

# The BELS Letter

Board of Editors in the Life Sciences

Maintaining and promoting editorial proficiency in the life sciences



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## From the President

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.

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### *The BELS Letter*

Karen Stanwood, ELS  
(with Eevee)  
Managing Editor



Alex Rudie  
Publications Coordinator

# From the President

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*Continued from page 1*

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](mailto:info@bels.org).

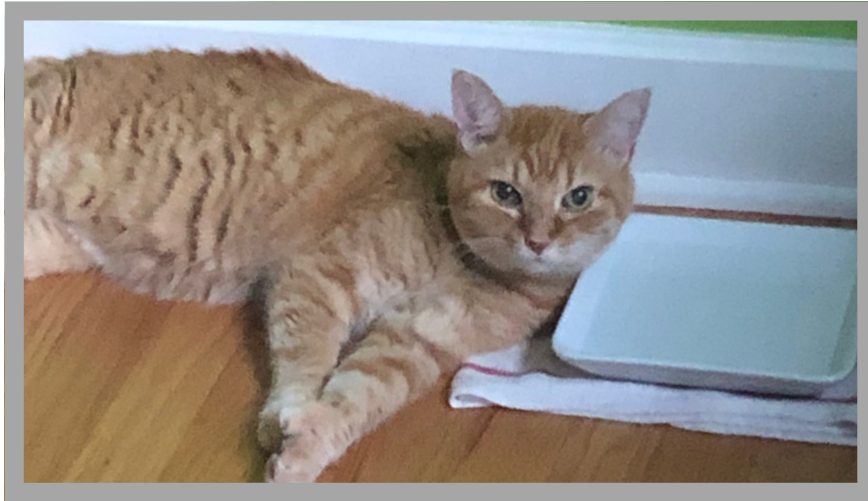
Until next time, stay safe and healthy, editors!

*Kristina Wasson-Blader, PhD, ELS  
BELS President*



# BELS Gallery

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*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*



*Anya 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

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*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 Loudon, ELS*

## BELS Featured Members



**BELS**  
Board of Editors in the Life Sciences  
**MEMBER PROFILE**

*Lisa Cluver, ELS*

Freelance Medical Copyeditor  
EditorialToday

Year of ELS certification:  
2001

Grammar pet peeve:  
incorrect use of commas



**BELS**  
Board of Editors in the Life Sciences  
**MEMBER PROFILE**


*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

A portrait of Jeanne McKane, a woman with short brown hair and black-rimmed glasses, smiling. She is wearing a teal top. The name "Jeanne" is written in white cursive in the bottom left corner of the photo.

**BELS**  
Board of Editors in the Life Sciences

**MEMBER PROFILE**

*Jeanne McKane,  
ELS(D), CPE*

Self-Employed Editor

Year of ELS certification:  
2002

Grammar pet peeve:  
none—no need for peevng!

A portrait of Elizabeth Harvie, a woman with long brown hair, smiling. She is wearing a black top. The name "Beth" is written in white cursive in the bottom left corner of the photo.

**BELS**  
Board of Editors in the Life Sciences

**MEMBER PROFILE**

*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

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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

## Officers

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President-Elect

**Lisa Kisner, ELS, CAE**  
Secretary

**Christine F. Wogan, MS, ELS**  
Treasurer

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Chair, Registrar & Examination Administration

**Stephen N. Palmer, PhD, ELS**  
Chair, Nominations and Elections

**Naomi L. Ruff, PhD, ELS**  
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Chair, Certification Maintenance

**Karen Stanwood, ELS**  
Chair, Membership & Marketing

**Stephen Bubnitz, ELS**  
Board Member at Large

**John D. McDonald, MA, DTM, ELS**  
Board Member at Large

*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.