

The BELS Letter

Board of Editors in the Life Sciences

Promoting editorial proficiency in the life sciences

From the President

Do you ever wonder how BELS work gets done? The exam updates, the diplomate portfolio reviews, the newsletter, and more are all run primarily by volunteers. We're grateful for the administrative support provided by our association management team, but the emails you get and the virtual events you attend were developed by a member just like you who wanted to do a little more to support BELS.

In this issue, you'll find some testimonials from our valued volunteers describing

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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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why they do what they do and what it means to them to give back. I hope you'll consider volunteering for a BELS committee now or in the future. We truly can't do it without you!

Finally, save the date for our holiday happy hour on December 10. It's free and open to everyone so they can get to know BELS and learn about the ELS exam. See you next month!

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

Send in Your Poll Questions!

We welcome YOUR editing-related question for a future poll! Check out past questions [here](#) and email yours to Jane Krauhs, PhD, ELS(D) at jmkrauhs@comcast.net.



Speaking of volunteering...

Do YOU want to get more involved with BELS? Consider volunteering for a committee!

Committees include:

- Budget and finance
- Membership and marketing
- Certification exam development
- Diplomate exam development
- Exam administration

Worried you don't have the bandwidth? Concerned about having the right expertise? Send us an email at info@bels.org, and let's talk about it! If you're ready to sign up, submit an interest form [here](#).

Volunteer Testimonials

“I’ve been volunteering with professional associations (the American Medical Writers Association, the National Management Association chapter sponsored by my employer, and BELS) since the mid-1980s. Working with like-minded professionals to solve problems and help an organization and its members advance is very rewarding. It’s a way of making new friends and socializing (virtually and by email) with no chance of getting COVID! Volunteering provides a look behind the scenes to see how organizations operate and grow, and it can lead to recognition for your efforts.”

Jane Krauhs, PhD, ELS(D)

“I am an ELS from Mumbai. I have opted to volunteer as a proctor if and when needed because I think seamless administration of exams is crucial.

Proctoring is my way of actively contributing to the BELS community. I like to proctor because it gives me a front-row seat to witnessing this profession and the interest in BELS certification grow as I see more and more candidates take the exam every year.”

Dhruv Maniar, ELS

“I volunteer for BELS simply because I love being an editor and learning from so many accomplished colleagues.

Hopefully, I add something to the discussion from time to time!”

Christian Small, MA, ELS(D)

“I volunteer for BELS because I believe the organization has tremendous value for setting standards in scientific editing and helping differentiate true professionals from others, any of whom can hang out a shingle and claim to be a good editor. On a more selfish level, I value BELS because I believe it helps us “English major” types to prove our expertise, professionalism, and commitment to our careers. I volunteer because it’s a good cause that I support.”

Laura J. Ninger, ELS

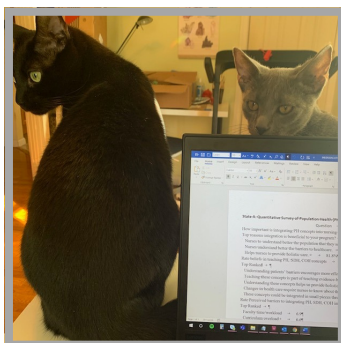
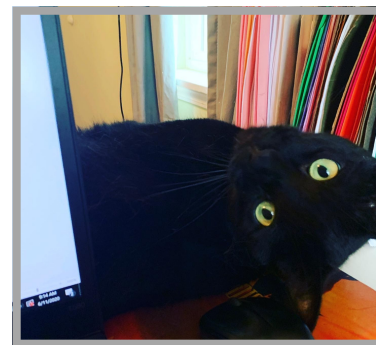
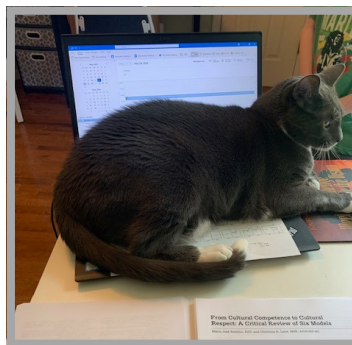
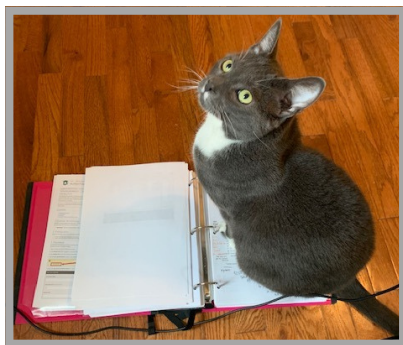
“I want to ensure that the BELS exam is a fair and relevant test of the skills needed in editing scientific communications. I have learned so much from my amazing colleagues through my volunteer work on writing and revising BELS items!”

Linda Conheady, ELS

Work From Home Gallery



Dash is sharing his most loved toy with Kimberlee D'Ardenne to help her practice her multi-tasking skills. Kim says she's become pretty good at typing with one hand. Dash, consider that KPI achieved!



Jaime Clayton's officemates, Tug, Jinx, and Captain, excel at team projects. They're always willing to provide oversight or lend a helping paw!

BELS Featured Members



BELS
Board of Editors in the Life Sciences
MEMBER PROFILE

Robert A. Foster, ELS

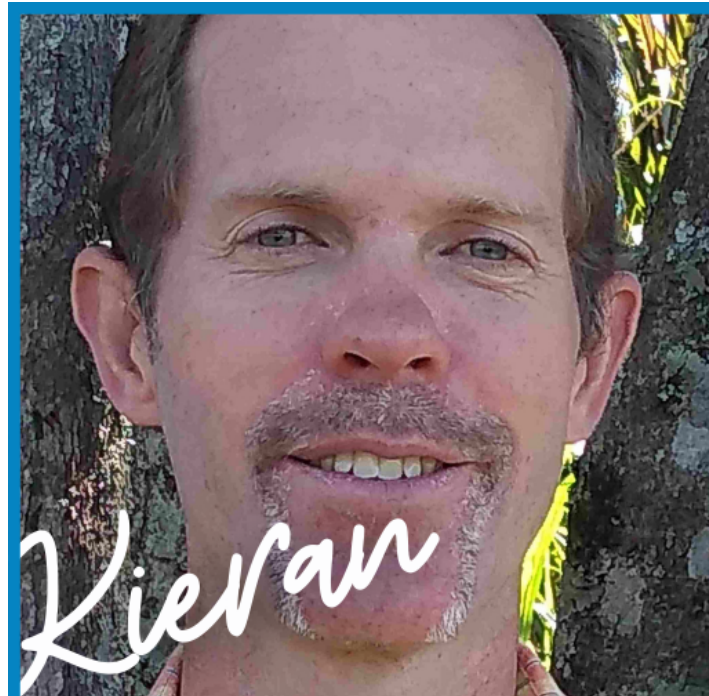
Independent Consultant

Year of ELS certification:

2008

Grammar pet peeve:

irregardless



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MEMBER PROFILE

Kieran Sean Dobson, ELS

BT IDIOMAS

kierandobson@braziltailored.com

Year of ELS certification:

2017

Grammar pet peeve:

my peeve, which is more with the English language in general, is the lack of gender neutral pronouns

BELS Featured Members



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MEMBER PROFILE

Laurie Anne Walden, DVM, ELS

Walden Medical Writing, LLC
<https://waldenmedicalwriting.com>

Year of ELS certification:
2015

Grammar pet peeve:
people who incorrectly
'correct' other people's
grammar without being asked



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MEMBER PROFILE

*Stephen Brouse
Gilberg, ELS*

Palladian Partners
<https://palladianpartners.com>

Year of ELS certification:
2018

Grammar pet peeve:
unparallel construction

Officers

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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.