From the President

It’s scary how quickly this year is going by! Can you believe it’s already October? It’s been 1 year since we launched the online ELS exam, and since then, we have welcomed more than 70 new certified editors to our community.

I’m currently finishing up my 2-year term as BELS President. Looking ahead, we welcome all BELS members to join us on Thursday, November 18, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Central for our annual business meeting where I’ll be passing the gavel to president-elect Melanie Fridl Ross, MSJ, ELS.

Continued on page 2
Were you able to join us for our last members-only event? In September, Erica Goodoff, ELS(D), and Lisa Kisner, CQIA, ELS, CAE, led a robust discussion on work-life balance. Members shared some great tips for maintaining focus and sanity when the line between your work and home lives gets a little fuzzy. You can catch up with the recording on the BELS website.

Finally, we hope you have a happy and safe Halloween! Turn to page 3 for costume ideas for you or your pet. Enjoy the spooky season!

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

“The duty of the grammar police is to correct and serve.”
~ Corey Astrom, ELS

“French toast, anyone?”
~ Luther (Corey Astrom’s shih tzu)

“Evee as a devil dog!”
~ Karen Stanwood, ELS

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BELS Featured Members

**Naomi L. Ruff, PhD, ELS**

President, RuffDraft Communications LLC
www.ruffdraftwriting.com

Year of ELS certification:
2002

Grammar pet peeve:
authors who start a sentence with ‘Interestingly’ (or ‘surprisingly,’ or similar) without explaining why it is interesting or surprising

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**Sakshi Jain, BDS, MS, ELS**

Senior Manager, Medical Affairs, Tata 1mg

Year of ELS certification:
2019

Grammar pet peeve:
use of apostrophe, use of that/which, sentences beginning with ‘but’ or ‘because,’ and many more
BELS Featured Members

**MEMBER PROFILE**

Krishna Kumar Venkitachalam, MBBS, MS, ELS
Freelance Editor/Writer

Year of ELS certification: 2016
Grammar pet peeve: I can’t stand poor hyphenation!

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**MEMBER PROFILE**

Rebecca Corey Astrom, ELS
Manager of Communications and Publishing
University of Florida Department of Anesthesiology

Year of ELS certification: 2017
Grammar pet peeve: misuse of ‘between you and I’
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.