

## **AMWA–EMWA–ISMPP joint position statement on the role of professional medical writers**

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Chris Winchester, DPhil

MedComms Networking Brunch Club, 5 April 2017

# Chris Winchester DPhil

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## Managing Director at Oxford PharmaGenesis

- An independently owned HealthScience communications consultancy, founded in 1998, with offices in Oxford, London, Cardiff, Basel and Philadelphia
  - Winners of a Queen's Award for Enterprise 2015
- 160 staff; 100 writers and consultants
  - > 90% with a PhD/MD
  - PRINCE2 qualified project managers
- Enduring partnerships with healthcare companies and professional and patient organizations

Honorary Associate of the School of Medicine, Pharmacy and Health, Durham University

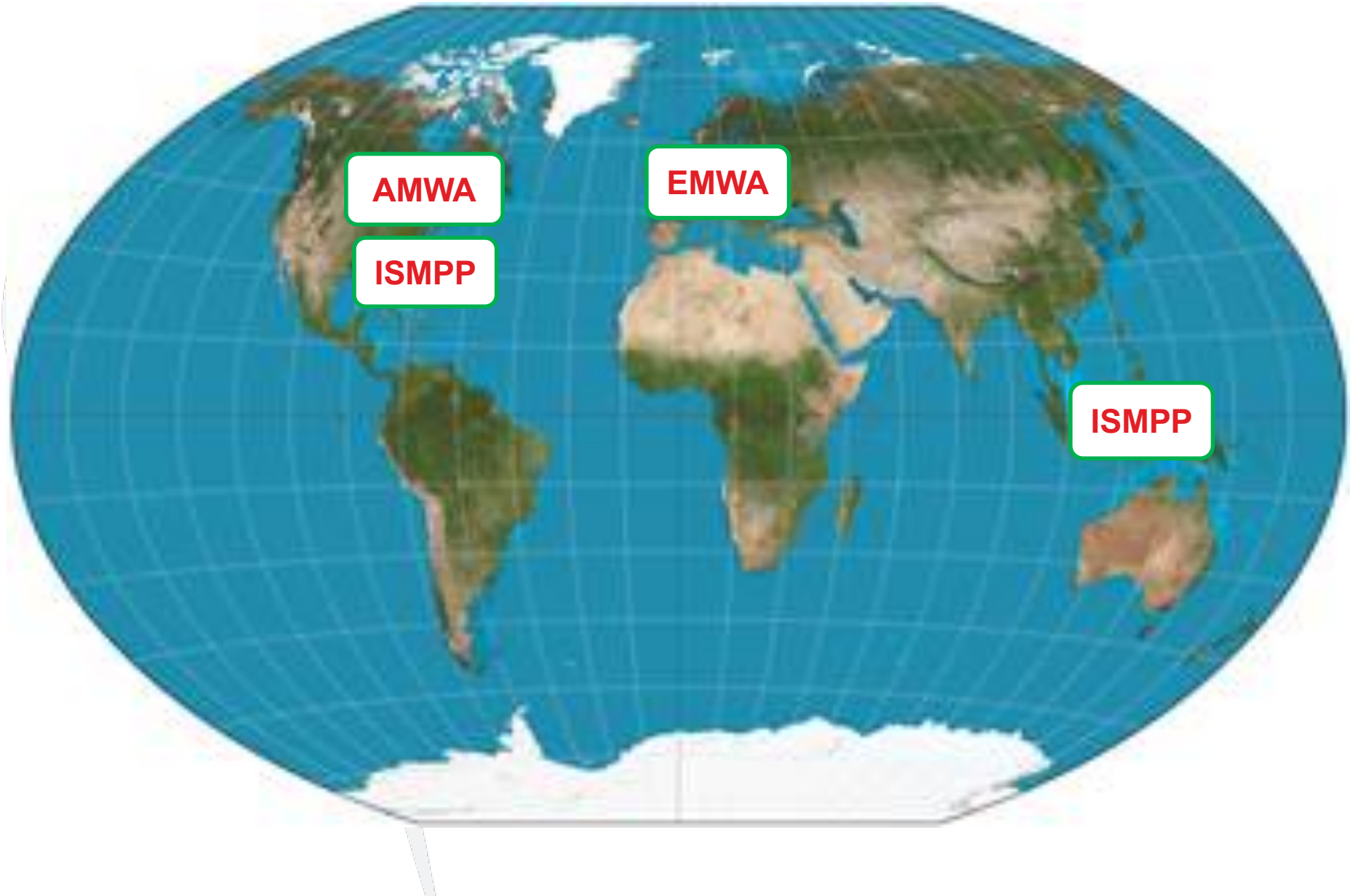
# First AMWA–EMWA–ISMPP joint initiative

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- The **first unified position statement** on the role of professional medical writers from 3 leading professional organizations:
  - American Medical Writers Association (AMWA)
  - European Medical Writers Association (EMWA)
  - International Society for Medical Publication Professionals (ISMPP)
- **Joint Position Statement** describes, for the first time, a global standard for professional medical writers
- Replaces previous position statements and guidelines from these participating organizations

# Representing 6,500 medical communicators around the world

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# Objectives and scope

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- States both author and medical writer responsibilities
- Explains the value that professional medical writers bring to evidence-based medicine
- Brings the expertise of medical writers and the guidelines within which they work to clinicians, researchers, peer-reviewers, and journal editors
- Reflects updated guidelines and current evidence of the value of professional medical writing support
- Recommends appropriate acknowledgment of an accountable medical writer

# Introduction



## AMWA–EMWA–ISMPP Joint Position Statement on the Role of Professional Medical Writers

Released January 2017

### Introduction

This joint position statement of the American Medical Writers Association (AMWA), the European Medical Writers Association (EMWA), and the International Society for Medical Publication Professionals (ISMPP) describes the appropriate role of professional medical writers in the development of medical and scientific publications, including:

- articles and supplementary content (eg, video abstracts) for publication in peer-reviewed journals
- abstracts, posters, and oral presentations for dissemination at scientific congresses.

This joint position statement is in line with up-to-date guidelines from several other international organizations.<sup>1–13</sup>

Types of publications covered

Reflects relevant guidances and statements

# Responsibilities of professional medical writers

## Responsibilities of professional medical writers

Professional medical writing support helps authors and sponsors to disclose their research in peer-reviewed journals and at scientific congresses in an ethical,<sup>14</sup> accurate,<sup>15,16</sup> and timely<sup>17</sup> manner, with the ultimate aim of advancing patient care. Professional medical writers have extensive knowledge of ethical publication guidelines.<sup>18,19</sup> When assisting authors with communication of the results of company-sponsored research, they must:

- follow Good Publication Practice (GPP3) guidelines and International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) recommendations<sup>1,2</sup>
- consult appropriate reporting guidelines (eg, CONSORT<sup>20</sup> and others collated by the EQUATOR network<sup>21</sup>)
- ensure that the authors and sponsors are aware of their obligations under these guidelines<sup>1,2,20,21</sup>
- keep up to date with advances in medical communications ethics and best practices.

**Follow relevant guidelines and best practices**

**Provide appropriate, accurate, and current information**

**Ethical  
Accurate  
Timely**

# Responsibilities of authors

## Responsibilities of authors who collaborate with professional medical writers

Authors who choose to collaborate with a professional medical writer on manuscripts or congress presentations must:

- ensure that they, as authors, have access to all relevant information (eg, protocols, statistical analysis plans, statistical analyses, and clinical study reports)
- provide intellectual input before writing commences and throughout content development
- ensure that the final text fully reflects the views of, and is approved by, all authors
- affirm the appropriateness of the final choice of journal or congress
- acknowledge the provision of medical writing support, including the nature of the support, and the name, highest relevant qualifications (eg, degree or professional credential), and affiliation of the professional medical writer accountable for the support provided, and acknowledge the funding sources for the provision of medical writing support (see Box)
- recognize as a co-author all contributors (including a professional medical writer) who meet the ICMJE authorship criteria.<sup>1</sup>

**Reflects ICMJE authorship criteria**

**Emphasizes the need to acknowledge medical writing support**



# Example of template disclosure statement

**Box. Example of template disclosure statement for professional medical writing support.**

“The authors thank [name and qualifications] of [company, city, country] for providing medical writing support/ editorial support [specify and/or expand as appropriate], which was funded by [sponsor, city, country] in accordance with Good Publication Practice (GPP3) guidelines (<http://www.ismpp.org/gpp3>).”

## WHAT:

Details of type of support provided

## HOW:

Within specific guidelines

## WHO:

Accountable medical writer, editor, other, as appropriate, and their qualifications

WHERE: Location

## WHO:

Funder

## WHERE:

Location

# Call to action

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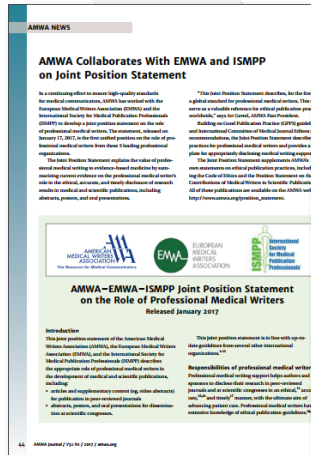
- Read the Joint Position Statement at
  - AMWA: [http://www.amwa.org/position\\_statement](http://www.amwa.org/position_statement)
  - EMWA: <http://www.emwa.org>
  - ISMPP: <http://www.ismpp.org/advocacy>
- Attend a presentation at a forthcoming event
- Recommend endorsement from related organizations
- Update your own publication policies accordingly

# Impact to date

Over 10,878 unique page views in the first month

## New Medical Writer Joint Position Statement Released by AMWA, EMWA, and ISMPP

London, UK, 17 January 2017 - The American Medical Writers Association (AMWA), European Medical Writers Association (EMWA), and International Society for Medical Publication Professionals (ISMPP) today released a Joint Position Statement on the Role of Professional Medical Writers, which is the first unified position statement from three leading professional organizations.



### AMWA-EMWA-ISMPP Joint Position Statement on the Role of Professional Medical Writers

**Released January 2017**

**Introduction**  
This joint position statement of the American Medical Writers Association (AMWA), the European Medical Writers Association (EMWA), and the International Society for Medical Publication Professionals (ISMPP) defines the role of professional medical writers in the development of medical and scientific publications, including articles, posters, and oral presentations for dissemination to scientific audiences.

**Responsibilities of professional medical writers**  
Professional medical writers support authors and assist in the development of medical and scientific publications, including articles, posters, and oral presentations for dissemination to scientific audiences.

**Example of template disclosure statement for professional medical writers**  
The joint position statement is in line with regulatory guidelines from several other international organizations.

**Responsibilities of professional medical writers**  
Professional medical writers support authors and assist in the development of medical and scientific publications, including articles, posters, and oral presentations for dissemination to scientific audiences.

**Example of template disclosure statement for professional medical writers**  
The joint position statement is in line with regulatory guidelines from several other international organizations.

### Top publications news stories of the year so far: The Publication Plan website top 5

In case you missed any of the publications-related news on The Publication Plan website ([www.thepublicationplan.com](http://www.thepublicationplan.com)) in January and February, here's a quick roundup of the most popular articles of 2017 so far:

1. Meeting report: Summaries of the 2017 European #ISMPP Meeting:  
Day 1: <https://thepublicationplan.com/2017/01/27/meeting-report-summary-of-day-1-of-the-2017-european-ismpp-meeting/>  
Day 2: <https://thepublicationplan.com/2017/02/01/meeting-report-summary-of-day-2-of-the-2017-european-ismpp-meeting/>
2. **New Medical Writer Position Statement from AMWA, EMWA, and ISMPP**  
<https://thepublicationplan.com/2017/01/17/new-medical-writer-joint-position-statement-released-by-amwa-emwa-and-ismpp/>
3. **Jeffrey Beall and the disappearing blacklists of predatory journals/publishers:**  
<https://thepublicationplan.com/2017/01/27/jeffrey-beall-and-the-disappearing-blacklists/>  
4. [VIDEO] How to get the best out of journal pre-submission enquiries:  
<https://thepublicationplan.com/2017/01/17/video-how-to-get-the-best-out-of-journal-pre-submission-enquiries/>
5. **Association between principal investigators' financial ties to pharma and published trial outcomes:**  
<https://thepublicationplan.com/2017/02/02/association-between-principal-investigators-financial-ties-to-pharma-and-published-trial-outcomes/>

The site also features a host of other news, articles and events announcements on a whole range of medical publications-related topics. Don't forget to subscribe to The Publication Plan website to make sure that you never miss a story! [Show less](#)

ARCS weekly jobs and news bulletin [View this email in your browser](#)

## ARCS JOBS AND NEWS BULLETIN

Professional Development in Therapeutics™

**Message from the CEO Shanny Dyer**

**CEO Update**  
The next edition of the eJournal will be out next month – with a new name! Thank you to all of the suggestions we received – I am sure some were tongue in cheek but all very clever. I will not reveal the name yet, you will have to wait and see!

The journal will be released on the 8 March, to coincide with International Women's Day 2017. We will have interesting stories from our members to share with you. Visit [VID 2017](#) and [eboldforchange](#) – support our women to be as bold as possible.

**AMWA-EMWA-ISMPP Joint Position Statement on the Role of Professional Medical Writers**  
Australian clinical investigators working on industry-sponsored clinical trials and industry sponsors should be aware of a new international statement that outlines the responsibilities of authors and medical writers when developing medical and scientific publications. [Learn more...](#)

# A team effort

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- The Joint Position Statement was drafted and reviewed by representatives of AMWA, EMWA, and ISMPP located in Europe, North America, and Asia
- 4 members of the Writing Committee
  - Art Gertel, AMWA Past President
  - Chris Winchester, EMWA member
  - Karen Woolley, past ISMPP Asia-Pacific Trustee
  - Yvonne Yarker, ISMPP Chair, Board of Trustees
- Thanks to the organizational reviewers and all those involved in the original position statements of these 3 organizations

# Contact

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