



# The BELS Letter

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## Letter from the President

By Hope J. Lafferty, AM, ELS  
BELS President 2017-19

Welcome to The BELS Letter! I'd like to begin by thanking all of you for your continued BELS support. Without our members, we would not be where we are today, with 1429 certified BELS editors worldwide. I would also like to thank all of our volunteers who have proctored exams, staffed booths at meetings, and done other tasks to keep BELS thriving!

I am excited to tell you about some of the improvements we have made recently. As you have seen in the past couple of months, we have revived the Email Discussion List, along with The BELS Letter. We have also added some new faces to our Executive Council: Lisa Kisner, ELS, is our new Secretary; Alison Pearks, MSc, ELS, is our new Councilor of Certification Examination Development; and Kristina Wasson-Blader, PhD, ELS, is our new President-Elect. We have also added a new position: Councilor of Membership and Communications, where Kimberly Mankiewicz, PhD, ELS, is currently serving (learn more about her on page 2). If you have any suggestions of what you would like to see BELS offer our membership or any other questions or comments, please contact us at [info@bels.org](mailto:info@bels.org).

For the first time, we held our Annual Meeting via the web. We discussed all

things BELS, including finances, new member benefits, upcoming exams, our need for proctors, and why to go for your ELS(D). Learn how to access the meeting recording on page 3.

Interest in our exam continues to grow. We've held exams all over the world this past year, from the U.S. to India and Romania. In the next few months, we will have exams in New Jersey and Washington, DC (see schedule on page 3). For those of you who would like to demonstrate your exceptional editorial proficiency and greater mastery of editorial skills and knowledge, we also offer our Diplomate Certification. Find out more at [bels.org/diplomate-program](http://bels.org/diplomate-program).

Our volunteers are what make BELS tick. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us at [info@bels.org](mailto:info@bels.org) or reach out to any of our Executive Council members.

Thanks for your continued support of BELS!

Sincerely,

Hope J. Lafferty, AM, ELS

### Meet BELS President-Elect: Kristina Wasson-Blader, PhD, ELS

Kristina Wasson-Blader, PhD, ELS, was elected by the BELS membership to serve as the President-Elect and officially began her term on April 1.

Kristina has been a board-certified Editor in the Life Sciences and supporting member of BELS since 2010.

As owner of Clearly Communicating Science, she has spent more than 16 years ensuring scientific communications are clear and effective for the appropriate level of scientific audience. In addition, she leads roundtable discussions on what grantsmanship is and how editors can help grant writers understand its value and workshops on how to edit NIH grant proposals.

Kristina has been an active member of the American Medical Writers Association (AMWA) since 2003 and has served in various volunteer leadership positions, including Southwest Chapter assistant program chair (2007); Southwest Chapter president (2009); and AMWA Administrator of Web and Information Technology (2011-2013), Online Community (2014), and Education (2014-2016). She is current Editor-at-Large for the AMWA Journal. She holds both the AMWA Core and Advanced Certificates in continuing education for medical communicators.

Kristina looks forward to providing her leadership experience to BELS.



# Volunteer Spotlight: Kimberly Mankiewicz, PhD, ELS

BELS Councilor, Membership and Communications

Technical Writer III, Ruiz Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science, McGovern Medical School at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth), Houston, TX



## **BELS: Please tell us a little about yourself and your background.**

**Kimberly Mankiewicz (KM):** I have a BS in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI, and a PhD in Biophysics/Biochemistry from the MD Anderson UTHealth Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences in Houston, TX. I discovered during my PhD training that not only was I extremely clumsy (and broke a lot of glassware), but that I also loved to write and talk about science. Communicating science is my passion, and I am grateful to have found it during my training. I decided to become a Medical Writer and Editor and have been working in my current position since I graduated in 2008.

## **BELS: What is the value you see for the ELS certification for science PhDs?**

**KM:** I got my ELS certification because I wanted to be able to show science professionals that I was able to edit manuscripts and other written life

science materials well and help them explain their science clearly. While writing is a large part of practicing science, it is not automatically assumed that all scientists can write. Having an ELS certification gives me credibility as a life science editor and shows that my ability is to the highest standards of the profession.

## **BELS: Why did you get involved with the BELS Executive Council?**

**KM:** I very much enjoy meeting and exchanging ideas with other communications professionals. I think that it makes me a better editor and writer and of more value to the science professionals with whom I work. When our President, Hope Lafferty, asked me if I wanted to be involved with the Executive Council, of course I said yes! My goal as Councilor of Membership and Communications is to connect ELS-certified editors together as an expert community so we can exchange ideas and useful resources with each other to further ourselves and life science editing. I am also involved with the American Medical Writers Association Southwest Chapter, Society for Technical Communication Houston, and Association for Women in Science Gulf Coast Houston leadership. I love volunteering and mentoring and having a say in what steps my professional associations take in serving their members.

## **BELS: What message would you think about passing on to a recent exam taker who is thinking about volunteering?**

**KM:** Volunteering with my professional associations has been extremely rewarding, and I have learned so much connecting with other people. Get involved with the local chapters of your professional associations. Of course, BELS would love to have you! Contact me to learn about more opportunities to volunteer with BELS! ■

*Kimberly Mankiewicz, PhD, ELS, has been a member of BELS since 2016. She can be contacted at [kamankiewicz@gmail.com](mailto:kamankiewicz@gmail.com).*

## **Resource Corner: PerfectIt**

“PerfectIt from Intelligent Editing is by far *the most useful resource in my editor toolkit*. PerfectIt captures most of my proofreading mistakes, so I can focus on content. It finds acronyms and tells you where to define them or if they have already been defined, eliminates typos, makes sure formatting is consistent, and so much more. It is also customizable for your house style. PerfectIt integrates into Word and now works on both Macs and PCs. More info about the product and pricing: [intelligentediting.com](http://intelligentediting.com).”

- Kimberly Mankiewicz, PhD, ELS  
(Kim has no conflict of interest with Intelligent Editing.)

Do you have a resource you'd like to highlight in The BELS Letter? Email us at [info@bels.org](mailto:info@bels.org).

## Annual Meeting Recording: Now Available

In early March, we held our annual business meeting—this year via webinar. Thank you to all the BELS members who listened in and to our Executive Council members who shared the work of their committees on the call. For those of you who missed it, you're in luck: we've posted the recording to our website for your convenience.

If you're curious about the inner workings of BELS, our discussion includes:

- our financial report and long-term financial planning
- new membership benefits
- upcoming exams
- our need for proctors (in North America and internationally)
- the election for President-Elect
- why to go for your ELS(D)

Log in to your Member Resources to access the recording and let us know what ideas our discussion inspires in you!

### BELS Supporting Member Discount Benefit

As an added benefit for our Supporting Members, BELS and Wolters Kluwer Health are collaborating on a very special offer. Through December 31, 2018, BELS Supporting Members may purchase Stedman's products at a 25% discount!

Stedman's Online Medical Dictionary (1-year online subscription for one person)  
 – Full Price: **\$64.99**  
 – Your Price: **\$48.74**

Stedman's Plus 2018 Medical Pharmaceutical Spellchecker (single user license)  
 – Full Price: **\$99.99**  
 – Your Price: **\$74.96**

Log in to your Member Resources to retrieve the promo code and take advantage of this exclusive offer today!

## BELS at CSE Recap

The annual meeting of the Council of Science Editors (CSE) was held in New Orleans, LA, May 5–8, 2018. BELS hosted an exhibit booth for a steady stream of interested scientific editors who asked questions about the application and registration processes, the exam, and the benefits of ELS certification.

We also received inquiries about scheduling exams in a variety of locations, which we're always glad

to consider as we aim to make the exam available to as many editors as possible around the world.

Thanks to all who helped staff the booth: Corey Astrom; Jeff Beck, ELS; Norman Grossblatt, ELS(D); Lisa Kisner, ELS; Leslie Neistadt, ELS; and Donna Tilton, ELS.

Keep an eye out for upcoming opportunities to volunteer at the BELS exhibit booth.

## Upcoming BELS Exam Sites/Dates

DATE	LOCATION	MEETING	REGISTER BY
Sunday, Aug. 12, 2018	Camden, NJ Rutgers University	N/A	Sunday, Jul. 22, 2018 - <b>CLOSED</b>
Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2018	Washington, DC Renaissance DC Downtown Hotel	American Medical Writers Association (AMWA) Medical Writing & Communication Conference	Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2018
Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2019	San Diego, CA Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina	American Medical Writers Association (AMWA) Medical Writing & Communication Conference	Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2019

# Members-Only Email Discussion List

Introducing the latest perk of being a BELS Supporting Member: our members-only Email Discussion List!

This is an exclusive benefit for Supporting Members, meant to promote the exchange of ideas and questions amongst a group of expert life science editors.

Visit the BELS website to view the Email Discussion List Code of Conduct, including usage rules and etiquette tips. These will get you started corresponding and collaborating with your fellow BELS colleagues right away!

We have also prepared a list of FAQ, including:

- How do I subscribe?
- How do I send a message?
- How do I respond to a thread?
- Can I post attachments?
- Where can I access the archived threads?

Find these answers at [bels.org/email-discussion-list](https://bels.org/email-discussion-list) (login required).

Please note that you have been automatically added to the Email Discussion List as a Supporting Member. Be sure to add Simplelists.com to your Safe Senders to ensure that you receive all Discussion List communications. You may update your account settings or unsubscribe at any time (although we hope you

stick around!).

To send a message to the Email Discussion List, send an email to [bels@simplelists.com](mailto:bels@simplelists.com), and it will be distributed to other BELS Supporting Members.

To reply to an existing thread, click on "Reply" and a new message will pop up to send an email to [bels@simplelists.com](mailto:bels@simplelists.com) in response to the thread.

For any questions, please email the moderator at [bels-manager@simplelists.com](mailto:bels-manager@simplelists.com).

We look forward to many fruitful discussions!

## BELS Logo Use Policy

The right to use the BELS logo is granted exclusively by the BELS Executive Council. The logo is used for the organization's digital communications, marketing materials, and official correspondence.

BELS allows use of its logo by BELS-certified individuals (those who have passed its certification examinations). Allowable use includes listing on an individual's stationery, business cards, personal or freelance websites, electronic (such as email) signature, and in a freelance directory. Such use does not imply endorsement by BELS.

Companies that employ ELS-certified editors may not use the BELS logo but may state that they employ BELS-certified editors.

Any other use of the BELS logo shall be considered only by written request (including email), and decisions will be solely at the discretion of the BELS Executive Council.

Use of the BELS logo not covered by this policy will be addressed by the BELS Executive Council in cooperation with legal resources and appropriate government and regulatory authorities as required.



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## Nota Bene

**Deborah Bowman, MFA, ELS**, co-authored an Arcadia Images of America book about Wentzville, Missouri. It is available through Arcadia, Amazon, and Barnes & Noble. It was released on March 5, 2018.

**M. Denise Daley, MD, ELS**, presented a poster entitled "Has Opioid-related Research Increased with the Opioid Epidemic?" at the 2018 World Congress on Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine in New York City, NY, on April 19, 2018.

**BELS President Hope J. Lafferty, AM, ELS**, spoke to a packed house at the Carolinas Chapter conference of the American Medical Writers

Association on Friday, May 4, 2018. In a 90-minute mini-seminar titled "Editing Your Own Work," she discussed the challenges and best practices of editing medical and scientific documents where the editors are also the writers. Many BELS members attended the conference.

**Bushra Rashid, PhD, ELS**, made a transition in her career three years ago from a full-time professional to a freelance editorial consultant. She founded a start-up company C.I. Infosolutions for providing editorial services and has been involved in editing medical manuscripts, especially, from non-native English-

speaking authors, writing reports, and translating content from English to Arabic and vice versa. Recently, she has got an assignment of infographics writing for articles published in a prestigious medical journal.

**Teri Tucker, ELS**, was recently promoted from Senior Medical Editor to Principal Medical Editor at Syneos Health. She manages commercialization projects for a team of editors, assists her manager with responsibilities, mentors and trains editors, and continues to complete her own commercialization projects. In July 2018, Teri will celebrate 10 years at the company.

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## Welcome, New Certified Editors!

### **Exam #168 Mumbai, India February 4, 2018**

Angshuman Chatterjee, ELS  
Mumbai, India

Archana Choudhary, ELS  
Mumbai, India

Amita Gopinath Hati, ELS  
Mumbai, India

Iksha Iyer, ELS  
Mumbai, India

Shachi Joglekar, ELS  
Mumbai, India

Pratima Kumar, ELS, MSc  
Mumbai, India

Sneha Kumar, ELS  
Mumbai, India

Anupama Menon, ELS  
Mumbai, India

Raphael Ngailut, ELS  
Mumbai, India

Ruchira Panchal, ELS  
Mumbai, India

Riddhi Shah, ELS, PhD  
Mumbai, India

Hema Thakur, ELS, BSc  
Mumbai, India

Sunita Patterson, ELS  
Asheville, NC

Deepa Tolani, ELS  
Mumbai, India

### **Exam #169 Indianapolis, IN April 20, 2018**

Kristen Hawley, MS, ELS  
Cambridge, MA

Traci Raley, MS, ELS  
Sanford, NC

### **Exam #170 College Station, TX April 28, 2018**

Bryan Nyary, LL.M, MBA, ELS  
Dallas, TX

### **Exam #172 New Orleans, LA May 6, 2018**

Joanne Chin, MFA, ELS  
New York, NY

John Cologne, PhD, ELS  
Hiroshima, Japan

Kerry Lauren Evans, PhD, ELS  
Little Rock, AR

Julie Hinds, ELS  
Albuquerque, NM

### **Exam #173 Bucharest, Romania May 17, 2018**

Marina Tsagkla, ELS  
Athens, Greece

Malgorzata Wiesner-Spyrczynska, ELS  
Krakow, Poland

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