


docORG

*A directory of
441 medical specialty societies*

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and Brian G. Bass**

 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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www.theaccidentalmedicalwriter.com

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 worked in the medical writing field for a while, or you're just starting out, you probably already know that this industry is loaded with acronyms and abbreviations. And if you write in a number of different therapeutic areas, just when you've learned one set of acronyms, you have to turn around and learn another.

Acronyms that can be particularly confusing are those associated with medical specialty societies, nursing societies, dental societies, allied health care professional societies, and complementary and alternative medicine societies. And trust us, there are a lot of them! When you write content for different therapeutic areas, on such occasions you generally end up dealing with at least one or two professional societies that are beyond your ken. They will inevitably be introduced to you as a string of seemingly random and certainly anonymous letters, and your head will spin as you try to figure out their meanings.

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:

- *nurseORG*, a directory of nursing specialty societies
- *dentalORG*, a directory of dental specialty societies
- *alliedhealthORG*, a directory of organizations for allied health professionals
- *camORG*, a directory of complementary and alternative medicine organizations

In *docORG*, we've created an expansive list of medical specialty societies with which you should be aware, and whose websites you should visit when you're working in their therapeutic area of specialty. For example, if you're working on an assignment in lung cancer, you might start with The American Society of Clinical Oncology website, <http://www.asco.org/>, and click on "Lung Cancer" for links to the latest medical literature on the subject. Then you might check out The American Academy of Pain, <http://www.painmed.org/>, click on "Clinical Information" and then "Clinical Guidelines" for current protocols on managing breakthrough cancer pain. Finally, you might go to the American Academy of Hospice & Palliative Medicine website, <http://www.aahpm.org/>, and follow the links to "Physician Resources" and "Peer Reviewed Materials" for a list of articles on the importance of empathetic communication between physicians and patients.

Because *docORG* is an eBook, we've tried to make it 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 *docORG* 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. You'll notice that we've also included nurse practitioners and physician assistants in *docORG*. We did this not to elevate their stature, but to acknowledge their contribution to the practice of medicine beyond that of an allied health care professional.

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.

This directory focuses on major national organizations, but we've also included some relevant international organizations as well 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.

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!