

The BELS Letter

Board of Editors in the Life Sciences

Maintaining and promoting editorial proficiency in the life sciences



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The BELS Letter

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From the President

It's April, and you know what that means: Spring cleaning! If you're like me, we could all use a little more of that in our lives, personal *and* professional. Enter BELS to the rescue. Join us at this month's members-only social hour, where we'll enjoy each other's company and hear about some helpful tips in a talk titled "Organize Your Files." Even small steps can help improve our efficiency as editors. Finding ways to streamline our efforts can make us more effective and save us time so we can focus on what matters most.

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From the President

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We hope you find value in sessions like these and look forward to offering more throughout the year. Have a suggestion for a topic or two? Please pass them along. Have expertise in a particular area? We'd love for you to share your knowledge and lead a conversation.

Please make sure to check out our latest BELS member profile. Our members are the heart of our organization and lead the way in supporting excellence in our profession.

Lastly, any Wordle fans out there? It certainly seems to be a fan favorite. When I'm not solving the daily puzzle or tucking into *The New York Times* crossword, I'll be checking out our latest poll. The most recent question was "Which sentence do you think is the least distracting?" Join me in the fun!

As always, thanks for your commitment to BELS and for all you do on behalf of our organization and our profession. And Happy Spring!

*Melanie Fridl Ross, MSJ, ELS
BELS President*

BELS Member Discounts

It's raining discounts!

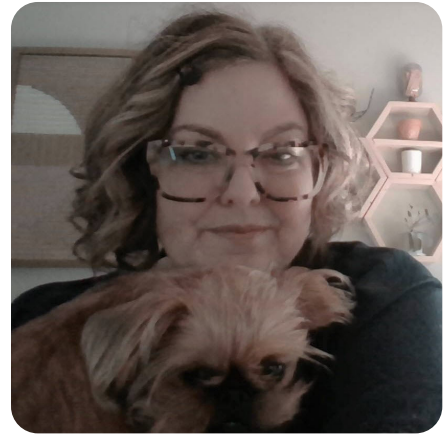


BELS has partnered with resource providers to provide valuable members-only discounts on products and services that help make your job easier. These offers are exclusive to BELS members and should not be shared with any other non-member.

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!

BELS Member Profile

Ashley Brossoie, ELS
Medical Editor and Owner, Semicolon Editing, LLC
BELS member since 2017



What is your grammar pet peeve?

None in particular. Grammar and other writing errors keep me in business—my clients appreciate that I am the expert!

Which style guide or reference book do you use most in your work?

The *AMA Manual of Style*, 11th edition, is my primary style guide, followed by Edith Schwager's *Medical English Usage and Abusage*.

What gives you job satisfaction?

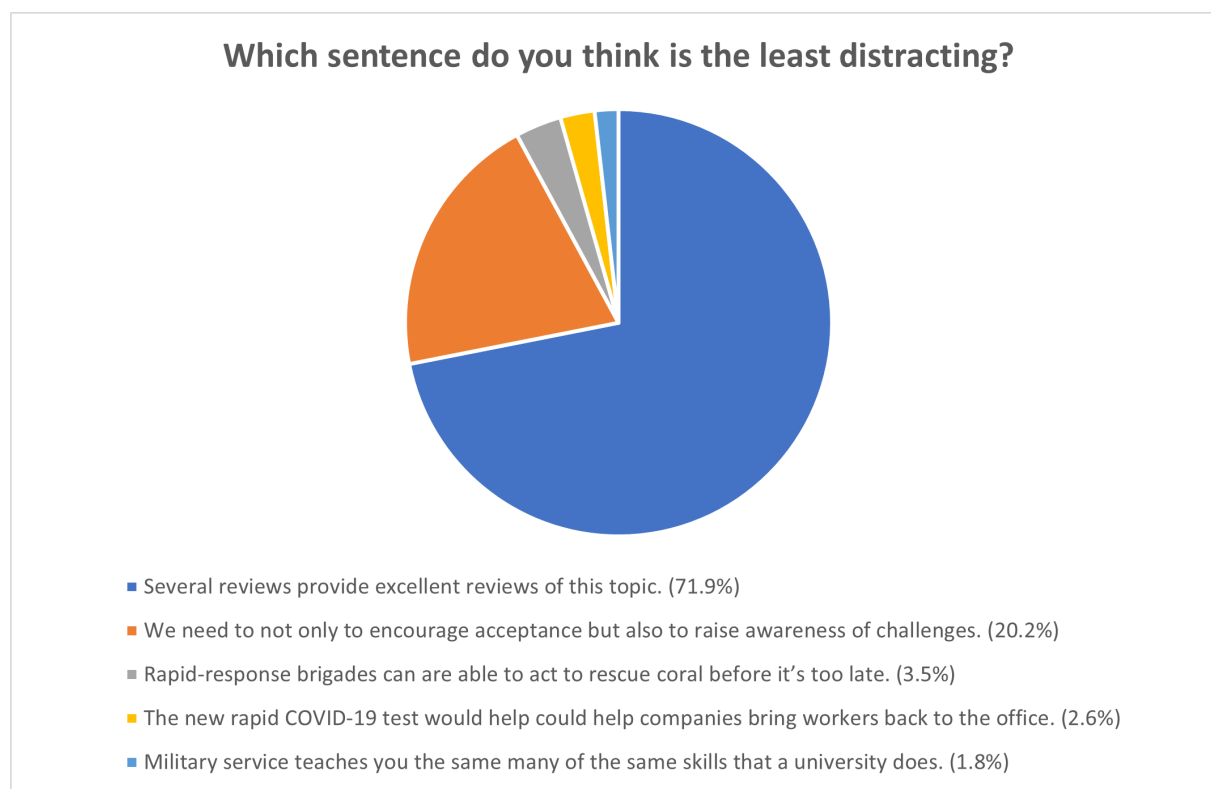
I hope I am helping to inform healthcare professionals and patients. Most simply, I love working with words.

Monthly Poll Results

In March, the BELS website featured a poll asking members to choose the least distracting sentence from a group of 5 flawed sentences.

An overwhelming majority chose the first sentence, which used the same word twice but was grammatically correct, over the 4 sentences that were not grammatically correct.

Please visit bels.org to participate in our next poll and find other resources to help you get the most out of your BELS membership!



Organize Your Files

April 17 through April 23 is National Organize Your Files Week, and we're celebrating with a members-only social event! Join us on Thursday, April 21, from 2-3 pm Central, to share your file management strategies and learn how fellow BELS members organize their files. Visit bels.org to RSVP!

Social Hour: Organize Your Files

Thursday, April 21
2 pm CDT
via Zoom

In honor of National Organize Your Files Week, come learn how fellow BELS members organize files and handle file versioning. Plus share your own tips!



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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.