



The BELS Letter

Board of Editors in the Life Sciences

Maintaining and promoting editorial proficiency in the life sciences



From the President

As the calendar year winds down, I want to wish all of you a very happy holiday season. We have had a productive year, and I hope you plan to join our upcoming Holiday Party & Annual Business Meeting on Dec. 14 to hear highlights of what we've accomplished and to take a moment to look ahead to 2023, which is sure to be a busy yet exciting time. Check out the details elsewhere in this issue!

We value you as a member! If you haven't already done so, please take a moment to review your membership renewal notice and pay your dues by the deadline, to ensure you continue to have access to the many benefits BELS offers. This past year,

Continued on page 2

INSIDE:

- From the President
- BELS Holiday Party
- Monthly Poll Results
- New Certified Editors

The BELS Letter

Bryan Tutt, ELS(D)
Managing Editor



Alex Rudie
Publications Coordinator

From the President

Continued from page 1

for example, our Professional Development Committee launched an event series with four education sessions on freelance rates, editing tools, consulting, and preprints. We also gathered for four social events, including a fun recipe swap. We're looking forward to additional programming in the year ahead aimed at supporting your professional editing endeavors and creating opportunities for members to connect with each other. As always, send us your suggestions as we look to customize offerings to your needs and interests.

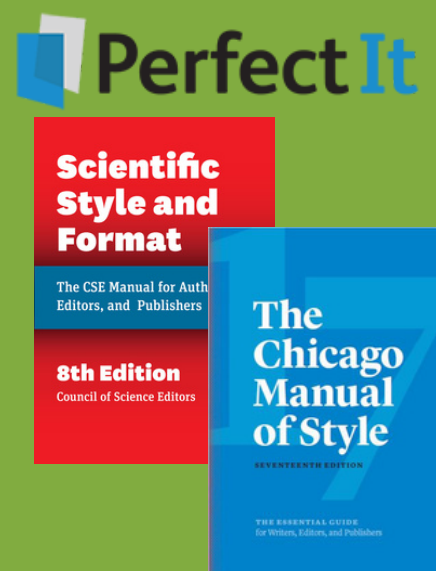
Looking forward to ushering in the New Year with you!

Melanie Fridl Ross, MSJ, ELS
BELS President

BELS Member Discounts

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 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 Holiday Party & Annual Business Meeting

Wednesday, December 14, 2022, 2:00 – 3:00 PM Central via Zoom



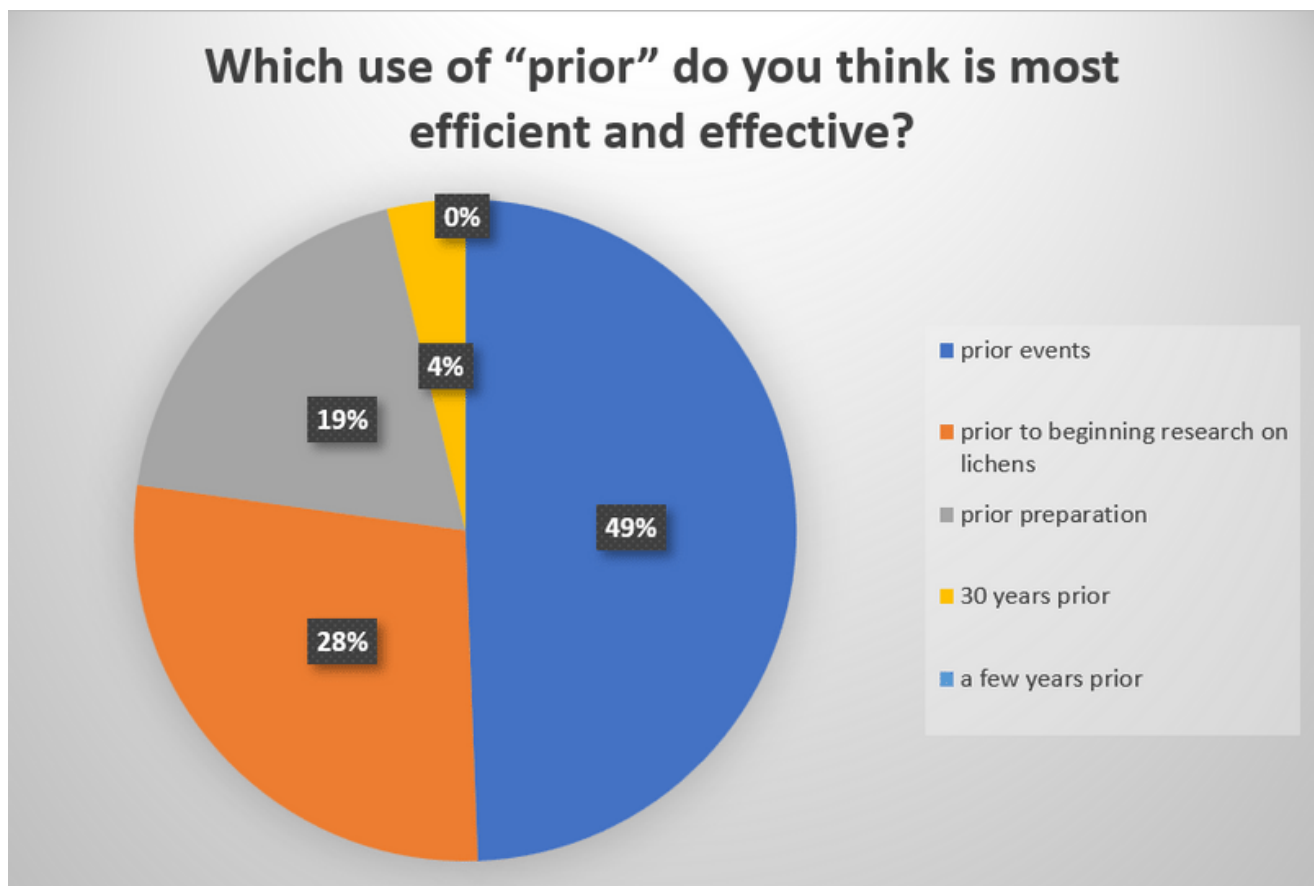
Gather with your BELS friends and colleagues for our Holiday Party & Annual Business Meeting! Meet the BELS Board of Directors, catch up on highlights from 2022, and get a glimpse of all the exciting things to come in 2023. Plus, stick around for some fun BELS trivia and a BELS merchandise raffle!

[RSVP](#)

Monthly Poll Results

November’s poll addressed the often misused word “prior” and asked which of five examples of its use was most effective. About half of us agreed that “prior events” was efficient and effective because it specifies when the events took place. The second highest response was “prior to,” which isn’t wrong (although “before” is more concise). Surprisingly, nearly 20% liked “prior preparation,” which seems redundant.

Be sure to visit bels.org to participate in December’s poll; it’s a fun one!



New Certified Editors

Steve Barry, ELS
Mounika Bodala, ELS
Elizabeth Boening, ELS
Christine Burr, ELS
Lauren Connor, ELS
Racheal Fernandes, ELS
Rachel Grabenhofer, ELS
Heather Hammermeister, ELS
Susan Hopkins, ELS
Jiseon Jeong, ELS
Karen Kinman, EBS, LS
Malgorzata Kurowska, ELS
Kiran Shenoy, ELS
Jennifer Swartz, ELS



Congratulations

BELS MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE OPEN!

Stay connected with editing colleagues from around the world and enjoy benefits such as:

- Free virtual events and webinars, and access to the library of recorded sessions
- Access to the job board and members-only email discussion list
- Special discounts on professional editing products and services

The deadline for 2023 renewal is December 31, 2022, so don't wait!

Officers

Melanie Fridl Ross, MSJ, ELS
President

Kristina Wasson-Blader, PhD, ELS
Immediate Past President

Lisa Kisner, ELS, CAE
Secretary

Christine F. Wogan, MS, ELS
Treasurer

Board of Directors

Jane Krauhs, PhD, ELS(D)
Chair, Diplomate Examination Development

Leslie E. Neistadt, ELS
Chair, Registrar & Examination Administration

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

Naomi L. Ruff, PhD, ELS
Chair, Certification Examination Development

Thomas P. Gegeny, MS, ELS
Chair, Certification Maintenance

Karen Stanwood, ELS
Chair, Membership & Marketing

Stephen Bublitz, 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.