

AMWA NEWS

2025 AMWA Fellows

Loretta Bohn, BA, ELS / Chair, 2025 Member Awards Committee



Rona Claire Grunspan, MD, CPI

Rona Claire Grunspan, MD, CPI, has more than 15 years of experience in medical writing and has gained expertise across diverse document types, phases, and therapeutic areas. As a senior director of early phase medical writing at ICON plc, she leads a global scientific medical writing department specializing in early-phase studies. Her team has authored regulatory writing documents for first-in-human, bioavailability, single ascending dose, multiple ascending dose, human abuse potential, and proof-of-concept studies. Additionally, she actively supports department-level process improvement initiatives at ICON plc.

Grunspan joined AMWA in 2007. A member of the Mid-America Chapter, she has been a membership chair, president (for 7 years), and a chapter delegate. She was a member of the Value of Medical Writing Workgroup and Apprenticeship Workgroup. She has contributed roundtables and posters to the annual conference and has written 3 *AMWA Journal* articles. Grunspan says that AMWA has helped her establish meaningful connections within the medical writing community.



Haifa Kassis, MD

Haifa Kassis, MD, is a freelance medical writer with extensive experience with crafting continuing medical education (CME)/continuing education (CE) for health care professionals. Originally trained as a physician and neuroscientist, Kassis transitioned into medical writing in 2017, a few months after joining AMWA. Since then, she has helped many education providers plan, obtain funding for, and execute CME/CE programs in a wide variety of therapeutic areas. She also writes regularly on practice management for *Clinical Practice Today*, a Duke Medicine publication.

At the chapter level, Kassis has served as president, program director, and chapter advisory council representative for the New England Chapter. Nationally, she joined the *AMWA Journal* editorial board in 2019, most recently serving as section editor for the CE Craft Corner and previously as editor-at-large. She is a member of the Nominating Committee and the Education Specialty Area Subcommittee. Kassis has presented educational sessions, a roundtable discussion, and posters related to CME writing at annual conferences. She also recently coauthored a competency model specifically designed for training the next generation of CME writers. Kassis says, "I am eternally grateful to AMWA and its members for welcoming me into the profession. You've truly made the world a better place for me with your kindness and generosity!"



Thomas M. Schindler, PhD

Thomas M. Schindler, PhD, started his journey in medical writing in 1994 after completing doctoral and postdoctoral study in biology (molecular physiology) and the equivalent of a master's degree in linguistics. He first worked as an editor for life science books, on topics from biology to mathematics. Schindler then moved to regulatory medical writing, first for a contract research organization and later for the European headquarters of a Japanese pharmaceutical company, writing scientific publications and developing presentations and writing study reports for clinical trials. Thereafter he moved to Boehringer Ingelheim, where he founded and led the regulatory medical writing group, starting alone and growing the function to about 40 group members over 20 years. Schindler now works for BioNTech SE, best known as a COVID vaccine company, as director of global regulatory affairs, serving as the expert for clinical trial applications in Europe.

Schindler has been a member of both AMWA and the European Medical Writers Association from the very early days of his career. He has led numerous workshops at many AMWA annual meetings. For the *AMWA Journal*, he edited the "Statistically Speaking" section for more than 10 years and now edits the "International Affairs" section. He also was a member of the AMWA Salary Survey group in 2019. He was a key member of the initiatives to develop plain language summaries of both clinical trials (Good Lay Summary Practice, available on EudraLex version 10) and scientific publications (Plain Language Summaries of Publications recommendations of the Patient Focused Medicines Development group). In addition, he was a member of the international working group to develop an International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standard for use of plain language (ISO 24495). Schindler has published over 50 articles on a variety of topics related to medical writing. He says, "Medical writing needs a solid foundation, some of which I acquired through AMWA; I am very grateful for that."

Author declaration and disclosures: *The author notes no commercial association that may pose a conflict of interest in relation to this article*

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