

Out On Our Own

SECTION EDITORS



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Editorial

Welcome to the OOOO section of Medical Writing.

Whilst members who attended the freelancers' networking meetings in The Hague (November 2015) or Munich (May 2016) may have noticed the recent changing of the guard at the Freelance Business Forum, for those who did not, please allow us to introduce ourselves as Julie and Satyen, the new Freelance Advocates.

First and foremost, we would like to thank Alistair Reeves, Kathryn White, and Sam Hamilton for their past service at the helm and generously giving their time and effort for the

freelancers' cause within EMWA. It is our intention to continue in a similar vein and keep adding to the solid work that has been carried out in the past. On this note, we sincerely request your input, advice, and yes, any articles that you have penned and wish to share for the benefit of fellow members.

In this (our first) issue, we have included an editorial extra to provide you with a glimpse of the future with your new team J and S.

We are particularly delighted to include some insightful contributions from our EMWA freelancing community.

Joselita Salita, an experienced freelancer based in Bremen, Germany, writes about an integral skill for any business professional –

networking. More specifically, she gives a few pointers on certain issues that should not be ignored (but sometimes tend to be) when it comes to developing business relationships.

In addition, we present the second part of Marion Alzer's article on medical translation as a profession. Here, Marion talks about the most significant decision that we as freelancers have made at some point or other – the decision to go freelance! An important message in Marion's article is the need to carefully consider personal factors when it comes to choosing between the security of life as an employee or the unknowns of running one's own show.

Best wishes and happy reading.

A glimpse of the future with your new team – An editorial extra

Given our different backgrounds and experiences, Satyen and I bring diverse and new perspectives as Freelance Advocates. However, you will also find that we are both passionate and enthusiastic about serving you as best we can for the "freelance cause", and we hope this will be to your advantage.

I have been here before. I see freelancing as an option that allows personal choice at different stages of life and career. You don't have to put up with an employment situation in a company that really isn't working for you – I'm not saying don't try to make it work and I'm certainly not encouraging everyone to suddenly resign and throw caution to the wind, as personal responsibilities, financial commitments etc. need to be carefully considered before such a big decision is made. However, I would like to strengthen the support made available by the freelancing community. If you know freelancing is a feasible option, even if it doesn't necessarily suit you at a particular time, it puts you in a position of strength to make informed decisions about what you actually want at different stages of life and career. Maybe this could even encourage companies to be more flexible in their treatment of employees as power shifts more towards the individual.



If and when the time is right you can take the leap, or decide not to – but the choice is ultimately yours. That is how I see the future.

So, what have we got lined up for you in future editions of OOOO?

We can tell you that we are continuing to develop our relationships with other associations (IPSE and others beyond the UK) and we are already lining up a wide range of serious (and entertaining) articles about business and the practical aspects of freelance working.

We are also receiving ideas directly from you

and we want to encourage this flow, whether this is in the form of letters to the editor, recommended reading for freelancers, interview style pieces, or anything else that you feel would be of benefit to our wider community.

We want to hear your stories, your experiences of freelancing and tips you can share with us all. We like serious, and also lighter topics – keep your eyes out for freelance foraging photos.

Ultimately this is your section, and together we can work to both inform and entertain to the benefit of all. Until next time....

Julie Charlesworth