



## 2023-2024 Certification Board Candidates Bios and Personal Statements

**Sharon Blimm**  
**Merck**

### **Brief Bio**

I have been working in publication planning for over 20 years, starting at Med Comm agencies and then moving over to the pharmaceutical side. Since working at Merck, I have been promoted a few times and currently serve as Senior Director, General Medicine and Oncology Publication Manager. I started as a publication manager in oncology, overseeing all GU indications as well as serve as point of contact for a number of joint ventures. In my current role, I oversee all of the General Medicine portfolio, while also maintaining my role in oncology. I manage 6 individuals where the discussion of good publication practice is at the forefront of what we follow. In my role, I also help train new employees on publication practice, whether they are publication managers, or in a different clinical role, where this training is required.

### **Qualification Statement**

I have had my CMPP certificate since 2016 and served on the board for the past two years. I feel that obtaining your CMPP certificate is an important key to learning publication planning and the process. I speak with new employees that do not hold certification to discuss it with them and encourage them to pursue certification as I believe it is a vital component to your job as a publication manager. With the exception of this past year, I have attended ISMPP since 2016 and continue to learn and appreciate the organization and more important the value of holding your CMPP certificate. I feel in my current, senior leadership role at Merck, that I hold the qualifications to continue to serve on the board.



**Susan Cuozzo**  
**GSK**

**Brief Bio**

Susan is a certified medical publication professional with over 20 years of publications and scientific communications experience, acquired while leading medical communications agencies and consulting with a number of pharmaceutical and biotech companies. Her interest in clinical trials and communicating research findings began as a student. As part of her graduate degree, she completed a residency working on studies with the NYC Department of Health. Today she remains passionate about effectively communicating clinical findings to promote sound science and advance patient care.

After a decade of developing strategic content and leading teams of medical writers and editors, Susan launched the New York City office of a UK-based medical communications agency as Executive Director. Most recently, she worked as a consultant focusing on the publications needs of clients disseminating data in areas including rare disease, oncology, and ophthalmology. As Director, US Publications Lead at GSK, Susan currently works across oncology assets and anemia in chronic kidney disease. She leads publication planning and provides robust governance oversight for GSK Publications in the US. She ensures timely delivery on established publication plans according to plan prioritization and available resources while following GSK policies, good publication practices, and the highest standards of transparency.

**Qualification Statement**

After working in the field of medical publications for several years, I decided to take the CMPP exam in 2012. I thought it made sense to leverage my experience and have the recognition associated with ISMPP certification. When I started to prepare for the exam, I was stunned by the magnitude of test preparation materials that were available. Many of the resources covered topics that I had first-hand experience with while many others offered fresh perspectives on topics that were new to me. I enjoyed this experience of studying for the exam and I felt like more of an expert at my job before even sitting for the exam. I was thrilled when I passed the test, and I was proud of the certification. As a leader at my organization at the time, I found that while those working in the field thought the CMPP credential was impressive, none deemed it necessary to help them achieve their career goals. Since then, I have been trying to instill in those I mentor, manage, or collaborate with that this certification is very worthwhile. I am committed to helping people understand its value and navigate the process of certification and continued recertification.



**Susan Garson**  
**Gilead Sciences**

**Brief Bio**

Susan Garson has been in the Pharmaceutical Industry for over 20 years. Currently she is a Director of Scientific Communications at Gilead Sciences, where she has been leading global cross-functional publication teams in various virology therapeutic areas since March of 2022. Before joining Gilead, she spent 19 years at Merck, where she was a member of Global Medical and Scientific Publications, leading infectious disease and vaccine publication teams. Susan has completed her CMPP and has participated on various ISMPP committees including recertification and exam writing. Before her role in publications Susan was a laboratory scientist in neuroscience drug discovery where she participated as an author on numerous publications. Susan graduated from Lafayette College with a B.S. in Behavioral Neuroscience and completed her master's degree in Clinical Pharmacology at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia.

**Qualification Statement**

I am qualified to serve on the certification board, as I am well versed in publication planning, the pharmaceutical industry and drug development. I have been in Pharma for over 20 years and have been heavily involved as an author during my time as a research scientist. Additionally, I have significant experience as a publication coordinator and publication lead. For the past 7 ½ years I have led multiple global cross-functional teams for both Gilead and Merck in strategic publication planning and execution. I have been a member of the recertification committee for multiple years and have been an exam writer for the past 2 years. I successfully completed my CMPP in 2018 and recertified in 2022. I have a deep knowledge of GPP and the ethical and compliance considerations required of publications. During my career in pharma, I have experienced the evolution of drug discovery as well as publication practices. I am comfortable in this rapidly changing environment and continue to learn about the newest topics in our industry.



**Ann Gordon**  
**CMC Affinity**

**Brief Bio**

Ann is an SVP, Senior Medical Director at CMC Affinity (IPG Health). During her 20-year career, she has gained experience working across the whole spectrum of publication deliverables and covering all stages of a product’s lifecycle. Ann has been involved in the development of several plain-language summaries and been privileged to work with patients/patient advocates across congress presentations and follow-on publications.

During her day-to-day role, Ann provides senior account leadership and high-level scientific support to several account teams. This includes the development and sharing of best practice, solving operational challenges including resourcing, and coaching and mentoring. She has a breadth of experience in oncology and neurology.

Ann became a Certified Medical Publication Professional™ in 2012 and was honored to be elected as a Voting Director for the ISMPP Certification Board in 2021. She served on the recertification committee from 2018-2021 and was part of the ISMPP-EU 2021 organizing committee.

Prior to working in medical communications, Ann was involved in academic research through her PhD investigating the protective effects of breast feeding in Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and a number of post-doctoral positions investigating the genetics of inflammatory responses in families who had been affected by SIDS or meningitis.

**Qualification Statement**

If re-elected, I would be thrilled to serve on the ISMPP Certification Board for a second term since this will allow me to continue to use my wealth of experience to work with the Board and our members to shape the future direction of both ISMPP and our profession.

In line with ISMPP’s mission statement to become the leading authority on ethical and effective communication of medical research to inform treatment decisions, it is vital that we continue to challenge ourselves and embrace new ways of working to ensure each interaction takes us one step closer to achieving our shared goal of improving patient care. I am passionate about finding ways to forge new working relationships between medical publication professionals, communication professionals and the wider community to help us reach new heights in terms of enhanced transparency and the continued evolution of best practices. Education through global collaboration will ensure we have the knowledge and insights required to embrace our ever-expanding and ever-changing role to ensure we are fit for the future.

I hope my integrity, enthusiasm, energy and drive to help ISMPP find new ways to upskill medical publication and communication professionals shines through.



**Dawn Nicewarner**  
**Amgen**

**Brief Bio**

Dawn Nicewarner is a Sr Manager of Scientific Communications at Amgen Inc. with more than 14 years of cumulative experience in start-up, midsize and large biotech, med device, and pharmaceutical companies. A love of learning and desire to help others are the cornerstones of everything that Dawn does. Dawn specializes in interpreting complex clinical and real-world data for targeted, audience-specific communication. Dawn is an author on 24 publications and provided medical writing support on hundreds of abstracts, posters, and manuscripts. In 2018, Dawn became a certified ISMPP CMPP and recertified again in 2021. Dawn recently chaired the ISMPP West 2022 program committee and participated in past committees since 2020. Additionally, Dawn serves as an ISMPP CMPP mentor.

**Qualification Statement**

Dawn Nicewarner is a certified CMPP in good standing since 2018 and employed as a Sr Manager, Scientific Communications – Inflammation at Amgen, Inc. Currently, Dawn is not active on another ISMPP committee or Board. Although Dawn has not served as part of the CMPP Credentialing or Recertification Committee previously, Dawn has served on the ISMPP West program planning committee from 2020-2022. Dawn is experienced in publication planning and managing \$1-3 million budgets. Dawn’s excellent interpersonal, negotiation, communication, and collaboration skills with stakeholders allows her to achieve exceptional results. Dawn also has experience in developing curriculum for Medical Writing and Editing II graduate course for the UCSD Extension Writing Certificate program.