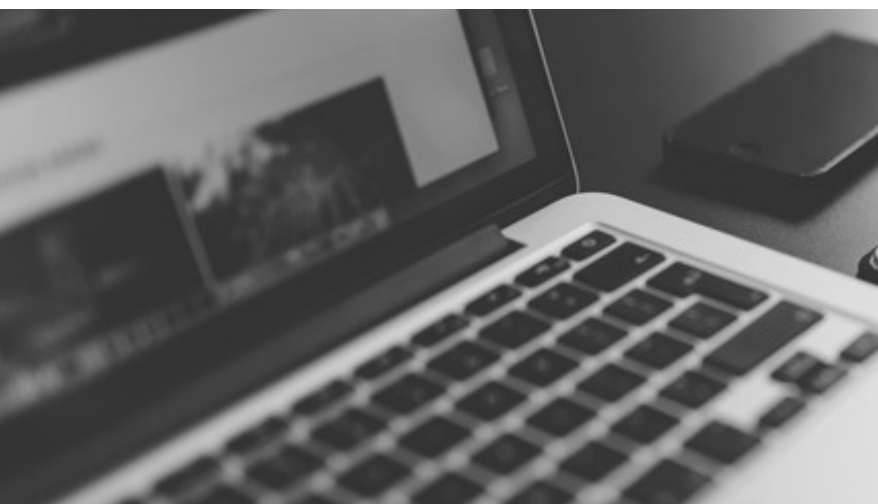




Maintaining and promoting editorial proficiency in the life sciences



## From the President

April is the coolest month. No, that's not a typo; this April has been pretty cool, not only because of everything blooming (apologies to the allergy sufferers out there) but also because of the amazing eclipse we had on the 8th. It was overcast where I am, but the clouds were moving fast and had enough gaps for folks to get a few good looks—with appropriate protective eyewear, of course.

Speaking of cool, this month BELS will host two webinars for members. On the 16th, we'll have "Freelancing for All," a roundtable discussion featuring three seasoned freelancers about the upsides, the downsides, and the nuts and bolts of

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### *The BELS Letter*

Urvika Pawar, ELS  
Managing Editor

Alex Rudie  
Publications Coordinator



# From the President

Continued from page 1

freelancing. Then, on the 22nd, we'll have Meredith MacPherson's rescheduled special presentation, "Fostering a Growth Mindset," about what the growth mindset is and how you can develop and use one to boost your professional and personal development.

Stay cool, all!

Steve Palmer, PhD, ELS  
BELS President

## New BELS Member Discounts Are Blooming!

Grow your resource list while saving some green! 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:

- 30% discount on a single license of PerfectIt software
- 20% discount on reference books from The University of Chicago Press
- 20% discount on Draftsmith AI, offered by Intelligent Editing *New!*
- \$50 discount on a single-user perpetual license for EndNote 21 *New!*

Visit [bels.org](https://bels.org) and click on Member Resources to claim your discounts today!

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# Freelancing for All



## Freelancing for All

Tuesday, April 16  
5 pm CDT via Zoom

Join us for the Professional Development Committee's first official event: a roundtable discussion on the possibilities and perils of freelancing.

Hear from panelists Naomi Ruff, Ali Foley Shenk, and Katharine O'Moore-Klopf as they answer your questions on freelance editing.



Register at [bels.org](https://bels.org)

Plus, save the date for this upcoming members-only social event!

- **Thursday, May 23, 2024 (5:00 pm CDT):** [Music to My Ears: Finding Harmony in Work and Life](#)

## Take the BELS Diplomate Survey!

Would you like to become a BELS diplomate, with a level of certification higher than that of the ELS? We have created a survey to identify and address any roadblocks faced by potential applicants for the diplomate exam. We need your input to find out why ELS members have not pursued diplomate status, or would like to but have not yet applied. This survey will take about three minutes to complete and will be available until Friday, April 26. Check your email for the link!

# Fostering a Growth Mindset



## Special Presentation: Fostering a Growth Mindset

Monday, April 22  
5 pm CDT via Zoom

**NEW DATE!**

How do I go from 'I don't understand these scientific terms' to 'I don't understand these scientific terms YET'?

Join us for a special, highly interactive presentation on how to cultivate a growth mindset with our speaker, Meredith MacPherson, MLS, ELS, Senior Manager, Editorial & Design Solutions, Evidera, part of Thermo Fisher Scientific.



Register at [bels.org](https://bels.org)

## Spring into the New Season with BELS!

Proudly display the BELS logo on your tote bag, mug, travel tumbler, sweatshirt, laptop case, or mouse pad. BELS merchandise items make great gifts for colleagues, employees, friends, family, and yourself! You can also ship directly to the recipient. Visit [www.bels.org/store](https://www.bels.org/store) to order.





# Monthly Poll Results

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In March's poll, we asked you to tell us which of the following gene names you liked best:

- Ether-a-go-go
- Lunatic fringe
- STAT
- STING

All of these are names of animal genes. "Lunatic fringe," "Ether-a-go-go," and "STING" are human genes, and "STAT" is a mammalian gene.

A total of 48 responses were recorded. The top choice of "Ether-a-go-go" may indicate a fondness for the music and dancing of the 1960s; according to Wikipedia, go-go dancing originated in the early 1960s at the French bar "Whisky a Go Go."

"Lunatic Fringe" is a song that has been recorded by at least two artists and was featured in a wrestling movie. The Collins Dictionary defines the expression "lunatic fringe" as a group of people who are "very extreme in their opinions or behavior."

"STAT" is an abbreviation for seven mammalian genes (*STAT1*, *STAT2*, *STAT3*, *STAT4*, *STAT5A*, *STAT5B*, and *STAT6*), according to Wikipedia. All of them are named for the protein family "signal transducer and activator of transcription," along with a number for the individual gene.

"STING" stands for "cGAS-stimulator of interferon genes," in which cGAS stands for cyclic GMP AMP synthase.

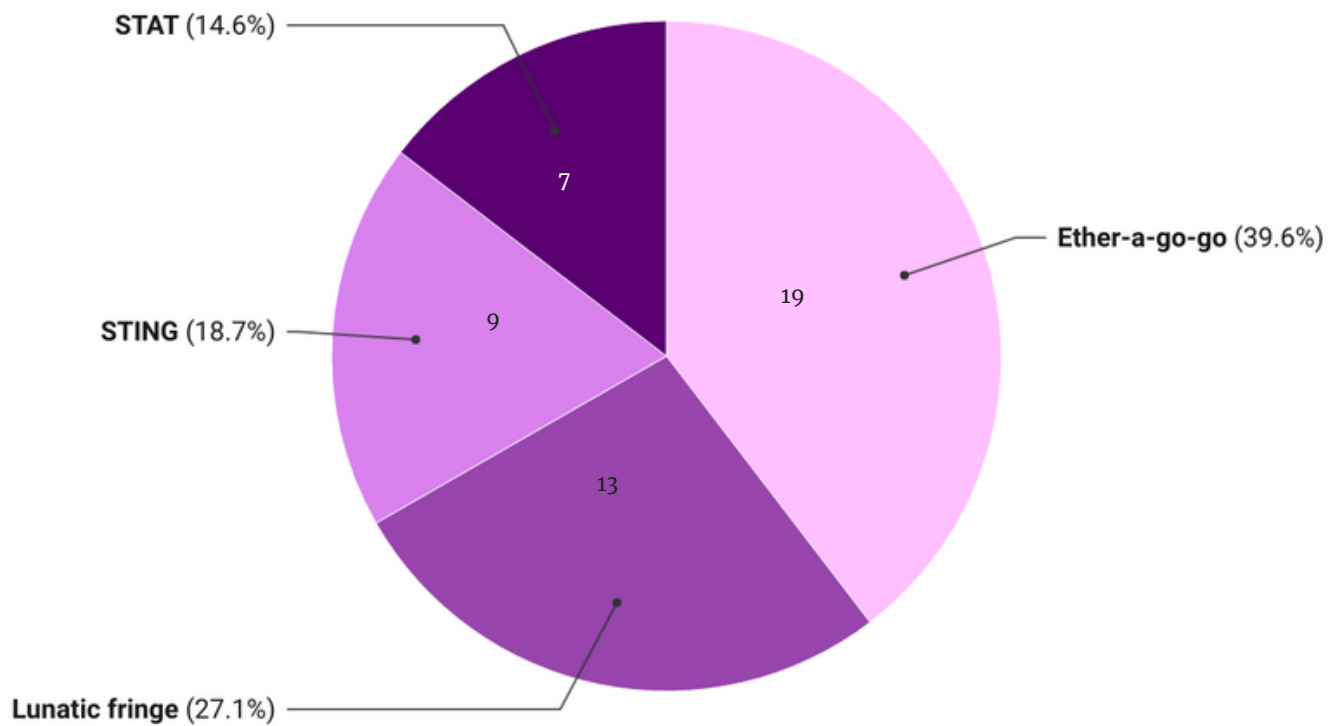
If you know of another gene with a catchy name, please let us know!

Visit [bels.org](https://bels.org) to participate in this month's poll, which asks you to select the sentence that you think is most likely to be misunderstood.

# Monthly Poll Results

## Which of these gene names do you like best?

March 2024 BELS Poll Results



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## Officers

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**Sheryle Hazard, CAE**  
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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.

