


alliedhealth**ORG**

*A directory of
120 allied health specialty societies*

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 the
accidental
**medical
writer**
S E R I E S

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Cynthia L. Kryder and Brian G. Bass
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About the Authors

Cyndy Kryder has worked in the field of health care in some way ever since she grabbed her Master's Degree and headed to her first professional job as a speech-language pathologist at a private school in suburban Philadelphia. Her later 9-year stint working in a pediatric-rehabilitation hospital developed her passion for writing patient-education materials and cemented her interest in the field of medicine. She launched her freelance medical writing career in 1992 and is thankful for the freedom and flexibility it offers her.

Cyndy currently writes promotional, educational, and scientific pieces for professionals and lay audiences in a number of different therapeutic areas and for a wide range of media. She also assists companies in their publication-planning efforts. A member of the Delaware Valley Chapter of the American Medical Writers Association (AMWA), Cyndy presents workshops and leads roundtable discussions on various topics for freelance medical writers and editors.

In 2008, Cyndy and her colleague, Brian Bass, formed a company and made a commitment to develop books for individuals interested in pursuing freelance medical writing as a career. Their first book, *The Accidental Medical Writer*, describes their indirect and different paths to successful freelance medical writing careers. Their second book, *Nude Mice*, is a handy reference that demystifies medical jargon. Subsequent books in the series focus on different aspects of freelance medical writing and provide tools for aspiring freelance medical writers.

You can reach Cyndy at <http://www.theaccidentalmedicalwriter.com>. You can also follow her on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/cyndyandbrian>.

Brian Bass has been a professional writer for all of his career, including more than 20 years experience as a freelance medical writer specializing in medical education, communications, and advertising. He went out on his own in 1989 and never looked back.

Today, Brian writes scientific, educational, and promotional materials for health care professional and lay audiences in a wide range of therapeutic areas for print, electronic, and interactive media. He has won awards for his work in sales training, sales motivation, and physician education. His successful freelance medical writing business includes a team of other highly qualified freelance medical writers who work with him, including his coauthor, Cyndy Kryder.

Brian is a member of the American Medical Writers Association (AMWA), and he frequently presents workshops, roundtables, and panel discussions on topics of interest to freelance writers and editors at local and national meetings in the United States and abroad.

In 2008, Brian and Cyndy decided to write about the different paths they both took to becoming successful freelance medical writers. They launched *The Accidental Medical Writer* to tell their stories, and to motivate and empower others to become successful freelance medical writers, too. Through their books, their website, appearances, and other publications like *The Accidental Medical Writer Series ORG Directories*, Brian and Cyndy share their knowledge and experience, and provide valuable tools and resources to help aspiring and experienced freelance medical writers start, refine, manage, and build successful careers as freelance medical writers.

You can reach Brian at <http://www.theaccidentalmedicalwriter.com>. You can also follow him on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/brianandcyndy>.

Introduction

If you've read any of our books, you know that we often talk about the many opportunities available to writers working in the health care industry. You can engage in regulatory writing, which is primarily involved with creating documents that are submitted to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA); you can write content for promotional materials that are used to market prescription and nonprescription drugs and devices; and you can create educational materials for patients and their families, or even for professionals. This broad range has the potential to expose you to multiple therapeutic areas and a number of different audiences, including allied health professionals. And that means you'll encounter different types of professional societies that can offer you a wealth of information, depending on what you're writing.

The types of health care professionals you could be writing for, or about, are quite diverse, since you won't always be writing for, or about, physicians. For example, a company might hire you to write content for a continuing medical education program for radiology technicians, or for speech-language pathologists. A rehabilitation hospital might contract you to create a series of patient-education brochures that explain the different types of therapies available to patients who have had a stroke or traumatic brain injury. Or a medical communications firm might hire you to develop a slide deck and script that will be presented at a symposium for respiratory therapists.

How does one define the term "allied health professional?" These are health care workers who work in more than 80 different professions and who are involved in some way, either directly or indirectly, with patient health. We can group allied health professions into 2 broad categories: technicians (assistants) and therapists or technologists. Technicians have completed training to perform certain procedures and they work under the supervision of a technologist or therapist. For example, physical therapy assistants work under the supervision of a physical therapist. Recreational therapy assistants work under the watchful eye of the recreational therapist. Becoming a therapist or technologist requires more extensive training than it does for technicians. Therapists often are required to have advanced degrees beyond a baccalaureate level.

In *alliedhealthORG*, you'll discover a substantial list of specialty societies that cover the allied health spectrum—a segment of the health care industry that's larger and more complex than we ever imagined! It includes familiar specialties such as emergency medical technicians, physical therapists, and occupational therapists, and unfamiliar ones such as clinical laboratory scientists and surgical technologists. Some of the organizations in *alliedhealthORG* also appear in *docORG*. That's because these organizations have separate membership categories for nonphysician members, such as the Society of Nuclear Medicine, which has a distinct section for nuclear medicine

technologists. We've also included physician assistants in this directory, as well as in *docORG*, since in some settings they are considered allied health professionals.

We created the *ORG* Directories for our readers for 2 important reasons: first, to help you decipher the myriad acronyms you will either come across or seek out as a medical writer to help you in your work; and second, to put these societies on your radar so you can be proactive in looking them up when you're working on relevant projects or seeking to expand your client base. If you're looking for a list of organizations that might be in the market for freelance medical writers, the *ORG* Directories are good places to start.

Other directories in the *ORG* series are:

- *docORG*, a directory of medical specialty societies
- *nurseORG*, a directory of nursing specialty societies
- *dentalORG*, a directory of organizations for dental health professionals
- *camORG*, a directory of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) organizations

Like other eBooks in the *ORG* Directory series, we've tried to make *alliedhealthORG* as user friendly as possible. We made the website addresses hyperlinks, so when you find an organization you want to investigate, if you're connected to the Internet you can simply click to follow the link and open the website in your browser. We've made searching the directory easy, too. First, all of the entries are alphabetized according to acronym. Second, if you want to find all the organizations in a certain category, simply type a keyword into the search window in the Adobe® Acrobat® or Adobe® Acrobat® Reader toolbar. This will bring you to each organization in the directory that matches your keyword.

We can't guarantee that *alliedhealthORG* includes every major relevant organization, but we've included every one we could find as of this writing. And as of this writing, all the urls are live. This directory focuses on major national organizations, but we've also included some relevant international organizations because of their impact on the American health care system. Many of the national organizations listed here also have state affiliates, which you can usually link to from the national websites. There are also many country-specific organizations not listed here that you can search for if you are looking for information specific to a country other than the United States.

In preparing this directory, we had to make some interesting and unexpected decisions about certain societies to include or exclude. The biggest surprise we encountered is the difference between the way the American Medical Association (AMA) categorizes certain medical resources versus the way the NIH categorizes them. For example, the AMA categorizes art therapy, music therapy, and massage therapy as allied health care. The National Institutes of health (NIH) categorizes them as CAM. We don't believe it's our place to dispute one or the other respected opinion, so you will find societies for art and

music therapists, as well as societies for other similar specialists, included in this directory as well as in *camORG*.

We also have to insert a disclaimer. Inclusion of an organization in this eBook does not imply our endorsement. We are simply listing these organizations for information purposes only.

Like our books in *The Accidental Medical Writer Series*, the *ORG Directories* are great resources! And that's exactly what *The Accidental Medical Writer* is all about—helping you become a successful medical writer, too, by giving you the benefit of our nearly 40 years of combined experience including all the tools and resources we've discovered along the way.

We hope you enjoy this directory and that you keep it handy. You're going to need it!