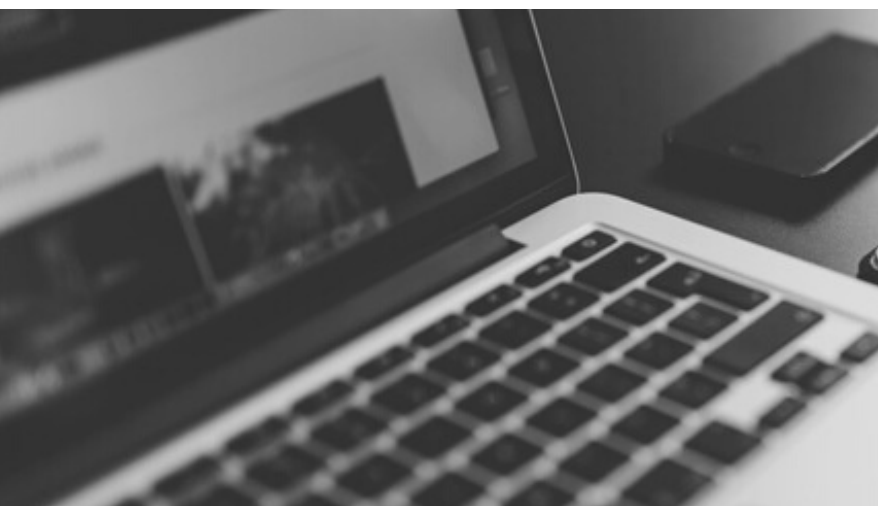


The BELS Letter

Board of Editors in the Life Sciences

Maintaining and promoting editorial proficiency in the life sciences



From the President

I join my fellow board members in expressing our appreciation for all who took the time to gather for our BELS breakfast at the American Medical Writers Association's annual conference in Baltimore last month. It was a wonderful event, and it was so nice to meet in person. We shared brief updates about various BELS initiatives, including certification maintenance, recognized the contributions of our dedicated volunteers (including those who staffed our BELS booth in the AMWA exhibit hall), and enjoyed the chance to catch up with the two dozen attendees.

Next month we'll connect again for our

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The BELS Letter

Bryan Tutt, ELS(D)
Managing Editor

Alex Rudie
Publications Coordinator



From the President

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2023 Annual Membership Meeting, which will be held on Thursday, December 14, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Central. Per tradition, we'll cover highlights from the past year and showcase what's coming in 2024. We'll be sure to include some fun activities as well, so please mark your calendars. Registration will open soon.

'Tis the season to pay your annual BELS dues. As a reminder, make sure to check your email inbox for your membership renewal notice and respond promptly to lock in your continued member benefits, discounts, and networking opportunities.

Lastly, November is traditionally the month we express our gratitude in many ways. I continue to be grateful for your ongoing support and for the work you do to advance our profession. A special shout-out to all of you who give of your time on behalf of BELS. Thank you!

*Melanie Fridl Ross, MSJ, ELS
BELS President*



BELS Member Breakfast at AMWA



BELS Booth at AMWA



Newly Certified Editors



Shubhika Agarwal, ELS
Matthew Anderson, ELS
Kerrie Baldwin, ELS
Annapurna Chatterjee, ELS
Kelly Engel, ELS
Katerina Faust, ELS
Frederick Feldman III, MA, ELS
Rebecca Haeck, ELS
Keerthana Kamath, ELS
Cristina Kesler, PhD, ELS
Swathi M, ELS
Meghan Marre, PhD, ELS
Lisa McAvoy, ELS
Andria Mendez, ELS
Sue Minor, ELS
Arunima Muralidhar, ELS
Tammie Nelson, MPH, CPH, ELS
Deepa R, ELS
Stephanie Roberts, ELS
Clotilde Robinson, ELS
Srijoni Sarkar, ELS
Aparna Sharma, ELS
Neelambari Sharma, ELS
Swabha Takshak, ELS
Lisa Wojnovich, MChem, ELS
Shannyn Wolfe, ELS

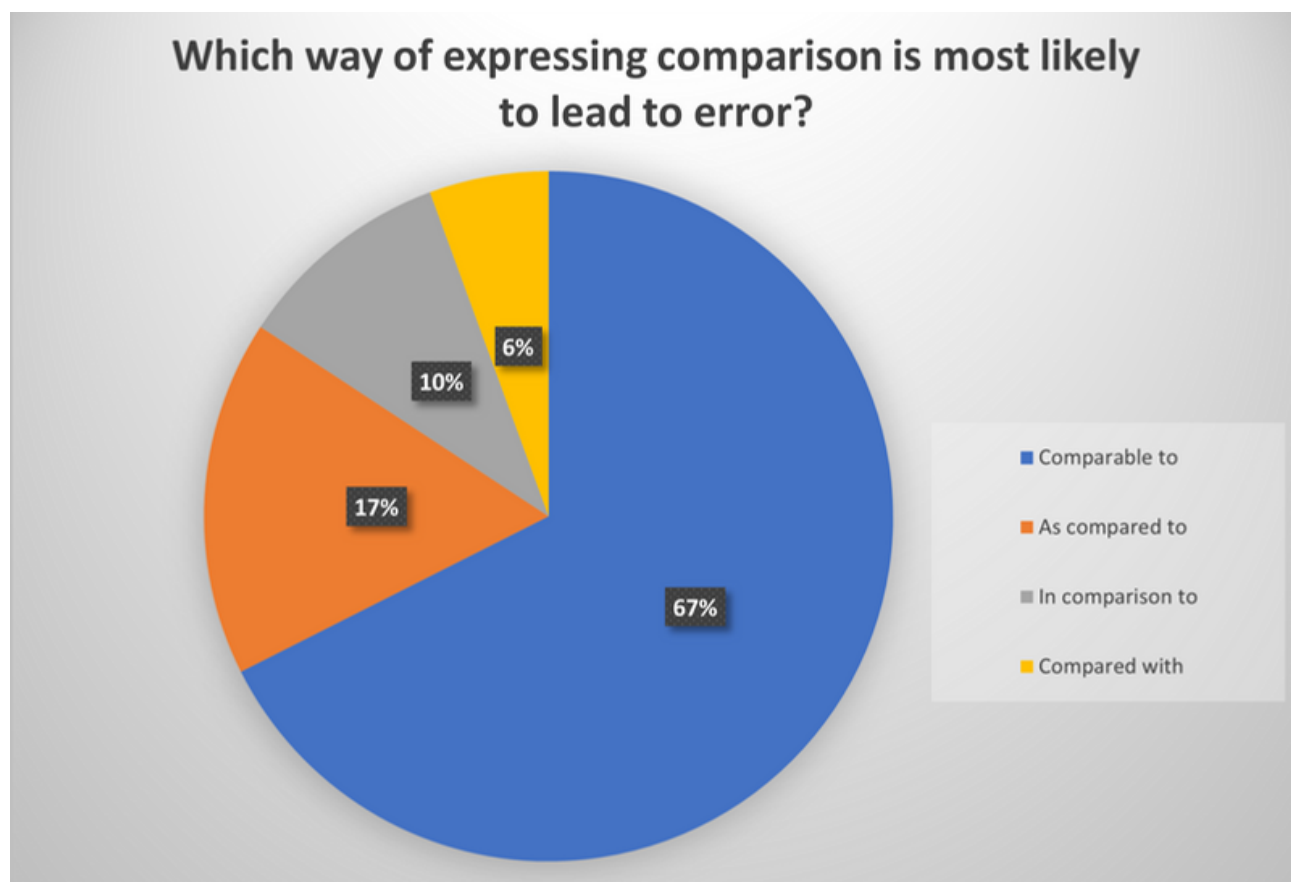


Monthly Poll Results



Last month's online poll asked you to compare ways to express comparisons. Specifically, it asked which phrase was most likely to cause an error. Most of you agreed that "comparable to" was the worst offender. Only 6% went against the *AMA Manual of Style* and said "compared with" was likely to cause mistakes.

Visit bels.org to participate in this month's poll, which asks you to select the part of a research paper that AI (artificial intelligence) might edit least well.



Jingle BELS!

BELS branded merchandise is still available! You can celebrate the holidays as you 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, and family, and you can ship your gift directly to the recipient. Please visit www.bels.org/store to order.



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Secretary

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Chair, Certification Maintenance

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Chair, Diplomate Examination Development

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Chair, Registrar & Examination Administration

Carrie Thurber, ELS
Chair, Membership & Marketing

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Nominations & Elections, and Newsletter Editor

Stephen Bublitz, ELS
Chair, Professional Development

Yateendra Joshi, ELS(D)
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Non-voting Board Member
Sheryle Hazard, CAE
Executive Director

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.

