



Southwest  
Chapter

2007-2008 Chapter Officers

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## Ninth Annual AMWA Southwest Chapter Roundtables

**Date:** May 10, 2008

**Time:** 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Place:** Baba Yega Restaurant

2607 Grant Street

Houston, Texas

(In the Heart of Montrose)

You are invited to the AMWA Southwest Chapter's 9th Annual Career Roundtables to be held Saturday, May 10, in the Jasmine Room of the Baba Yega restaurant. Join fellow medical writers and editors for brunch and an educational discussion. This year, we have a wide range of topics with experts who are eager to share and to raise and answer questions. You can learn about:

- **Desktop Exercise:** Keeping those fingers nimble and your joints supple while sitting at a desk 8 hours a day is not easy. Our expert will give us some pointers.
- **Online Journals:** Are electronics really free in the world of medical publishing? Why set up an online journal? How do you do it? What are the benefits?
- **Open-Access Publishing:** What is all the fuss about open-access publishing? What does it mean for medical writing and public access to information? Where are the local repositories?
- **Computer Maintenance:** Keeping your body healthy is hard enough. What about your computer? Our expert will provide some simple tips for avoiding the major contaminations that can play havoc with your professional life.

Each discussion leader will give a brief presentation before opening the discussion among the participants. More information about the topics and their discussion leaders:

1. How to keep your muscles supple and blood circulating when you are bound to your desk all day? Our expert will show us moves we can do at our desks or in the office to keep us healthy and whole.

**Corinna Perez**, program coordinator for employee health and well-being at The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, will give us tips.

2. Starting your own online journal. Why do it and what's involved? How do you produce content? What technology do you need?

**Dr Marc E. Horowitz**, a professor of pediatrics at the Texas Children's Cancer Center and Baylor College of Medicine, will tell us about how the cancer center started its own journal and what its editors hope to accomplish. To see the journal and what it does, please visit the [Texas Children Cancer Center International eJournal](http://www.texaschildrenshospital.org) at [www.texaschildrenshospital.org](http://www.texaschildrenshospital.org).

3. What does open-access publishing mean? How does it work? Is it a death knell for medical publications? Where are the repositories? Are there local ones?

**Leah Krevit, MLIS**, associate director for Collections Management at the Houston Academy of Medicine – Texas Medical Center Library and director of its Institutional Repository ([digitalcommons.library.tmc.edu](http://digitalcommons.library.tmc.edu)), will answer all our questions and more.

4. Keeping your computer healthy. Nothing can slow the work day or raise blood pressure more than a sick computer. How do you avoid those little viruses, worms, and other problems that can slow your computer down and eventually shorten the life of its CPU?

**Adam Mears**, who runs a local computer security consulting firm, will give us the tips we need to keep the bytes humming along sweetly.

We will gather at 11:00 a.m. at the Baba Yega restaurant for socializing, with the brunch buffet and business meeting beginning at 11:30 a.m. The buffet will include vegetable frittata, grilled ham, home-fried potatoes, seasonal fresh fruit, and an assortment of fresh-baked breads and muffins. Coffee, herbal tea, sodas, and fresh-squeezed orange juice will also be served. Mimosas will be available for \$2.

To register for this event, RSVP to Ruth SoRelle at [rsorelle@amwasouthwest.org](mailto:rsorelle@amwasouthwest.org) by Tuesday, May 6, 2008. Please include your first and last names, address, email address, phone number, and your first and second choices for roundtable discussion topics. Please be prepared to pay \$23 (for members) or \$26 (for nonmembers) by cash or check (payable to AMWA Southwest) at the door on the day of the event, or mail your check to Ruth SoRelle at 5814 Warm Springs Road, Houston, TX 77035. Payment will be required for each email received.

Baba Yega restaurant ([www.babayega.com](http://www.babayega.com); 713.522.0042) is located at 2607 Grant Street (2 blocks east of Montrose Blvd. and between Westheimer and Fairview).

Directions:

- From the Museum District, travel north on Montrose and pass Westheimer. The 2nd

street after Westheimer is Missouri Street; turn right and go 2 blocks. The restaurant is at the intersection of Missouri and Grant.

- From I-10 (the Heights area), travel south on Montrose and pass Fairview. The 2nd street after Fairview is Missouri Street; turn left and go 2 blocks. The restaurant is at the intersection of Missouri and Grant.

### Sightseeing in Houston

If you are coming in from outside the Houston area and would like to stay for a while, the city offers a variety of activities. Visit any of the 16 museums and the Houston Zoo in the Museum District (see [www.houstonmuseumdistrict.org](http://www.houstonmuseumdistrict.org)). Two very special exhibits are “Lucy’s Legacy” at the Houston Museum of Natural Science (includes the actual “Lucy” fossil from Ethiopia) and “Pompeii” at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston. To find out more about sports events or theatrical shows, please check the Events Calendar of the Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau on the official website at [www.visithoustontexas.com](http://www.visithoustontexas.com).

### Lodging in Houston

Hotels in Houston are listed by their regions at [www.houstonareahotels.com](http://www.houstonareahotels.com). Some suggested hotels below are conveniently located or reasonably priced:

#### [Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites – Houston Med Center/Reliant Park](#)

8080 Main Street

Houston, Texas 77025

Phone: 713.665.4439

Website: [www.ichotelsgroup.com](http://www.ichotelsgroup.com)

#### [Best Western Plaza Hotel & Suites at Medical Center](#)

6700 S Main Street

Houston, Texas, 77030

Phone: 713.522.2811

Website: [book.bestwestern.com](http://book.bestwestern.com)

#### [La Quinta Inn Houston Greenway Plaza](#)

4015 Southwest Freeway

Houston, Texas 77027-7499

Phone: 713.623.4750

Website: [www.lq.com](http://www.lq.com)

#### [Sara's Bed & Breakfast Inn](#)

941 Heights Blvd.

Houston, Texas 77008

Phone: 713.868.1130; 800.593.1130

Website: [www.saras.com](http://www.saras.com)

For more information, contact Ruth SoRelle at 713.798.7959 or 713.721.1306 in the evening or at [rsorelle@amwasouthwest.org](mailto:rsorelle@amwasouthwest.org).

### **Library Tour of Anti-smoking Cartoons and Member Appreciation on Saturday, April 12, 2008**

This event was held at the Houston Academy of Medicine – Texas Medical Center Library, 1133 John Freeman Blvd., Houston, Texas. Although there was only a small crowd gathering at the library lobby, participants were delighted to ponder about the anti-smoking messages with uniquely artistic expressions on the lighter side. Members and guests also took this opportunity to chat with one another and planned for upcoming activities such as the roundtables in May and the chapter conference in June.

## Register Now for the AMWA Southwest Medical Communications Conference in New Orleans on June 6, 2008

Find out what's in the future for healthcare in Louisiana while furthering your own education in medical communications by attending the plenary lecture and workshops.

### **Statistics for Medical Writers and Editors (G/SG) Instructor: Susan Bairnsfather**

This workshop is designed for participants who have little or no background in statistics. Elementary statistical concepts needed to understand medical and scientific articles will be covered, including types of variables, levels of measurement, summary statistics, estimation and confidence intervals, and Student's t-test. Emphasis will be placed on understanding statistical presentations and on reporting statistical information—not on calculations or mathematical explanations. Credit towards AMWA's Science Fundamentals Certificate.

*Approximate homework time:* 3 hours

### **Elements of Medical Terminology (G/SG) Instructor: Barbara Gastel, MD**

This workshop, which will consist mainly of lecture and exercises, is designed primarily for beginning medical writers with little or no biomedical background. Basic roots and resources will be emphasized. Credit towards AMWA's Core Certificate.

*Approximate homework time:* 3 hours

### **Advanced Writing (ADV) [706] Instructor: Marianne Mallia, ELS**

Experienced biomedical writers will explore ways in which they can become even better. Participants will discuss the cognitive processes

used by advanced writers and a few finer points of style, and they will learn some successful strategies for approaching (and completing) a writing project. For the pre-course assignment, participants will begin to analyze the process used in their writing and the effect of writer's block on that process.

*Prerequisite:* 5 years' experience in editing or writing

*Approximate homework time:* 2-3 hours

### **Basic Grammar I (G) Instructor: Jude Richard, ELS**

Thorough knowledge of parts of speech is truly basic to good writing and editing. This workshop, originally part of Basic Grammar & Usage, focuses entirely on parts of speech and their use in the sentence. Types of nouns and pronouns, verb tense, pronouns and case, phrases and clauses (with special emphasis on verbals and on noun, adjective, and adverb clauses), and the types of sentences are some of the primary topics that the workshop covers. Information in this workshop is, in essence, basic to every other AMWA workshop. If you took Basic Grammar & Usage for credit, you can still take this for-credit workshop for additional grammar review.

*Approximate homework time:* 2 hours

**Registration Deadline: May 16, 2008**

**Friday, June 6, 2008**

**7:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**Contact Angela Lorio (loriocom@cox.net;  
504.328.3348) or Steve Palmer  
(spalmer@amwasouthwest.org;  
832.355.8902).**

## Plenary Lecture

### “Reforming Louisiana’s Health Care System: Strategies for Change”

**David Hood**

Senior Healthcare Policy Analyst  
Public Affairs Research Council  
of Louisiana

1555 Poydras Street, 22nd Floor  
Tulane University Health Sciences Center  
School of Medicine  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Friday, June 6, 2008  
Noon to 2:00 p.m. (Lunch)

For latest updates, please visit  
[www.amwasouthwest.org/Events/nola.htm](http://www.amwasouthwest.org/Events/nola.htm)

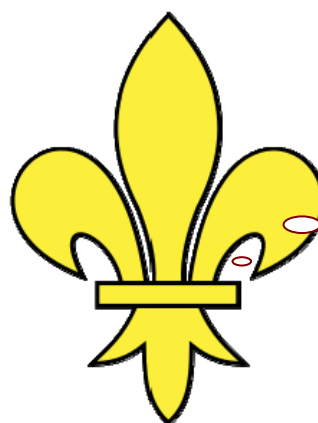
## Instructor Biographies

**Susan Bairnsfather** has 19 years’ experience in the pharmaceutical industry, approximately half of it in regulatory writing and half in statistical programming. She is currently CEO of ePharmaTech, LLC, which offers both regulatory writing and statistical programming services to the pharmaceutical industry. Susan has taught classes or given presentations at meetings of AMWA, DIA, and the Pharmaceutical SAS Users Group.

**Barbara Gastel, MD**, has faculty appointments in integrative biosciences, medical humanities, and biotechnology at Texas A&M University. She is also Knowledge Community Editor for the international program AuthorAID @ INASP. Dr Gastel is a fellow of AMWA and has received its Golden Apple Award and Harold Swanberg Distinguished Service Award.

**Marianne Mallia, ELS**, has worked as a medical editor and writer for 30 years. She is currently senior medical writer and manager in the Section of Scientific Publications at the Texas Heart Institute in Houston, Texas. Marianne has been an active member of AMWA since 1978; she is an AMWA fellow and served as AMWA president for 2002–2003.

**Jude Richard, ELS**, has worked as a medical writer and editor since 1990. He is now a medical writer for Premier Research Group plc, a clinical research organization in Austin, TX. Jude has been an active member of AMWA since 1990, an officer of AMWA’s Southwest Chapter since 2004, and a workshop and roundtable leader at AMWA national conferences since 2003.



Jambalaya, Beignets  
Bourbon St., Jazz  
French Quarter...

## AMWA Southwest Chapter Newsletter

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