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**Vacancies**

Director-at-Large  
Regional Director, New Mexico

## **AMWA Southwest 10th Annual Roundtable and Business Meeting**

Join AMWA Southwest in Houston, Texas, on Saturday, May 16, for

- Roundtable discussions
- Election of officers for 2009-2010
- Drawing for a free AMWA national conference registration (need not be present to win)

To reserve a seat, please choose a roundtable below and RSVP by Thursday, May 14, 2009, to Jude Richard at [jjredit@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jjredit@sbcglobal.net).

Payment (\$23 for members and \$27 for nonmembers) is required for each email registration received (prepay by check to Jude Richard at 11807 Charing Cross Road, Austin, TX 78759 or pay at the door).

Roundtables (please choose one):

- *Dude, Where's My Toolbar? Getting Used to Microsoft Word 2007*  
Stephen Palmer, PhD, ELS  
Senior Scientific Medical Writer, Texas Heart Institute, Houston, Texas
- *Finding a Niche: Career Possibilities for the Medical Writer*  
Jude Richard, ELS  
Medical Writer, Premier Research Group Limited, Austin, Texas
- *Medical Reporting on Television: An Insider's Perspective*  
Patricia Gras  
Senior Producer/Host, Houston PBS Channel 8, Houston, Texas
- *Online Social Networking for Medical Communicators: All A-Twitter About the Potential*  
Leader to be determined

### **10th Annual Roundtable and Business Meeting**

**Saturday, May 16, 2009**

**11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

**Baba Yega Restaurant**

**2607 Grant Street  
Houston, Texas**

**Registration deadline:**

**May 14, 2009**

The registration fee covers one roundtable and buffet meal (vegetable frittatas, home-fried potatoes, grilled ham, seasonal fresh fruit, freshly baked breads and muffins, coffee, tea, sodas, and orange juice). Mimosas will be available for \$2.

When registering, please provide the following information:

- Your name (and guest, if applicable)
- Your email address or daytime phone number
- Your AMWA status (member/nonmember)

For more information, contact Jude Richard by phone at 512.852.6924 or email at [jjredit@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jjredit@sbcglobal.net).

## AMWA Southwest Chapter Officer Candidates for 2009–2010

If you will not be attending the AMWA Southwest 10th Annual Roundtable and Business Meeting on Saturday, May 16, 2009, please complete and send a copy of this ballot to Jude Richard via mail (11807 Charing Cross Road, Austin, TX 78759) or e-mail ([jjredit@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jjredit@sbcglobal.net)) by Friday, May 15, 2009.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>President:</i>	Jude Richard
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Program Chair:</i>	Jenny Withers, MS, ELS
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Assistant Program Chair:</i>	Jeanie Woodruff
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Treasurer:</i>	Alison Woo
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Secretary:</i>	Hilary Marks
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Newsletter Editor:</i>	Ann Sutton
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Director-at-Large:</i>	Hope Lafferty
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Director-at-Large:</i>	Susan Bairnsfather
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Director-at-Large:</i>	Cynthia ("Cindy") Orticio



## Becoming a Medical Writer: Panel Meeting Held in Dallas

On Saturday, April 4, 2009, AMWA Southwest hosted the panel discussion "Becoming a Medical Writer: How? Why?" for 20 attendees at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, Texas.

The panel included scientific publications manager Julie Crider, PhD, from Alcon Laboratories (Forth Worth, Texas); professor and medical writer and editor Barbara Gastel, MD, MPH, from Texas A&M University (College Station, Texas); and freelance medical writer Rhonda Porterfield, MD (Dallas, Texas).



The panelists began by mapping out the various paths they had followed into medical writing. This was followed by a lengthy question-and-answer session.

The panel also offered general career information and guidance, including possible salary ranges, websites for several national medical writer groups, and handouts on types of medical writing.

Attendees came from as far away as Houston and Oklahoma City and included undergraduates, graduate students, and professional writers looking for advancement or entry into the medical writing field. Also in attendance were several local AMWA Southwest Chapter members.

After the meeting, the panelists remained to mingle with and answer additional questions from the audience.

## AMWA Southwest Participates in Student Science Writing Contest

Each year, the AMWA Southwest Chapter bestows the McGovern Award upon deserving professionals who excel in medical communication. This year, it also donated prizes to recognize exceptional young student science communicators and encourage their pursuit of distinction in science communication.

AMWA Southwest provided monetary prizes for the junior (grades 7 and 8) and ninth grade division winners in the Science Writing Contest of the 50th Annual Science and Engineering Fair of Houston, one of the largest science fairs in the country. Over 1000 students submitted science projects. Of those, over 100 opted to enter their reports in the writing contest.

The Science Writing Contest recognizes and promotes excellence in science writing in primary and secondary education. In many ways, the contest advances the study and practice of science communication—among beginners in primary and secondary school and the professionals (engineers, physicians, scientists, professors, medical writers, and technical writers) who volunteer as judges.

The contest solicits entries written in a very traditional scientific genre—the science report. It encourages primary and secondary school science instructors from

across the Houston metropolitan area to incorporate the teaching of best writing practices into their curricula. And finally, during judging, it encourages professionals to reflect on writing and stimulates critical thought about best writing practices; judges consider and share the writing conventions in their own fields.

Among the judges this year were professionals from The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, The University of Texas Health Science

Center, Baylor College of Medicine, the University of Houston School of Optometry and the Texas Heart Institute. Students' reports covered a range of natural and medical science topics. Medicine-related topics included projects in dental science, optometry, pharmaceutical science, biology, sports medicine, and psychology.



(Left to right) Contest winners Sunil Pai, Victoria Dobie, Rowanne Conway, Michelle Dunn, and Li Boynton

To view a list of all the contest winners, click [here](#) (PDF). A [slideshow](#) of the event is available online for AMWA Southwest members to download. **(NOTE: 369 MB, Quicktime required; file available only through June 2009.)**

*Professor Aimee Kendall  
University of Houston-Downtown*

### Members' Vote Needed on Changes to Chapter Bylaws

After much input, the AMWA Southwest Chapter Board of Directors has approved several changes to the [current bylaws](#) (PDF).

Now, it is the members' turn to approve or reject these changes. Please send your vote (yea or nay) to [kwb@kwbhealthcom.com](mailto:kwb@kwbhealthcom.com) by June 1, 2009. Once all the votes are in, the changes will be sent to the national AMWA Board of Directors for their approval.