

The BELS Letter

Board of Editors in the Life Sciences

Maintaining and promoting editorial proficiency in the life sciences



INSIDE:

From the President

Who doesn't love a good celebration? The month of May pays homage to mothers, barbecues, bees, and hamburgers. Nurses, fruit cocktails, miniature golf, and migratory birds. Chihuahuas and chocolate chips. Firefighters, orange juice, and Star Wars. I could go on. But nothing tops one particular day in May, and that's May 4, of course. It's the Board of Editors in the Life Sciences' 32nd anniversary! That's right, after incorporating in 1991, BELS gave its first certification examination on this very day that same year.

As we move through spring and summer approaches, find moments big and small to celebrate your own successes. BELS is here

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The BELS Letter

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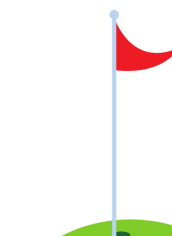
From the President

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to share in your accomplishments and support you, and I trust you will take advantage of the incredible resources our organization offers. Be sure to RSVP for our next virtual members-only social event, which is scheduled for 5 PM Central (6 PM Eastern) on June 1. Look for our recent email for all the details, and come prepared to share your best and worst editing stories and the lessons you learned. We'll exchange tales from the front in a session called "Tell Me An Editing Story." Until then, thank you as always for being part of our BELS story!

Melanie Fridl Ross, MSJ, ELS
BELS President



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 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!



**Scientific
Style and
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The CSE Manual for Authors,
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8th Edition
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Chicago
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THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE
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BELS Virtual Members-Only Social Event

The June members-only event is a time to share stories about rewarding, challenging, or interesting experiences you've had in editing.

Visit the BELS website to [RSVP](#).



BELS
Board of Editors in the Life Sciences

TELL ME AN EDITING STORY



**JUNE 1, 2023
5:00 PM CDT
VIA ZOOM**

JOIN US!

Have a story about your most rewarding edit or customer? Maybe you learned a valuable lesson from a challenging edit or project? We want to hear from you!

Join us for editing storytime and share your best and/or worst editing experiences.

REGISTER AT BELS.ORG



Monthly Poll Results



April's poll question was straightforward, asking whether the spelled-out term or its abbreviation should come first. Unsurprisingly, most of us chose to follow the *AMA Manual of Style* by putting the spelled-out term first. However, the 22% who said that either the spelled-out term or the abbreviation can come first likely were thinking of exceptions listed in the *AMA Manual*, such as multidrug regimens (see the 11th edition, section 14.4.11, for details).

Visit bels.org to participate in this month's poll, which asks you to choose the most clear and concise sentence from three options.



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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.



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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.

