

# Southwest Chapter News



September 2002

## 2002—2003 Chapter Officers

### President

Thomas Gegeny, MS, ELS  
713.527.8219  
tom@centerforaids.org

### President-Elect/Program Chair

Kate Ó Súilleabháin  
713.792.3165  
Caitcinnor@aol.com

### Assistant Program Chair

Elisabeth Wann, PhD  
281.863.3373  
EWann@lexgen.com

### Treasurer

Chris Wogan, ELS  
713.792.3160  
cwogan@notes.mdacc.tmc.edu

### Secretary

Dee Ann Bongiovanni, RN  
281.829.6942  
dbongiovanni@msn.com

### Past President

Lorraine Cherry, PhD  
713.868.1549  
lcherry@metropolis.net

### Directors-at-Large

Jannifer Newcomb Fernandez, PhD  
832.601.6484  
Jennifer.Fernandez@usoncology.com

Susan Siefert, ELS

281.228.7551  
Susan.Siefert@cyberonics.com

Laurel Prokop, ELS

281.251.2436  
Laurel.Prokop@Techstyle.com

Maureen Goode, PhD

713.792.4579  
mgoode@mdanderson.org

Pamela Paradis Tice

713.798.3652  
pptice@bcm.tmc.edu

### Newsletter Editor

Natasha Calder  
281.228.7519  
Natasha.Teixeira@cyberonics.com

## Southwestern Medical Writing Conference

September 19, 2002, 11:45 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center Houston, Texas

Don't miss your only chance this year to take part in AMWA's core curriculum program in the Southwest Chapter vicinity! The half-day conference may be expanded to a full day of AMWA workshops in the future, but strong attendance at this year's chapter conference—the first in many years—is vital to ensure that future conferences are held. The registration deadline for this year's conference is **August 28, 2002**.

The conference will consist of a plenary lecture and lunch, followed by three core curriculum workshops to run concurrently. Attendees wishing to take a workshop have their choice of Punctuation for Clarity and Style [R], led by Lynn M. Alperin; Journal Submissions Other than Research Articles [EW], led by Barbara Gastel, MD; and Organizing the Biomedical Paper [EW/FL], led by Marianne Mallia. Each of these workshops is useful for those who are working on obtaining their AMWA Core Credit certification, those who are new to medical writing and just learning the basics, and those with more experience who want to brush up on their skills or keep abreast of trends in medical publishing. At the time of publication of this newsletter, openings were available in all three workshops.

The plenary lecture will be presented by Lisa A. Bero, PhD, who will discuss the conflicts of interest raised when research performed in academic settings is supported by businesses, and, in particular, the lessons to be drawn from the experience of industry-sponsored research on the effects of tobacco on human health. A professor in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy at the University of California in San Francisco, Dr. Bero is an expert in research ethics, focusing on how clinical and basic science research is translated into clinical practice and health policy. She has developed and validated methods for evaluating quality of research and scientific publication, including relationships between industry and universities.

*Continued on page 2*

### Program in Brief

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|-----------------|---|
| 11:45 a.m.:     | Sign-in   |
| 12:15 p.m.:     | Plenary lecture: "Industry-sponsored tobacco research: lessons in conflicts of interest for academia," presented by Lisa A. Bero, PhD   |
| 1:15 p.m.:      | Lunch (choice of sandwich: turkey or vegetable)   |
| 2:30–5:30 p.m.: | Choice of three workshops (to run concurrently):<br>Punctuation for Clarity and Style [R]<br>Journal Submissions Other than Research Articles [EW]<br>Organizing the Biomedical Paper [EW/FL] |

## Southwestern Medical Writing Conference *(continued from page 1)*

Even if you don't intend to take a workshop, you are invited to attend this daytime lecture and lunch. This conference is the only daytime meeting that is planned for this year. Attendees will have the chance to meet other AMWA members and to network before the workshops begin.

The conference will be held in the Hickey Auditorium, located on the 11<sup>th</sup> floor of the R. Lee Clark Building of The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, 1515 Holcombe Boulevard, in the Texas Medical Center in Houston. Please park in Garage 10. Use the skybridge on level 2 to cross over to the clinic building. Then take the elevators to the 11<sup>th</sup> floor. Parking in Garage 10 costs \$9 per day. For detailed instructions, visit [www.mdanderson.org/About\\_MDA/Directions/](http://www.mdanderson.org/About_MDA/Directions/) (select "Getting To, Around & Parking at M. D. Anderson," then "Houston Maps, Weather & Traffic Information," and then "Directions to M. D. Anderson Cancer Center").

This conference site is less than 30 minutes from Hobby Airport, making it convenient enough for chapter members outside the Houston area to fly in for the conference and leave on the same day, if desired. Alternatively, nearby hotels are available; several recommendations are listed in the conference brochure (please visit <http://www.amwasouthwest.org/>).

An overview of the conference and a registration form are provided in this newsletter. Please mail your check and registration form today!

For more information, contact Thomas Gegeny (713.529.6973 or [tom@centerforaids.org](mailto:tom@centerforaids.org)).

### Registration Form Southwestern Medical Writing Conference

September 19, 2002

Registration deadline: **August 28, 2002**

Homework due date (for workshops): September 4, 2002

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Fill in the applicable fees below.

Full registration includes the plenary lecture, lunch, and your choice of one workshop.

Full registration, AMWA member, \$75: \_\_\_\_\_

Full registration, nonmember, \$95: \_\_\_\_\_

Plenary lecture and lunch only, \$8: \_\_\_\_\_

AMWA annual membership fees, \$120: \_\_\_\_\_

AMWA student membership fee, \$45: \_\_\_\_\_

Core curriculum enrollment fee, AMWA member, \$75: \_\_\_\_\_

Core curriculum enrollment fee, nonmember, \$185: \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your lunch preference: Turkey \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_

Refunds: A \$30 fee will be charged for each workshop cancellation received by August 28, 2002.

Select workshop (for full registration only). Please indicate a first and second choice.

\_\_\_\_ Punctuation for Clarify and Style [R]

\_\_\_\_ Journal Submissions Other than Research Articles [EW]

\_\_\_\_ Organizing the Biomedical Paper [EW/FL]

Please mail this registration form along with your check, payable to AMWA Southwest, to Lisa Wann, Chapter Conference Registrar, 3502 Burlington Street, #13, Houston, TX 77006.

# NASA Scientists Discuss Spaceflight and Medicine

On Saturday, July 13, about 35 people gathered at the Villa Capri Restaurant in Clear Lake to hear from two NASA speakers and to enjoy lunch in a lovely waterside setting.

Flight surgeon Michael Barratt, MD, began his portion of the lecture by describing the unique set of symptoms of the diagnosis known as “extra-terrestrial,” including fatigue, lower back pain, light flashes, decreased calf circumference, facial edema, neurologic hyperreflexia, and increased height. This specific set of physiologic parameters typifies the changes that occur as humans adapt to a weightless environment. Although current risk models indicate only a 1 in 550 chance of loss of a vehicle and crew during a shuttle ascent, Dr. Barratt said, several other risks are associated with a mission, such as exposure to radiation and toxins, debris impact, and acoustic problems. Dr. Barratt is writing a book on the effects of spaceflight on the human body, the first comprehensive volume of clinical space medicine to be published in 34 years. He spoke about the difficulty of developing a standard of care in a niche field and said that one aim of his book is to provide a source of accountability for protective measures taken by flight surgeons.

John Evanoff, PhD, a project manager of NASA’s Human Adaptation and Countermeasures Office, then talked about the considerable engineering challenges of designing simulated rotational models that would enable astronauts to adapt to the conditions of spaceflight while they are still earthbound. A much

more practical and cost-effective approach is to develop a set of countermeasures—defined as any steps considered necessary to prevent medical events—to minimize the adverse effects of spaceflight on the body. Astronauts prepare for their missions by undergoing physiologic preparations, such as thorough cardiac conditioning, adaptation training, and exercise that can be performed in space. Dr. Evanoff pointed out that astronauts must also undergo psychological preparation needed to endure long periods with their crew members in a confined space. He then answered questions raised by members of the audience. Dr. Evanoff distributed a list of Web sites for further information; some of these sites are listed below.

NASA: <http://www.nasa.gov/>

Johnson Space Center: <http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/>

NASA’s Reduced Gravity Research Program:

<http://jsc-aircraft-ops.jsc.nasa.gov/kc135/gallery.html>

National Space Biomedical Research Institute:

<http://www.nsbri.org>

NASA Critical Path:

<http://criticalpath.jsc.nasa.gov/>

Research Announcements:

<http://www.nasa.gov/research.html/>

The lecture took place after the attendees enjoyed a delicious meal of pasta and chicken. One lucky attendee, Marc MacDonald, won the door prize: a bookmark and gift certificate from Border’s Books.

## Opportunities

### Looking for a new career opportunity?

Would you like to work with companies developing the latest medical device technology and live in beautiful Austin? Busy medical publishing company specializing in cardiac and orthopedic medical devices seeks experienced medical/scientific writer/editor with strong grasp of statistical analysis and data management. Background in life sciences or clinical research a must. Please fax resume and salary history to 512.458.1234.

### Would you like to get more involved in AMWA?

The Southwest Chapter of AMWA is run through the 100% volunteer efforts of your colleagues in AMWA. The chapter has openings for ANY members interested in contributing their time or talents and advancing their professional association experience. Contact President Tom Gegeny (tom@centerforaids.org; 713.529.6973) if you are interested or would like more information.

## AMWA Southwest Chapter News

Natasha Calder  
19200 Space Center Blvd., #415  
Houston TX 77058

Phone: 281.228.7519  
E-mail: [Natasha.Teixeira@cyberonics.com](mailto:Natasha.Teixeira@cyberonics.com)



### Don't Forget!

62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference  
"Strands of Discovery"  
Town & Country Hotel and Resort, San Diego, CA  
October 31–November 2, 2002  
[www.amwa.org](http://www.amwa.org)

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## AMWA Southwest Chapter Schedule of Events, 2002–2003

Mark your calendars for these upcoming AMWA Southwest Chapter meetings!

**Thursday, September 19, 2002, 11:45 a.m.–5:30 p.m.**

**AMWA Southwest Chapter Conference**

The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, 1515 Holcombe Boulevard, R. Lee Clark Building, Hickey Auditorium (R11.1100), Houston, TX

**Tuesday, December 3, 2002, 5:30–7:30 p.m.**

**Lecture: Anne Hudson Jones, PhD, Professor, Institute for the Medical Humanities**

"Frankenstein's Monster: Medical Creation and the Future of Biomedicine"

Texas Medical Center Library, 1133 John Freeman Avenue, Houston, TX

**Wednesday, January 29, 2003, 6:00–8:30 p.m.**

**Annual Dr. John P. McGovern Award Banquet**

Recipient and lecture title to be announced.

Houston Plaza Hilton, 6633 Travis, Houston, TX

**Thursday, March 13, 2003, 5:30–7:30 p.m.**

**Lecture: Carol Ann Wilson Story, Plain Language Association**

"Plain Language: Ensuring Strong Communication"

The University of Texas School of Public Health, Auditorium, Houston, TX

**Wednesday, May 14, 2003, 6:00–8:00 p.m.**

**Fourth Annual Career Roundtables**

Topics and presenters to be announced.

Baba Yega Restaurant, 2607 Grant, Houston, TX