



Southwest
Chapter

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Scientific Editing in the Internet Era: A Business Opportunity

Date: October 29, 2007 (Monday)

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Place: Shanghai River Restaurant
2407 Westheimer
Houston, Texas 77098

Please join your fellow AMWA Southwest members and guests on a trip into the virtual editing world with [Susan Marriott, PhD](#), a professor of molecular virology and microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine, and Walter Bigford, information system expert in Houston. Together, they will describe that world—its advantages, its pitfalls, and how they set up and operate their scientific editing and proofreading site, Bioscience Writers at www.biosciencewriters.com, which is staffed by several editors and proofreaders who are all linked via the Internet.

To register for this event, RSVP by Thursday, October 25, 2007, to Ruth SoRelle at rsorelle@amwasouthwest.org.

Please include your first and last names, your address, your email address, and your phone number. Also, indicate whether or not you are a member of AMWA. Please be prepared to pay \$16 (for members) or \$19 (for nonmembers) by cash or check (payable to AMWA Southwest) at the door on the day of the event. Payment will be required for each email received.

In her laboratory at Baylor, Dr Marriott focuses her research on human T-cell leukemia virus type I (HTLV-I), a retrovirus associated with human cancer, and the regulatory protein Tax, a transcriptional factor in viral and cellular gene expression.

Mr Bigford has more than 11 years of experience designing, developing, and managing projects for information systems and is currently employed in the information technology industry.

University of Houston Professor Addresses Southwest Chapter at July Meeting

On Saturday, July 7, 2007, AMWA Southwest members and guests met in Seabrook, Texas, for a networking lunch and presentation by University of Houston (UH) English professor [Irving Rothman, PhD](#), entitled “So What's Not New? Reflections on 350 Years of Change in English Medical Writing Style.”

Dr Rothman’s presentation offered a unique perspective on the principles and context of the most recent *AMA Manual of Style* (10th edition). Besides specializing in the works of Daniel Defoe and bibliographic research methods, Dr Rothman also edits for engineers and scientists at UH’s Institute for Space Systems Operations and occasionally teaches technical writing for corporations.

Dr Rothman began his talk on an offbeat, presenting his 28 listeners with a progression of slides illustrating the poor image often given of doctors and other medical professionals in the literature and graphic art of 17th, 18th, and 19th century England.

He then switched gears to compare modern punctuation (eg, that recommended by the *AMA Manual*) with that in the King James Bible of the early 17th century. One of the most salient differences he pointed out was that between the King James Bible’s use of punctuation to mark

pauses for breath and today’s use to delineate units of thought and meaning.

Dr Rothman ended with several comments on the *AMA Manual of Style* and some of its idiosyncrasies. One particularly odd feature, Dr Rothman opined, was the new *AMA Manual*’s passage on “Editorial Freedom and Integrity” (Section 5.10). Although he did consider the topic worthy of discussion in the manual, he also thought that it occupied an inordinate amount of real estate in a guide particularly devoted to “style.”

In closing, Dr Rothman took several questions from the audience and then gave up the floor to Program Chair Ruth SoRelle, who invited everyone to stay awhile and socialize.

Breaking News

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

The Southwest Chapter Conference will be held on Friday, June 6, 2008, at the Tulane University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine in New Orleans, Louisiana. We plan to offer 2 core courses (*Basic Grammar I* and *Punctuation for Clarity and Style*), an advanced course (*Advanced Writing*), and 1 additional course. For more information, contact Angela Lorio (loriocom@cox.net; 504.328.3348) or Steve Palmer (spalmer@amwasouthwest.org; 832.355.8902).

Stuart Yudofsky to be Honored at 2008 McGovern Award Banquet

Mark your calendar for the 2008 McGovern Award Banquet, which will be held Tuesday, January 29, 2008, at the Holiday Inn Astrodome at Reliant Park, 8111 Kirby Drive, Houston, TX 77054.

The 2008 McGovern Award recipient will be Stuart C. Yudofsky, MD, the D.C. and Irene Ellwood Professor and Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Baylor College of Medicine. He is the author or coauthor of numerous scientific articles and book chapters in the field of psychiatry and coeditor of a variety of textbooks in the field, including two standard textbooks—*The American Psychiatric Press Textbook of Neuropsychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences* (4th Edition, American Psychiatric Publishing, Inc., 2002) and *The American Psychiatric Press Textbook of Clinical Psychiatry* (4th Edition, American Psychiatric Publishing, Inc., 2003). He is also the author of *What You Need to Know About Psychiatric Drugs*, a book for the general public about psychiatric medications, and *Fatal Flaws: Navigating Destructive Relationships With People With Disorders of Personality and Character*, a book written for both professional and lay audiences.

Dr Yudofsky will present his McGovern Award Lecture on the history of the stigmatization of the mentally ill and how that affects public attitudes, awareness, and psychiatric treatment.

AMWA Southwest Chapter Newsletter

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