

The BELS Letter

Board of Editors in the Life Sciences

Maintaining and promoting editorial proficiency in the life sciences

From the President

Welcome to 2022!

Our goal this year is to build on our 30-year legacy, including the many achievements led most recently by Kristina Wasson-Blader, PhD, ELS, and my colleagues on the board. They have worked tirelessly to seek ways to foster strong connections among our members and to bring you value through your involvement with the organization. Programs, people, and professional development are among the themes for the year ahead as well.

Continued on page 2

INSIDE:

- From the President
- Accomplishments & Goals
- December Poll Results

The BELS Letter

Bryan Tutt, ELS(D)
Managing Editor

Alex Rudie
Publications Coordinator



From the President

Continued from page 1

As I remarked during the annual business meeting, you no doubt are part of BELS because you not only have demonstrated your own abilities, you also are a champion for the highest standards in editing in the life sciences. Thank you for sharing your knowledge, your expertise, your experience, and yourselves with our organization.

Our next 30 years will be written in part by you. Your commitment to promoting excellence will leave a lasting impact on our profession. If you haven't already, please consider a volunteer role, such as participating in our professional development committee, where you can help shape future programming. As we begin to explore the early stages of a mentor match program, let us know if you'd like to help, whether you are interested in seeking out a mentor yourself or in mentoring others. Or, you can start small by contributing to our newsletter. No matter what you choose, it matters. Getting involved in something we care about is often where we make our biggest personal and professional strides.

I wish you all a happy and healthy New Year. Let's ring it in together!

*Melanie Fridl Ross, MSJ, ELS
BELS President*

2021 Accomplishments & 2022 Goals

At the virtual holiday event in December, BELS officers and committee chairs recounted their groups' accomplishments over the past year and announced committee goals for the new year. Here, we present a recap in case you missed it.

Bryan Tutt, ELS(D)
Managing Editor

Treasurer Christine Wogan, MS, ELS, Budget and Finance

Accomplishment: Adjusted the ELS exam application fee to help cover expenses

Goal: Finish review of the examination fees and provide guidance to the Board

Secretary Lisa Kisner, ELS, CAE

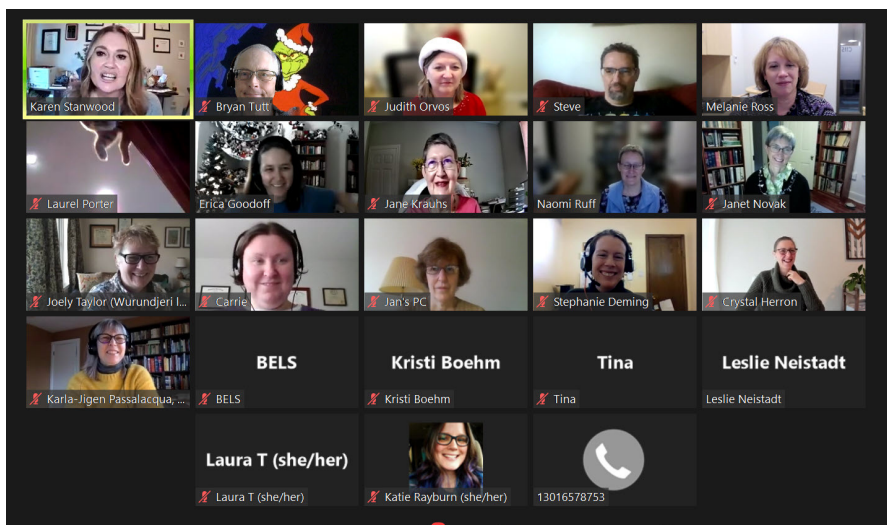
Accomplishment: New bylaws approved in April

Goal: Update the operations manual, which will include procedures and other documentation regarding how BELS does business

Naomi Ruff, PhD, ELS, Certification Examination Development

Accomplishment: Wrote and reviewed new exam questions so a second exam form could be made, which enables faster retesting for people who failed

Goals: Write new exam questions to fill any gaps, update questions if necessary based on review of question performance and candidate feedback, write rationales for questions that do not have them



Leslie Neistadt, ELS, Registrar and Examination Administration

Accomplishment: Continued use of the online ELS certification examination

Goal: Resume in-person testing (when feasible)

Continued on page 4

2021 Accomplishments & 2022 Goals

Continued from page 3

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

Accomplishment: Conducted first-ever survey of diplomates to gauge their interest in reviewing portfolios

Goals: Increase number of diplomate applications to at least three applications and two portfolio submissions, recruit additional reviewers for diplomate portfolios

Stephen Palmer, PhD, ELS, Nominations and Elections

Accomplishment: Recruited Melanie Fridl Ross to be the new president

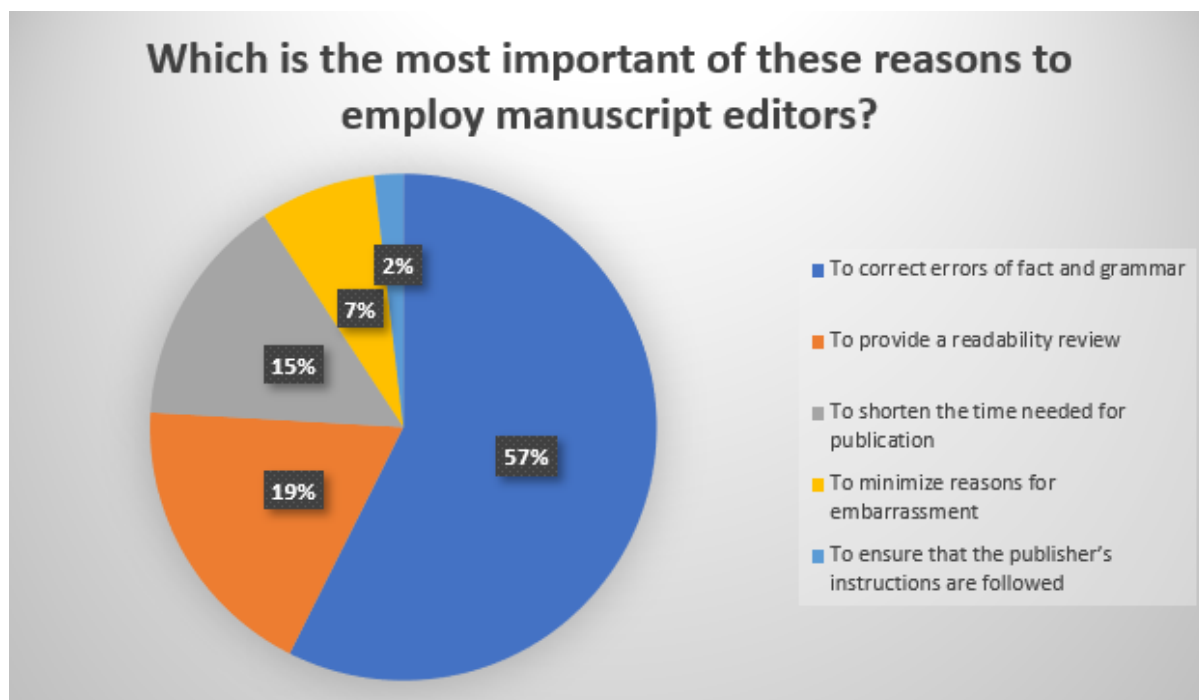
Goal: Keep an eye out for good candidates for the next president-elect

Karen Stanwood, ELS, Membership and Marketing

Accomplishments: Conducted the first annual member survey, hosted six virtual events, continued monthly publication of *The BELS Letter*

Goals: Develop and send the second annual membership survey, increase the number of ELS exam takers and the number of BELS members

December Poll Results



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 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.