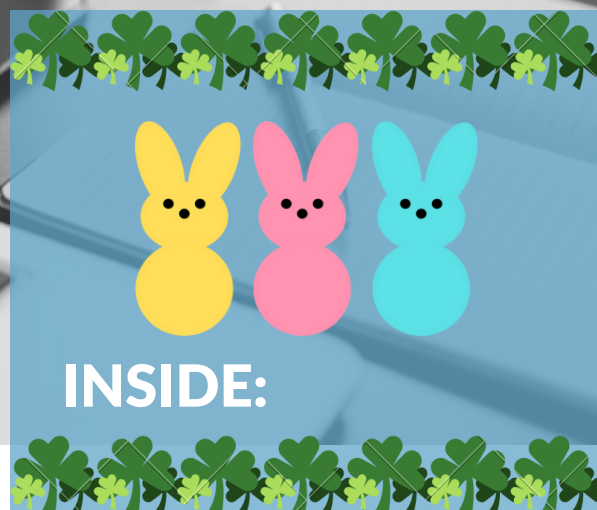


The BELS Letter

Board of Editors in the Life Sciences

Maintaining and promoting editorial proficiency in the life sciences



From the President

As we draw closer to the spring season, life seems full of possibilities. The year stretches out ahead of us, and it's a great time to reflect on our roadmap for the future, as an organization and as members of a profession vital to answering challenging scientific (and often scientific editing!) questions, ultimately advancing discovery and improving outcomes for humanity.

BELS board members recently met for an important annual strategic planning session. We explored a variety of topics while keeping you, our members, top of mind, and we also spent time reflecting on our profession as editors.

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The BELS Letter

Bryan Tutt, ELS(D)
Managing Editor



Alex Rudie
Publications Coordinator

From the President

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Discussions like these are crucial as we seek to emphasize the value of certification for editors in the life sciences and to add membership value for you as the heart of our organization. Where I work, we talk about not just growing bigger for its own sake, but about growing better and growing bolder. That's what fuels the ability to reinvest in and recommit to the mission, and I'd like to think that spirit applies to how we're also working to move BELS forward.

In this issue, you'll find a short piece about the educational webinars we've recorded, which are available online, and of course, read on for our monthly poll results. In addition, I hope you'll join us for our upcoming online social event that is part of your membership benefits. Learn more about how to avoid editing fatigue, featuring wellness tips for editors.

In the meantime, we would love to hear from you about some of your professional or personal accomplishments. Let us know about any accolades you'd like us to spotlight in an upcoming issue—we'd be happy to share them.

*Melanie Fridl Ross, MSJ, ELS
BELS President*

Be There With BELS On!

BELS branded merchandise is now available! Now you can proudly display the BELS logo on your tote bag, mug, travel tumbler, sweatshirt, laptop case, or mouse pad. They make great gifts for colleagues, employees, friends, family, and yourself! Please visit www.bels.org/store to order.



BELS Member Event

Need a break from sitting at your desk all day? Feeling a little down while working alone? Come exchange some helpful tips for staying physically and mentally healthy while editing.

This event is free and open to BELS members. [RSVP today!](#)

Editing Fatigue: Wellness Tips for Editors

March 23, 2023
5 pm CDT
via Zoom

Need a break from sitting
at your desk all day?

Feeling a little down
while working alone?

Come exchange some
helpful tips for staying
physically and mentally
healthy while editing.



Register at bels.org

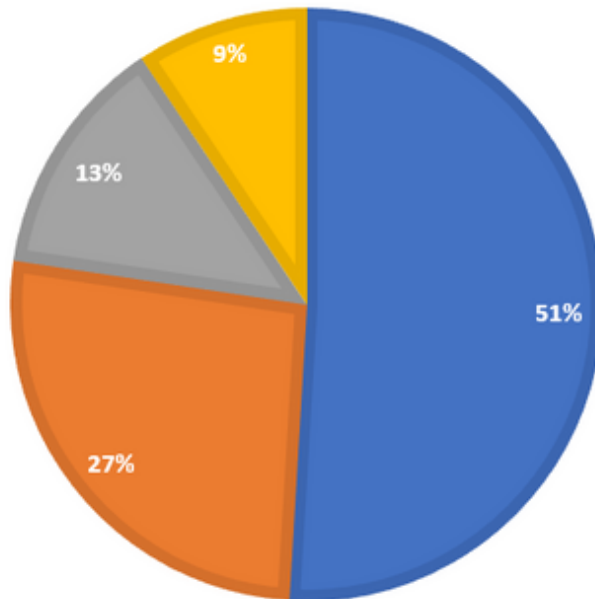
Monthly Poll Results

In February, our online poll gave you four sentences in which a missing hyphen obscured the meaning and asked which sentence evoked the most interesting image. The most popular answer was the “full slate of hands.”

Please visit bels.org to participate in this month’s poll, which also deals with hyphen use (or misuse).

Which of the following, taken literally, brings the most interesting scene to your mind?

- The course will have a full slate of hands on activities.
- Technology produces labor saving devices.
- The hypothesis could be tested by looking for small amplitude oscillations.
- Everyone should try to reduce the stress producing circumstances that make unnecessary demands on them.



Recordings of Virtual Events are Online

Don't miss out! Recordings of virtual events are online!

Did you miss the BELS annual membership meeting in December or a members-only education event? Don't worry; recordings are available on the [BELS website!](#)

Topics of past education events included a Q&A session about consulting, setting freelance editing rates, and the BELS diplomate program. Have a topic that you'd like to see covered? Send your suggestion to info@bels.org. We'd love to hear your ideas!



BELS Member Discounts

BELS has partnered with resource providers to offer valuable members-only discounts on products and services that help make your job easier. These offers are exclusive to BELS members and should not be shared with any other non-member.

BELS member discounts include a **30% discount** on a single license of PerfectIt software. PerfectIt improves consistency, ensures quality, and saves time. BELS members also receive a **20% discount** on reference books such as *Scientific Style and Format: The CSE Manual for Authors, Editors, and Publishers* and *The Chicago Manual of Style*. The discount can be applied to both online and print versions of these books. Visit bels.org and click on Member Resources to claim your discounts today!

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The Board of Editors in the Life Sciences (BELS) was founded in 1991 to evaluate the proficiency of manuscript editors in the life sciences and to award credentials similar to those obtainable in other professions.

Potential employers and clients of manuscript editors usually have no objective way to assess the proficiency of editors. For their part, editors are frustrated by the difficulty of demonstrating their ability. That is why both employers and editors so often resort to personal references or ad hoc tests, not always with satisfactory results. The need for an objective test of editorial skill has long been recognized.

To meet that need, BELS developed a process for testing and evaluating proficiency in editing in the life sciences. The Board administers two examinations—one for certification and one for diplomate status. The examinations, written by senior life-science editors assisted by testing experts, focus on the principles and practices of scientific editing in English.