

Letter from the President

By Kristina Wasson-Blader, PhD, ELS
BELS President 2017-19

Welcome to our newest BELS-certified editors! You have joined a cadre of editors that exemplify the best in our field.

We have now certified more than 1500 editors worldwide, and we couldn't have done this without your continued support of BELS. From proctoring exams to designing our [new logo](#), volunteers keep BELS running. We have committees for membership, marketing, nominations, exam development, and exam administration. If you have the time to volunteer, please let us know by sending an email to info@bels.org.

Welcome also to our newest members of the Executive Council! Christine Wogan, MS, ELS, is our new Treasurer, June Oshiro, PhD, ELS, is our Councilor of Nominations and Elections, and Kelly Schrank, MA, ELS, is the Councilor of Marketing and Promotions. [Click here](#) to learn more about the Executive Council members.

Our Member Benefits continue to expand. Our most recent addition gives members a 30% discount on PerfectIt. Members can also get a 25% discount on Stedman's products. Visit the [Members Only](#) section to access these discounts.

I would like to thank Jane Krauhs, PhD, ELS, and Katharine O'Moore-Klopf, ELS, for their many years of

service to BELS. While Jane has finished her tenure as treasurer, she continues to supply the monthly poll question on our website. Be sure to participate in the poll question and check out her analyses of responses when she posts them to the Email Discussion List. Katharine has been the BELS social media volunteer since 2009. She has been the public face of our organization and responsible for all of our excellent social media content. We will miss Jane and Katharine sharing their talents with us. Thank you both for your service and support of BELS.

Finally, I'd like to thank Hope Lafferty, AM, ELS for her excellent leadership as BELS President. With her direction and vision, BELS has thrived as an organization.

Sincerely,
Kristina Wasson-Blader, PhD, ELS



SAVE THE DATE

BELS Membership Breakfast
Saturday, November 9th
Sheraton San Diego Hotel
and Marina

Registration opening soon!

Upcoming BELS Exam at AMWA!

November 6, 2019
9:00 AM – 12:00 noon
San Diego, CA
Sheraton San Diego Hotel
and Marina

Register By October 9, 2019



OFFICER INTRODUCTION

Christine F. Wogan, MS, ELS, has been a member of BELS since 1991. Armed with a BA in biology from Swarthmore College and an MS in physiology/immunology from the University of Houston, Chris has worked at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston as a scientific editor/writer since 1998, where she currently provides a 'one-stop shop' for editing, writing, and teaching radiation oncologists, physicists, and biologists. Chris was treasurer at both the local and national levels for the American Medical Writers Association and has been a member of the BELS Budget & Finance Committee since its inception.

The BELS Logo Has Been Edited!



As editors, there's nothing we like more than making something look its best while still portraying its meaning clearly and concisely. So we have revamped our logo to do just that for you! Now, when anyone looks at the BELS logo, it is apparent who makes up BELS – expert editors in the life sciences. Look for the new BELS logo across our website, social media, and other marketing materials.

But wait – our logo isn't the only thing to get a makeover. Previously, all BELS-Certified Editors received a lapel pin upon passing the certification exam. Moving forward, all new Certified Editors will receive an electronic badge (shown here) to show off their accomplishment

as well as a physical pin that looks like the badge. The electronic badge will be provided to Certified Editors with their initial award email, followed by the pin in the mail.

All Certified Editors with active memberships will receive an electronic badge sent to the email in their profile on the BELS website, and a physical pin will be available for pickup at the BELS booth at the AMWA conference. (To update your email, log in to your profile on the BELS website.) Use of the badge will be exclusive to those who have successfully passed the BELS Certification Examination, and it can be used anywhere they want to announce their BELS affiliation. Read our revised Logo & Badge Policy below.



We want to thank all of the members of our Marketing and Promotions Committee, led by councilor Kelly Schrank, MA, ELS, for their efforts on this redesign of the logo and the creation of the badge and for helping bring the BELS brand into a new era. We hope you like the new look of the BELS logo and badge, and we hope that they better serve you, our Members and Certified Editors.

We value your feedback and welcome you to send your comments to us at info@bels.org. If you are interested in getting more involved with initiatives such as this, we invite you to join one of our committees, where your ideas will have a direct impact on the future of BELS.

Until next time, happy editing!

Sincerely,
BELS Executive Council

Policy on Use of BELS Logo

The right to use the BELS logo is granted exclusively by the BELS Executive Council. The logo is to be used solely for the organization's digital communications, marketing materials, and official correspondence.

Companies that employ ELS-certified editors may NOT use the BELS logo but may state that they employ BELS-certified editors.

Any other use of the BELS logo shall be considered only by written request (including email), and decisions will be solely at the discretion of the BELS Executive Council.

Use of the BELS logo not covered by this policy will be addressed by the BELS Executive Council in cooperation with legal resources and appropriate government and regulatory authorities as required.

Policy on Use of BELS-Certified Editors Badge

The right to use the BELS-Certified Editors badge is granted exclusively by the BELS Executive Council.

BELS allows use of its electronic badge by BELS-certified editors (those who have passed its certification examinations). Allowable use includes listing on an individual's stationery, business cards, personal or freelance websites, electronic (such as email) signature, and in a freelance directory. Such use does not imply endorsement by BELS.

Companies that employ BELS-certified editors may NOT use the BELS badge but may state that they employ BELS-certified editors.

Any other use of the BELS badge shall be considered only by written request (including email), and decisions will be solely at the discretion of the BELS Executive Council.

Use of the BELS badge not covered by this policy will be addressed by the BELS Executive Council in cooperation with legal resources and appropriate government and regulatory authorities as required.



Volunteer Spotlight: : Jane Krauhs, PhD, ELS(D)

Former BELS Treasurer

Senior Scientist, KBR Space and Mission Solutions group, Houston, TX



BELS: What roles have you held within BELS?

Jane Krauhs (JK): I was Treasurer from 2011 to 2019, have been on the Diplomate Committee since 2017, and have written the BELS website poll questions and results since November 2016. I have also proctored the BELS exam, tended BELS exhibits at a few American Medical Writers Association (AMWA) and Council of Science Editors (CSE) meetings, and evaluated BELS diplomate portfolios.

BELS: Why did you get involved with the BELS Executive Council?

JK: Susan Aiello, whom I knew through AMWA, nominated me to run for Treasurer to serve during her term as president (2011-2013). I had been treasurer of AMWA for 6 years but had a nice rest from that by 2011, so I decided to get to know BELS better.

BELS: What aspects of BELS have been valuable to your career?

JK: I was a “technical writer” for a NASA contractor when their life sciences manuscript editor left, and I was asked to do editing. I had no academic training in writing or editing since freshman English and took the BELS exam to certify my proficiency in editing. Later I became a BELS diplomate, which seemed to impress my manager. Also, studying galley proofs before I applied for diplomate status opened my eyes to details of editing that I hadn’t paid much attention to before.

BELS: What have been some of the most challenging and rewarding aspects of your career?

JK: As a technical writer I worked mainly for one laboratory, but as an editor, I worked for many different laboratories. This was challenging because I had to expand my vocabulary and look up items such as anatomical terms, methods, and company names. I didn’t always know when a term was considered jargon. For example, the first time I saw “trafficking” in an immunology paper, I didn’t know what it was. This digging for what words mean and how they are used has also produced one of the rewards of editing in many disciplines; an editor can learn

a great deal about cutting-edge subject matter and about the words needed to convey information about it.

BELS: What are some of the most important lessons you have learned in your career?

JK: Perhaps the most important lesson I have learned is to fact-check instead of relying on my memory alone. I’ve also learned a lot about how to recognize jargon and discourage authors from using it and how to justify my editorial changes to authors. Although I lean toward prescriptivism, I have learned why the same words and punctuation should not be used in all cases and learned to appreciate that language change can be a good thing.

BELS: What’s your favorite hobby?

JK: Most of my hobbies have something to do with life sciences or with writing and editing. This spring I researched Texas native plants and planted about 50 of them in my yard. My husband and I revise recipes until they are just right for us. Probably travel is my favorite hobby and is just for fun and learning (well, I do write a trip diary). ■

Jane Krauhs, PhD, ELS(D), has been a member of BELS since 2001. She can be contacted at jmkrauhs@comcast.net.

VOLUNTEER ON A BELS COMMITTEE

Have you been looking for an opportunity to get more involved with BELS? Here is your chance! BELS Committees – Budget and Finance, Marketing and Promotions, Membership and Communications, and certification-related committees – are looking for Members who are willing and available to volunteer their time and talents to help the organization continue to grow and thrive. [Click here](#) to learn more about each committee, sign up, and the related BELS Councilor will reach out to you shortly.



NEW MARKETING AND PROMOTION COUNCILOR

Kelly Schrank, MA, ELS has been in technical and medical communication for over 20 years. After stints as a medical editor, communications manager, and technical writer in pharmaceutical, cybersecurity, and many other industries, she has just started her own business, Bookworm Editing Services, with a focus on formatting and editing formulary, global value, and commercial dossiers for pharmaceutical and medical device companies. She also enjoys editing proposals, slide decks, training materials, and many other types of documents.

DIPLOMATE

Become an ELS(D)! Take your ELS further with our Diplomat Program. The diplomat program is designed for BELS-Certified editors who have had extensive experience in scientific communication in English and who are highly proficient. Find out more [here!](#)



NEW NOMINATIONS COUNCILOR

June Oshiro, PhD, ELS, works as a medical editor at Mayo Clinic (Rochester, Minnesota) and has been a member of BELS since 2014. Formerly a bench scientist (molecular genetics), she now primarily focuses on editing clinical research papers before they are submitted to peer-reviewed journals. Her professional interests include mentoring new editors and working with nonnative English writers. Outside of work, she is a busy parent to 3 young daughters, enjoys textile arts (eg, knitting, spinning, weaving), and is an enthusiastic racquetball player and student of taekwondo.

BELS EMAIL DISCUSSION LIST

This is an exclusive benefit for Members, meant to promote the exchange of ideas and questions amongst a group of expert life science editors.

[Click here](#) for more information.

RESOURCE CORNER

The Stedman's Plus 2019 Medical Pharmaceutical Spellchecker is one of the most useful resources in my editing toolkit because I don't have to remember to use it! I love that I don't have to manually enter complicated medical, pharmaceutical, and bioscience terms into my Word dictionary, which saves me time and ensures accuracy with my editing. The Spellchecker also automatically adds new terms so I know it is always up-to-date. It works across both Mac and PC platforms with a wide range of editing programs. Make sure to use your BELS member discount by [clicking here](#) and get your copy.

- Kimberly Mankiewicz, PhD, ELS
(Kim has no conflict of interest)

MEMBER DISCOUNT

PerfectIt helps deliver error-free documents. It improves consistency, ensures quality, saves time and helps to enforce style guides. PerfectIt is used by thousands of editors around the world because it lets editors control every change, giving you the assurance that documents are the best they can be.

PerfectIt checks for

- Consistent hyphenation and capitalization
- Abbreviation definitions
- Capitalization of headings
- List/bullet capitalization and punctuation
- International spelling variations.

PerfectIt is customizable, so you can adapt it to your own house style or store different style guides for different clients.

PerfectIt is available for PCs, Macs and iPads with MS Word. There's a 14-day free trial available from www.intelligentediting.com. BELS members receive a 30% discount on a single license of PerfectIt. To claim your discount, [click here](#).

Nota Bene

In her ninth year at ECRI Institute, Plymouth Meeting, Pa., **Eloise DeHaan, ELS**, has moved to a new job. She is now the medical copyeditor for the newly created PCORI Health Care Horizon Scanning project. She will train analysts in writing (reports about new medical drugs and devices), develop an outside-expert pool for report review, administer the review process, and copyedit the reports.

John M. Maloney PhD, ELS, (john.maloney.org) is collecting awkward anthropomorphic phrases ("The technology has experienced substantial regulatory attention," "The fluid prefers entering the fracture"), along with more natural sounding replacements, from editing over one thousand manuscripts. He welcomes discussion and examples.

Mary Anne Mitchell, ELS, and Linda Kesselring, MS, ELS, copyedited the second edition of *Electrocardiography in Emergency, Acute, and Critical Care*, published by the American College of Emergency Physicians in January. The book was edited by three specialists in emergency cardiology—Amal Mattu, MD, Jeffrey Tabas, MD, and William Brady, MD—and contains 18 chapters written by emergency physicians from the country's major medical centers.

Lori Potraffke, MA, ELS, recently launched her freelance career after 13 years as an employee of Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Takeda Pharmaceuticals, and then PRA Health Sciences. Her new business is called Underscore Editing, LLC, and she began working independently under her LLC in September 2018.

Karen Potvin Klein, MA, ELS, GPC, MWC, recently became a full-time freelancer based in Winston-Salem, NC and Santa Fe, NM. Clarus Editorial Services, her biomedical grant consulting and manuscript editing business, works with academic investigators to fund and then disseminate their research.

Katharine Ristich, ELS, has received the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award, in recognition of her professional accomplishments in the field of scientific editing.

Bushra Rashid, PhD, ELS, has completed 4 years of her successful career as an independent medical editor this past April. During this period, she worked as well as traveled both within the country and outside to quench her thirst to explore the world and reach out to different people, which would not have been possible in a full-time career.

Resa Roth, ELS, was a speaker at the 2018 CSE Annual Meeting in New Orleans. Her presentation was part of the session entitled "At My Desk After CSE, Now What? Use Cases from CSE 2017".

Kelly Schrank, MA, ELS, was awarded Associate Fellow by the Society for Technical Communication in 2018. She spoke on Expanding Your Toolbox to Make Yourself a More Productive Editor at the STC Technical Communication Summit in Denver, CO, May 5-8 2019.

Hema Thakur has been promoted from Senior Associate Editor to Assistant Manager, Quality, at Cactus Communications. She started working in her new role on January 1, 2019.

Mark Vrabel, MLS, AHIP, ELS, qualified for membership renewal in the Academy of Health Information Professionals.

Mark Vrabel, MLS, AHIP, ELS, authored two published journal articles: **Vrabel, M., & Gann, L.** (2018). Searching for oncology-related information. *Seminars in Oncology Nursing*, 34(4), 354–360.

Vrabel, M. (2019). Beyond the impact factor. *Oncology Nursing Forum*, 46(2), 143–145.

Editor's note: These submissions have been edited for length and clarity.

Our Certification Examination Development Councilor **Naomi Ruff** has been named a 2019 AMWA Fellow! Please join us in congratulating her on her well-deserved honor!

Correction of designation credentials from our last publication on page 6 Jane Krauhs should have had PhD listed.



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Facebook!



Follow us on Twitter
@BELS_Editors

Welcome New Certified Editors!

August 12, 2018 Camden, NJ

Jean Cassidy, ELS
Bergenfield, NJ

Stephanie Cravens, DDS, ELS
Encinitas, CA

Norma Hanna, ELS
Thorofare, NJ

Adam Leitenberger, ELS
Collingswood, NJ

Michael Moses, ELS
North Wales, PA

Heather Panetta, ELS
Thorofare, NJ

Emily Shafer, ELS
Thorofare, NJ

Laura Sitrler, ELS
Dunellen, NJ

Annette Staron-Wilson, ELS
Mountain Lakes, NJ

October 31, 2018 Washington, D.C.

Charles Armstrong, ELS
Baltimore, MD

Lauren Brecht, ELS
Hockessin, DE

Jill Clements, ELS
Leesburg, VA

Mia DeFino, MS, ELS
Chicago, IL

Stephen Gilberg, ELS
Silver Spring, MD

Megan Griffiths, ELS
Cleveland, OH

Shannon Hach, ELS
Manor, PA

Kristin Harper, PhD, MPH, ELS
Seattle, WA

Andrea Klingler, MA, ELS
Drexel Hill, PA

Ellen Lazarus, MD, ELS
Washington, DC

Lauren LeBano, ELS
East Windsor, NJ

Stephanie Leveene, ELS,
CMPP
San Francisco, CA

Calley Lev, ELS
Philadelphia, PA

Joon Seo Lim, PhD, ELS
Seoul, South Korea

Diane Neer, ELS
Cary, NC

Andrew Pellegrini, ELS
Philadelphia, PA

Abigail Shetler, ELS
Wilmington, DE

Kate Smigiel, PhD, ELS
Thousand Oaks, CA

Sonya Smyk, MA, ELS
Florida

Glenn Watson, ELS
Philadelphia, PA

Cara Wilder, PhD, ELS
Manassas, VA

Sarah Young, ELS
Pittsburgh, PA

December 1, 2018 Seoul, South Korea

Ayli Chong, ELS
Fukuoka, Japan

Lilly Gray, ELS
Fukuoka, Japan

Luke Kenyon, ELS
Fukuoka, Japan

Anna Maynard, ELS
Wan Chai, China

Ruth Tunn, DPhil, ELS
Fukuoka, Japan

February 3, 2019 Mumbai, India

Meghna Arunachalam, MDS,
ELS
Mumbai, India

Akshi Berry, ELS
Mumbai, India

Sindhoora Bhargavi Gopala
Reddy, PhD, ELS
Bangalore, India

Manjishtha Bhattacharyya,
ELS
Mumbai, India

Shraddha Bhosle, M. Tech, ELS
Mumbai, India

Aakriti Chhabra, ELS
Mumbai, India

Sudeshna Dasgupta, PhD, ELS
Mumbai, India

Nicole DSouza, MSc, ELS
Mumbai, India

Vihang Ghalsasi, ELS
Bangalore, India

Archana Iyer, PhD, ELS
Mumbai, India

Sakshi Jain, BDS, MS, ELS
Delhi, India

Zeba Khatri, ELS
Mumbai, India

Anjali Mathai, ELS
Mumbai, India

Richa Sharma, BDS, ELS
Mumbai, India

Vinay Sridhar, ELS
Mumbai, India

Pooja Vaswani, MSc, ELS
Mumbai, India

Tanvi Wadikhaye, MSc, ELS
Mumbai, India

Manjishtha Bhattacharyya,
ELS
Mumbai, India

March 16, 2019 Dallas, TX

Andrea Yough, BA, MA,
CCRP, ELS
Stillwater, OK

April 7, 2019 Indianapolis, IN

Divya Sreekumar, MBA, ELS
Vernon Hills, IL

April 27, 2019 Manila, Philippines

Marielle Cabuling, ELS
Makati City, Philippines

Maura Cellina Buenaventura,
ELS
Makati City, Philippines

Lhea Oblima, ELS
Makati City, Philippines

Angie Que Sun, MD, ELS
Makati City, Philippines

May 2, 2019 Chapel Hill, NC

Loretta Bohn, ELS
Research Triangle Park, NC

Carolyn Pennow, ELS
Morrisville, NC

May 5, 2019 Columbus, OH

Ann Barlow, PhD, MS, ELS
Chicago, IL

Stephen Bublitz, ELS
Mussey Township, MI

Shawna Hottinger, MS, ELS
Cincinnati, OH

Jenni Weems, ELS
Baltimore, MD

Melissa Li, PhD, CRA, ELS
Ann Arbor, MI

May 7, 2019 Vienna, Austria

Victoria Empson, MSc, ELS
Vienna, Austria

Christiane Fetzer, Dr. med.
vet., Dr. rer. nat., ELS
Munich, Germany

Julian Heinz, ELS
Vienna, Austria

Zoe Smith, ELS
Gloucestershire, England

Diana Radovan, PhD, ELS
Frankfurt am Main, Germany

May 11, 2019 Melbourne, Australia

Sabina Belli, PhD AE, ELS
Baukham Hills, Australia

Marianne Hammat, BSc AE,
ELS
Wayville, Australia

Lorna Hendry, AE, ELS
Fitzroy, Australia

Margaret Schafer, ELS
Brisbane, Australia

Matthew Sidebotham,
Accredited editor (IPEd), ELS
Forde, Australia

Mary Webb, ELS
Aranda, Australia

June 15, 2019 Durham, NC

Molly Amador, PhD, ELS
Durham, NC

Alyssa Dallas, ELS
Research Triangle Park, NC

Anthony DiLauro, ELS
Durham, NC

Kyla Horn, ELS
Durham, NC

Jenna Lewis, MA, ELS
Cary, NC

Amy Martin, MA, ELS
Research Triangle Park, NC

Drake Morgan, ELS
Asheville, NC

Laura Murray, ELS
Durham, NC

Andrew Sommers, ELS
Malvern, PA

Keri Tabb, ELS
Durham, NC

Carrie Thurber, ELS
Durham, NC

Yoji Yamaguchi, MA, ELS
New York, NY

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