DIA Medical Writing & Scientific Communications Conference

Redefining Medical Writing Practices: Global Insights, Local Excellence, and Future Frontiers

July 10-11, 2026
Royal Orchid Resort & Convention Centre
BENGALURU, INDIA

Overview

The DIA Medical Writing & Scientific Communication Conference 2026 plans to bring together global and regional experts to explore how medical writing and scientific communication are evolving amid regulatory harmonization, digital transformation, rising ethical expectations, and India's expanding role in global healthcare development.

Based on *participant feedback from the 2025 edition*, the 2026 conference has been deliberately designed as a focused, two-day, in-person, single-track program to enable deeper discussions, shared learning, and maximum engagement across all sessions. The program spans regulatory writing, scientific publications, patient-centric communication, AI and automation, quality and compliance, clinical and real-world evidence communication, and industry-partner collaboration, supported by practical insights and real-world perspectives

WHAT TO EXPECT

Learning Objectives

By attending this conference, participants will gain insight into:

- Evolving global regulatory and publication requirements and their impact on medical writing practices
- Ethical, transparent, and patient-centric approaches to regulatory and scientific communication
- Practical applications of AI, digitization, and automation, including governance and quality considerations
- Quality, compliance, and risk management across the medical writing lifecycle
- Effective communication of clinical and real-world evidence for diverse stakeholder needs
- Emerging GCC models, talent development strategies, and business insights shaping the future of medical writing
- Trust-based collaboration frameworks with CROs and service providers that drive long-term value

This focused format ensures participants gain actionable insights, meaningful peer interaction, and a clear view of future frontiers in medical writing and scientific communication.

Target Audiences (Who Should Attend)

- Medical Writers & Scientific Communicators
- Regulatory Affairs & Clinical Development Leaders
- Publication Professionals & Medical Affairs Teams
- GCC Leaders & Capability Heads
- CROs, Service Providers & Technology Partners
- Quality, Compliance & Audit Professionals

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Pooja Phogat, Ph.D
Program Chair,
DIA India Medical Writing Community,
Founder and Co-CEO,
Krystelis Ltd

Hetal Shah Ph.D
Program Co-Chair,
Founder - Director,
MeWriT Healthcare Consulting

Sonia Philipose, Ph.D
Medical Communications and Content Solutions Lead- Vaccines, Pfizer Inc

Sherin Babykutty
Associate Director- Scientific writing, Global Scientific Communications,
Eli Lilly and Company

Annie Jose
Associate Director, Medical Writing, GSK

Pinki Rajeev, Ph.D
Sr. Director Medical Communications, Parexel International,

Priyanka Tiwari
Associate Director, Global Medical Writing,
Thermofisher Scientific

Sam Thomarayil Mathew, Ph.D
Director, Medical Delivery,
AstraZeneca India Pvt Ltd

AGENDA: Day 1, 10 July 2026; Friday

8:00-9:00 AM	**Registration and Welcome Coffee**
9:00-9:10 AM	**Welcome Remarks from DIA:** [10 min] **Dr Ashok Swain**, General Manager, Executive Director, DIA India
9:10-9:30 AM	**Meeting Opening Remarks by Program Chair:** [20 min] **Pooja Phogat PHD**, Program Chair, Founder and Co-CEO, Krystelis Ltd
9:30-11:00AM	**Session 1: The Future of Medical Writing in India: Evolving GCC-CRO-Solution Providers Operating Models and Strategic Partnerships** **Session Chair(s): Sam Thomarayil Mathew, Ph.D**, Director, Medical Delivery, AstraZeneca India Pvt Ltd **Session Co-Chair: Sonia Philipose,** Medical Communications and Content Solutions Lead- Vaccines Pfizer Inc **Session Overview**: Medical writing in India sits at an interesting crossroads in 2026. Pharma Global Capability Centers (GCCs) have expanded their remit and capability across the regulatory and medical communications spectrum. Clinical Research Organizations (CROs) and agency medical writing teams offer complementary strengths, therapeutic expertise, specialist submission know how, and scalable capacity that supports pharmaceutical programs. Historically, these models have operated in parallel. This session examines what it would take to align them more closely, focusing on ways of working, ownership of quality, ethical standards, AI governance, and talent engagement across both organizations. The future of pharma medical writing in India rests on a balanced co-existence model that leverages the distinct strengths of GCCs, CROs, and agencies. This session brings together leaders across these organizations to explore the collaboration framework- and invites professionals across the field to share their perspectives in a conversation that will shape how this profession evolves in India

	S1.T1 TBC
	S1,T2 TBC
11:00-11:30AM	**Tea/Coffee & Networking Break**
11:30-1:00PM	**Session 2: From Design to Acceleration: Embedding Quality, Structure, and Agility** **Session Chair(s): Annie Jose,** Associate Director, Medical Writing, GSK, Bengaluru **Session Overview:** Accelerated and expedited regulatory pathways are changing how quickly teams must plan, write, review, and submit. In this session, we focus on how regulatory medical writers can help accelerate submissions—by building quality in early, using clear and consistent document structures, reusing content where appropriate, and working in an agile way when timelines are tight. The session talks about different accelerated pathways and what they mean for medical writers, including how to keep the story consistent across documents and how to prioritize writing and reviews without losing scientific or regulatory rigor. The session will close with a panel discussion and Q&A on how strong study design upfront can improve clarity, traceability, and overall submission readiness.
11:30-11:50AM	**S2.T1: Accelerated Regulatory Pathways: What They Mean for Medical Writers** **Divya Muraka,** Senior Director, PAREXEL
11:50-12:10AM	**S2.T2: Writing Smarter for Accelerated Regulatory Submissions** TBA
12:10-1:00PM	**S2.T3: Panel Discussion with Q&A: Topic Faster, Smarter Regulatory Submissions: Building Quality from Protocol to Dossier** Moderator: **Annie Jose**, Associate Director, Medical Writing, GSK, Bengaluru Panelists: Speakers with the additional presence of: 3. **Shalini Dwivedi,** VP, Krystelis Ltd
1:00-2:00PM	**Lunch Break**
2:00-3:30PM	**Session 3: Quality, Compliance, and Risk Management in Medical Writing** **Session Chair(s): Sherin Babykutty**, Associate Director – Scientific Writing, Global Scientific Communications, Eli Lilly and Company **Session Overview:** As AI rapidly accelerates medical writing workflows, the focus is shifting from speed and efficiency to accountability, control, and compliance. AI-enabled tools offer significant gains in productivity and consistency, but they also introduce critical risks, including data integrity concerns, hallucinations, limited traceability, and intensifying regulatory scrutiny that demand careful governance. This session will explore how organizations can move beyond experimentation to establish robust, compliant, AI-enabled medical writing practices. Experts will discuss governance frameworks, including human-in-the-loop review, AI validation strategies, and audit-ready documentation aligned with global regulatory expectations. Attendees will gain actionable insights into implementing responsible AI practices, enabling teams to improve efficiency while ensuring transparency, accountability, and inspection readiness in this new paradigm.
2:00-2-20PM	**S3.T1: Exploring the Role of Medical Writers in Validation of Disclosure Platforms** **Neha Tickoo**, Associate Director, Syneos Health
2:20-2:40 PM	**S3.T2** TBC
2:40-3:30 PM	**S3.T3** TBC
3:30-4:00PM	**Tea/Coffee & Networking Break**
4:00-5:30 PM	**Session 4: Scientific Publications, Ethics & Open Science** **Session Chair(s): Pinki Rajeev, Ph.D**, Sr. Director Medical Communications, Parexel International

	Session Overview: Scientific publication is evolving from traditional dissemination to a strategic platform for transparency, inclusivity, and real-world impact. This session explores how medical writers can navigate the intersection of ethical rigor, stakeholder engagement, and evidence diversity in modern publication ecosystems. Participants will examine two critical frontiers: integrating patients as authentic co-authors in the publication process and embedding real-world evidence (RWE) into mainstream publication ecosystems. The session will address how to operationalize ICMJE and GPP guidance into practical workflows that support patient authorship—from contribution mapping and fair market value compensation to co-creation models that ensure meaningful intellectual input without compromising timelines. Attendees will also explore strategies for bridging the evidence gap by aligning RWE generation with publication planning, establishing cross-functional governance, and ensuring transparent, ethical dissemination that resonates with diverse audiences including patients, payers, and regulators. Through actionable frameworks, this session demonstrates how medical writers can champion open science principles while maintaining scientific integrity and ethical standards.
4:00-4:20PM	**S4.T1: Navigating the Shift: Understanding Writer Responsibility for Publications with Patient Authors** **Ubhaya Bharati**, Senior Manager - Medical Information & Communication (OBU), AstraZeneca India Pvt Ltd
4:20-4:40PM	**S4.T2: The evidence gap: Embedding Real-World Insights into the Publication Ecosystem** **Pooja Srivastava Banerjee,** Senior Director, Krystelis Ltd
4:40-5:30PM	**S4.T3: Panel Discussion with Q&A with presenters** **Moderator: Pinki Rajeev, Ph.D**, Sr. Director Medical Communications, Parexel International **Panelists:** Speakers with the additional presence of: 3. TBC
5:30-5:45PM	**Day End / Wrap Up**

AGENDA: Day 2, 11 July 2026; Saturday	
8:00-9:00AM	**Registration and Welcome Coffee**
9:00-9:10 AM	**Welcome Remarks from DIA** **Dr Ashok Swain**, General Manager, Executive Director, DIA India
9:10-9:20 AM	**Recap of Day 1** [10 min] **Program Chair/DIA**
9:20-9:30AM	**Meeting Opening Remarks by Program Co-Chair:** [10 min] **Hetal Shah, Ph.D,** Founder – Director, MeWriT Healthcare Consulting
9:30-11:00AM	**Session 5: Communicating Real-World and Clinical Evidence: From Data to Decision-Ready Narratives** **Session Chair: Hetal Shah, Ph.D,** Founder – Director, MeWriT Healthcare Consulting **Session Overview:** Real-world evidence (RWE) and clinical trial data are increasingly combined to inform scientific, regulatory, and healthcare decisions. Communicating in this evolving evidence landscape requires clarity, methodological rigor, and the ability to integrate heterogeneous data into coherent, decision-ready narratives. Through two focused presentations, participants will explore. Contemporary approaches to evidence communication across regulatory contexts, value-based frameworks, and integrated clinical–RWE ecosystems. A concluding multidisciplinary panel discussion will surface how writing quality, professional judgment, and accountability are increasingly assessed across the real-world decision environment.

9:30-9:50AM	**S5.T1: Data Silos to Continuum-Based Evidence Storytelling: Integrating Clinical Trial and Real-World Evidence** **Asees Bajwa**, Manager, Pfizer
9:50-10:10AM	**S5.T1: Value Based Healthcare: The Expanding Role of Medical Writers in the Real-World Evidence Space** **Shalini Dwivedi,** VP, Krystelis Ltd
10:10-11:00AM	**Panel Discussion with Q&A: Strategic Medical Writing Across the RWE Spectrum: Skills, Quality, and Accountability** **Moderator**: **Hetal Shah, Ph.D**, Founder – Director, MeWriT Healthcare Consulting Panelists: to be announced: **Dr. Rahul Rathod,** Chief Consultant, Syvantae MedAffairs & Research Advisory
11:00-11:30AM	**Tea/Coffee & Networking Break**
11:30-1:00PM	**Session 6: Digitization, AI and Automation in Medical Writing & Scientific- From Structured Protocols to Implementation Strategy** **Session Chair(s): Priyanka Tiwari**, Associate Director, Global Medical Writing, Thermofisher Scientific **Session Overview:** This session examines how artificial intelligence (AI) and digitization are transforming medical writing across the regulatory lifecycle, with a focus on practical, scalable, and compliant implementation. The session will begin with a protocol-first approach enabled by ICH M11, demonstrating how structured, machine-readable protocols can serve as a single source of truth to improve traceability, consistency, and downstream automation. It will then explore the application of AI and digitization in aggregate safety reporting, highlighting how reducing manual compilation burden can enhance scientific interpretation, strengthen benefit–risk evaluation, and improve overall report quality. The session will also address strategic considerations for AI integration in medical and plain language writing, including governance, quality, and sustainability. The session will conclude with a panel discussion bringing together diverse perspectives on governance, capability building, and real-world implementation challenges in scaling AI-enabled medical writing. Together, these presentations provide an end-to-end perspective—from data foundations to implementation strategy—equipping attendees with actionable frameworks to responsibly adopt AI and improve efficiency, quality, and regulatory confidence.
11:30-11:45 AM	**S6.T1: Fixing Backward Automation: A Protocol-First Strategy for Regulatory submissions** **Deepali Chaku**, Regulatory writer, Novartis
11:45-12:00PM	**S6.T2: Faster to Smarter: Using Digitization and AI to Reduce Compilation Burden and Elevate Quality of Aggregate Safety Reports** **Nalin Taneja,** Senior Manager Patient Safety Medical writing, Parexel International
12:00-12:15 PM	**S6.T3: Cutting Through the AI Fog: How to Choose the Right Integration Strategy for Plain Language Writing** **Vidhi Vashisht,** Vice President, Head of Plain Language Services, Krystelis
12:15-1:00PM	**S6.T4 Panel Discussion with Q&A: AI in Medical Writing: From Automation to Accountable Intelligence** Moderator: **Priyanka Tiwari**, Associate Director, Global Medical Writing, Thermofisher Scientific Panelists: 1. **Sonali Parmar**, Director, Syneos Health Company 2. **Raina Agarwal**, Associate Director, Growth and Strategy, Geninvo 3. **Pallavi Dasgupta,** Manager, Medical Communications and Content, Pfizer
1:00-2:00PM	**Lunch Break**
2:00-3:30PM	**Session 7: Patient-Centric & Stakeholder-Focused Communications** **Session Chair(s): Vidhi Vashisht,** Vice President, Head of Plain Language Krystelis

	Session Overview: This session explores the evolving role of medical writers in delivering truly patient-centric and stakeholder-focused communication across the clinical development lifecycle. It will examine how regulatory expectations such as EU CTR are reshaping patient-facing documents like ICFs and lay summaries, alongside the responsible use of AI to enhance readability and efficiency. It will also highlight gaps in current plain language summary practices, particularly around real-world evidence and timeliness, challenging whether we are genuinely improving patient access to information. Finally, the session addresses the often-overlooked issue of fragmented communication across functions and presents a practical approach to building an integrated patient communication ecosystem that improves consistency, efficiency, and patient understanding. Together, these perspectives encourage medical writers to move beyond compliance-driven writing toward a more strategic role in enabling clear, consistent, and meaningful communication for patients and stakeholders.
2:00-2:15 PM	**S7.T1: Building an Integrated Communication Ecosystem Across Regulatory Writing, Disclosure and MedComms** **Vidhi Vashisht,** Vice President, Head of Plain Language Services, Krystelis
2:15-2:30 PM	**S7.T2: Trends and missed opportunities in Plain Language Summaries of Publications (PLS-Ps), a Targeted literature Review** **Dr. Alap Chavda**, Principal Publication Writer, GSK
2:30-2:45 PM	**S7.T3: Advancing Patient-Centric Communications in Clinical Research Organizations (CROs): EU CTR, AI-Enabled Readability, and Informed Consent Form (ICF)/Lay Person Summary (LPS) Best Practices** **Piyush,** Sr Manager, Medical Writing, PPD, a Part of ThermoFisher Scientific
2:45-3:30PM	**Panel Discussion with Q&A: Topic Title** Moderator: **Vidhi Vashisht,** Vice President, Head of Plain Language Services, Krystelis Panelists: Speakers with the additional presence of: TBC
3:30-4:00PM	**Tea/Coffee & Networking Break**
5:30-5:45PM	**Closing Remarks & Vote of Thanks**

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Meeting registration for an individual participant with **ONLINE payment** can be completed directly through the DIA website meeting Registration page.

For group registrations, please contact the meeting manager (below table).

BANK ACCOUNT details for other modes of payment:

Account Name: DIA (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED
Account No: 061010200024611
Bank Name: AXIS BANK LIMITED
Branch Name: Dhiraj Baug, Near Hari Niwas Circle,
LBS Marg, Thane (W) – 400602
IFSC Code: UTIB0000061 MICR Code: 400211013
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CHEQUE / DRAFT

Completed form, along with draft/cheque made payable to DIA (India) Private Limited should be sent to:
Vinita Shetty | Finance Manager
DIA (India) Pvt. Ltd.
Cowork30, Office #201, ACME Plaza-2, Chakala
Andheri- Kurla Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai – 400059
Email: vinita.shetty@diaglobal.org Cell: +91 9769764645

PRIVACY POLICY

DIA respects the privacy of all its members and customers. To view our policy, click the link below: https://www.diaglobal.org/en/about-us/privacy-policy. You agree that your personal data will be transferred to DIA in the US.

*Academia Category

The ACADEMIA category applies to individuals with primary, full-time affiliation to a bona fide academic institution, and includes STUDENTS. Proof of appointment or enrollment is required.

REGISTRATION FEES

Category	Early Bird Rate (till 31 March 2026)	Advance Rate (1 April – 10 June 2026)	Standard Rate (from 11 June 2026)
Industry – Non-member	INR 13,500 +GST	INR 15,500 +GST	INR 17,500 +GST
Industry – Member	INR 10,000 +GST	INR 11,500 +GST	INR 13,500 +GST
Academia*/ Non-Profit / Govt – Member	INR 9,000+GST		
Academia*/ Non-Profit / Govt – Non-member	INR 12,500 + GST		

For Group Registrations: Please contact meeting manager. Email: nishank.nivedit@diaglobal.org | Mob: +91 8178837734

DIA Cancellation & Refund Policy :

1. **Cancellation Deadline**: Cancellations must be submitted in writing and received by **12th June 2026** to qualify for a refund. Cancellations received after this date will not be eligible for any refund.
2. **No-Shows and Late Cancellations**: Registrants who do not cancel in writing by the deadline and do not attend the event will remain liable for the full registration fee. No refunds will be issued under such circumstances.
3. **Administrative Fee:** A 25% administrative fee will be deducted from all eligible refunds.
4. **Force Majeure:** DIA reserves the right to alter the venue or the date. In the event of cancellation or postponement due to circumstances beyond DIA's control (including but not limited to natural disasters, public health emergencies, government restrictions, or strikes), DIA shall not be held liable for any resulting costs or damages, and refunds may be partially or fully waived at DIA's discretion.
5. **Travel and Accommodation Liability:** DIA is not responsible for any airfare, hotel, or travel-related expenses incurred by participants. These arrangements are the sole responsibility of the registrant.
6. **Refund Processing and Currency Disclaimer:** Eligible refunds will be processed within 60 business days after the conclusion of the event. Refunds will be made in the original transaction currency, and DIA will not be liable for any bank charges or currency fluctuations.

DIA REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION CLEARLY

Dd Month 2025

Please check the applicable **category:** ☐ Industry ☐ Government ☐ Academia ☐ Student

Last Name | **First Name** | **Middle Initial** | **Please check one:** ☐ Mr. ☐ Ms. ☐ Dr. ☐ Prof.

Job Position | **Name of Organization (Primary Affiliation)**

Address: (As per your country's format)) | City | Postal Code | Country | ☐ Home ☐ Business

Mobile Number (Required) | Telephone Number

Email (Required for confirmation)

If sending this form by post or courier, please provide a copy of the registrant's business card.