

The BELS Letter

Board of Editors in the Life Sciences

Maintaining and promoting editorial proficiency in the life sciences



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.

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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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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!

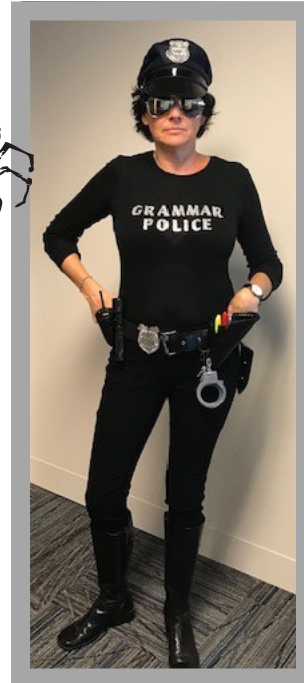
*Kristina Wasson-Blader, PhD, ELS
BELS President*



BELS Gallery



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



“The duty of the grammar police is to correct and serve.”

~ Corey Astrom, ELS



“Evee as a devil dog!”

~ Karen Stanwood, ELS

**TRICK
OR
TREAT**

BELS Featured Members



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Board of Editors in the Life Sciences

MEMBER PROFILE

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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MEMBER PROFILE

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



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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'

Officers

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Melanie Fridl Ross, MSJ, ELS
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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.