwest hosted its 23rd annual John P. McGovern Award dinner. This year's recipient, Alan Blum, MD, a family medicine physician who has campaigned against smoking throughout his medical career, delivered a lecture entitled "Memoirs of a Medical Activist."

Held at the Houston Plaza Hilton, the banquet began at 5:30 pm with registration and a cocktail hour and was followed by dinner. At 7:20 pm, chapter president Natasha Calder greeted the 34 assembled guests and handed the program over to Pamela Paradis Tice, ELS(D), the 2005 McGovern Award committee chair. Ms. Tice then introduced Dr. Blum.

Over the next hour, Dr. Blum lectured on his wide-ranging career as a physician, anti-smoking and anti-tobacco activist, medical journal editor, and medical writer. He told how, during visits to major league stadiums during his baseball-loving boyhood in New York City, he would notice the many cigarette billboards plastering the outfield walls. He recounted how later, during his residency training in the late 1970s, he became interested in the tobacco pandemic and founded Doctors Ought to Care, a national organization focused on school-based and community-wide health promotion. He also touched on highlights and low points from his stints as editor-in-chief of *The Medical Journal of Australia* (1982-1983) and the *New York State Journal of Medicine* (1983-1986) and as deputy editor of *Southern Medical Journal* (1988-1990) and *Tobacco Control: An International Journal* (1991-1994).

According to Dr. Blum, his anti-smoking views fostered adversarial relationships with his publishers, his readers, and the tobacco industry.

Dr. Blum took questions from the audience throughout his lecture and ended with a slide show of photos concerning his anti-smoking work. Ms. Tice then presented him with a plaque and honorarium in recognition of his award.

Dr. Blum is professor and the Gerald Leon Wallace Endowed Chair in Family Medicine and director of the Center for the Study of Tobacco and Society at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa.

The John P. McGovern Award was established in 1982 by AMWA Southwest to recognize excellence in the field of medical communications. The award is named for John P. McGovern, MD, founder and director of the McGovern Allergy Clinic in Houston and a noted medical educator, author, and historian. Dr. McGovern is a past member of AMWA Southwest and has been an AMWA Fellow since 1967.

**AMWA Southwest Chapter News**

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