When I wrote in June about the world opening up as the rate of COVID cases had dropped, I was hopeful for what the summer might bring. However, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently updated its guidelines, recommending those who are fully vaccinated wear a mask in public indoor spaces in substantial- and high-transmission areas. Unfortunately, as the ‘dog days of summer’ end, I have canceled my original vacation plans because of the alarming increase in positivity rates, opting for a safer option than traveling to a high-transmission area.

Continued on page 2
While SARS-CoV-2 has caused my personal plans to change, it isn’t getting in the way of our progress at BELS. We’ve held four online ELS testing sessions to date. The most recently certified editors are listed on page 7. The next testing window opens October 1; be sure to let your colleagues know.

Our Membership and Marketing Committee continues to hold members-only events, although the team took a break over June and July. Our next event will be held August 24 and will focus on editing work by writers for whom English is not their first language. In our September ‘back-to-school’ event, we’ll discuss work-life balance.

To celebrate the dog days of summer I mentioned, we asked members to send us photos of their pets for this issue’s BELS Gallery. Turn to page 3 to see them!

Did you know BELS posts a monthly poll? Visit the website to vote and then watch your email for the summary of answers that Jane Krauhs provides to the discussion list. Jane also welcomes suggestions for questions; send yours to info@bels.org.

Until next time, stay safe and healthy, editors!

Kristina Wasson-Blader, PhD, ELS
BELS President
Rollo (rhymes with “follow”) is a 16-year-old manx cat. Here he is on a hot summer day after our air conditioning broke, just too lazy to stand up to get a drink of water. Rollo’s nickname is “the love-lion” because, well, he’s a very loving cat. If you look closely at the picture, you’ll notice that he has thumbs. He has not yet learned how to text me for treats, but then again, his demanding meows get the message across.

~ Karla D. Passalacqua, ELS

Anyá is a 12-year-old budgie with an attitude. Her favorite game is to knock small objects on the floor, look at them, and then wait until you pick them up and look the other way before she knocks them off again. She also enjoys flying low over your head when you aren’t expecting it. She doesn’t “talk,” but she imitates the beeping sounds of door chimes or appliances and loves to sing when she hears birds outside or on TV.

~ Erica Goodoff, ELS(D)
BELS Gallery

Chewie, a 10-year-old mini-poodle, is hopelessly attached to his mama (Ali Foley Shenk, ELS).

Jonas (right) is 2 years old, and she loves nothing more than interrupting 11-year-old Binx (left) when he’s napping in the sun.

~ Emily Densten, ELS

Zoey, a 7-year-old Cairn Terrier, enjoys begging for and eating food, taking naps on the spare chair in my home office, and barking at squirrels she sees through the office window. She is an extrovert and prefers winter weather, unlike me.

~ Kathleen Louden, ELS
BELS Featured Members

Lisa Cluver, ELS
Freelance Medical Copyeditor
EditorialToday

Year of ELS certification:
2001

Grammar pet peeve:
incorrect use of commas

Wim DHaeze, PhD, ELS
Director, Document Quality Operations
Arena Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Year of ELS certification:
2001

Grammar pet peeve:
a NDA or an NDA?
BELS Featured Members

**Jeanne McKane, ELS(D), CPE**

Self-Employed Editor

Year of ELS certification: 2002

Grammar pet peeve: none—no need for peeing!

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**Elizabeth Harvie, ELS**

Associate Director of Scientific Communications

Vaniam Group

Year of ELS certification: 2017

Grammar pet peeve: omission of the Oxford comma
New Certified Editors

Michelle Anderson, ELS
May Pearl Bade, ELS
Sohini Chakraborty, ELS
Jose Miguel Belen Curameng, MD, ELS
Ana Clara da Costa Pinaffi Langley, MSc, ELS
Carolyn Farnsworth, ELS
Catherine Forrest, ELS
Laura Gerik, ELS
Jenny Johnson, ELS
Robin Marwick, ELS
Erin Reineck, ELS
Saurabh Sahoo, ELS
Courtney Scerbak, PhD, ELS
Arun Srinivasan, ELS
Nelda Street, ELS
Poornima Suresh, ELS
Emily Swaim, ELS
Anup Vasudev, ELS
Deepthi Vijayakumar, ELS
Mollie Zuccato, ELS

CONGRATULATIONS
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.