

# Nurse Author & Editor

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### American Medical Writers Association Website Review

**Diane Monsivais**

Are you missing out on a great resource for medical communicators? If you've never visited the the American Medical Writers (AMWA) website ([www.amwa.org](http://www.amwa.org)), the answer is yes!

Whether you're an author, editor, or involved in any other aspect of medical communications, you'll find helpful resources on the AMWA site. The links are fun to explore and include allied organizations such as AMWA's European cousin EMWA, and the International Society for Medical Publication Professionals.

Numerous guidelines and statements about the ethics of writing and publishing are available, creating an easy one-stop area for policy statements and ethical guidelines.

Wonderful library resources await you, too. There's an amazing journal locator called Genamics/Journalseek at <http://journalseek.net/med.htm>. This database includes over 94,000 categorized titles, so finding the journal that might be the perfect fit for your proposed manuscript just got a little easier.

You'll also find standard government resources such as Medline and FirstGov, plus a long list of specific medical writing resources, including online dictionaries and a long list of free medical journals.

I guarantee you'll find at least one link that's so intriguing it will capture your attention and distract you from whatever other project you may have been working on when you clicked into the site!

During the first part of the 1990s, my association with AMWA was synchronous and in-person at the yearly conferences. I began attending in order to find resources to help in developing manuscripts. Not only did I find more resources than I expected, but the collegial, interdisciplinary interactions expanded my myopic (i.e. "nursing focused") view of the world beyond what I ever thought possible. The expansion was occasionally frightening as I signed up for continuing education with titles like "Sentence Structure and Patterns," and "Punctuation for Clarity and Style," thinking I would be publicly humiliated by my ignorance. At the end of the courses, I was amazed that 3 hours spent working with sentences and/or paragraphs had actually been fun, engaging, and completely comprehensible! The opportunities which were made available to me because of my association with AMWA have enriched my nursing career immeasurably.

Happy exploring!

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**Diane B. Monsivais** PhD(c), CRRN, MSN is on the faculty at the University of Texas El Paso School of Nursing and a doctoral candidate at the University of Texas Houston.

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