


2017 EUROPEAN MEETING OF ISMPP



**AMWA-EMWA-ISMPP
JOINT POSITION STATEMENT
ON THE ROLE OF
PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL WRITERS**

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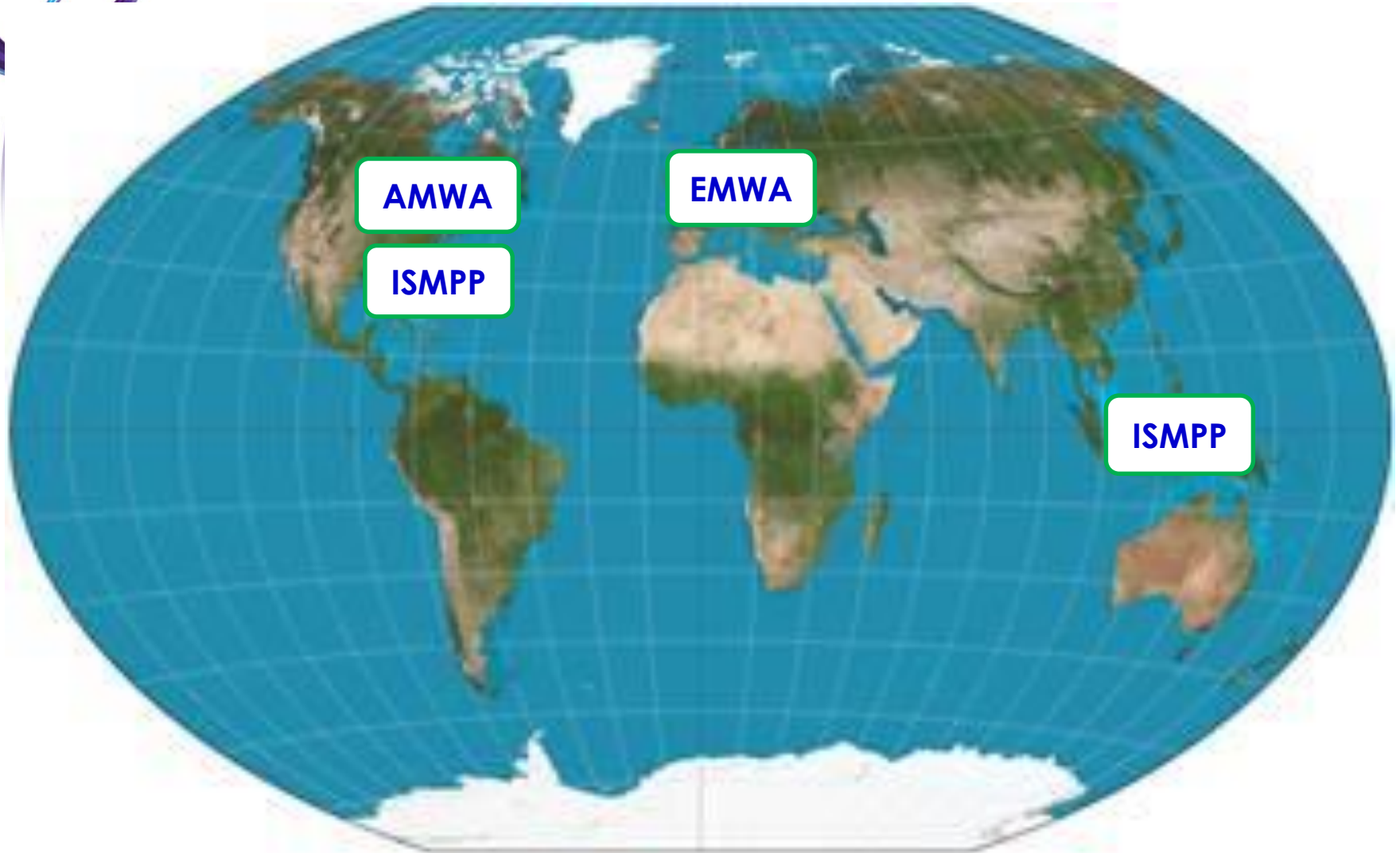




FIRST AMWA-EMWA-ISMPP JOINT INITIATIVE

- Release today of 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





OBJECTIVES and SCOPE

- 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
- Emphasizes authors' choices and responsibilities
- Recommends appropriate acknowledgment of an accountable medical writer
- Reflects updated guidelines and current evidence of the value of professional medical writing support

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.^{1–13}

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,¹⁴ accurate,^{15,16} and timely¹⁷ manner, with the ultimate aim of advancing patient care. Professional medical writers have extensive knowledge of ethical publication guidelines.^{18,19} 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^{1,2}
- consult appropriate reporting guidelines (eg, CONSORT²⁰ and others collated by the EQUATOR network²¹)
- ensure that the authors and sponsors are aware of their obligations under these guidelines^{1,2,20,21}
- 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.¹

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



NEXT STEPS

- The Joint Position Statement can be found at
 - AMWA: http://www.amwa.org/position_statement
 - EMWA: <http://www.emwa.org>
 - ISMPP: <http://www.ismpp.org/advocacy>
- Planned presentations at forthcoming events throughout the year
 - AMWA Webinar tomorrow (8:00 h, Wed, 18 Jan)
 - *'5 Easy Steps to Making the Ethical RIGHT Choice'*
- Seeking endorsements from related organizations
- Individual members are encouraged to update their own publication policies accordingly



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 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



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THANK YOU!