



Annual Business Meeting

January 27, 2026

Enter Your Name for a Chance to Win Free Registration to our March Educational Session Fundraiser

- Hang around till the end of the business meeting for a chance to win free registration to our March virtual educational session: **“Principles of Health Literacy Throughout a Clinical Trial Lifecycle”** led by Rosemary Meister
- Event date and time: **Wed, Mar 25th, 7 to 8 pm EST**
 - Scan QR code/click on link in the chat
 - Enter your name in the spreadsheet - 1 name per row



Chapter Leadership Structure

Chapter Leadership Structure

Board of Directors (BoD)**:

- Executive Committee
- Immediate Past President
- Appointed Directors

Executive Committee*:

- President
- President-Elect
- Treasurer
- Secretary

Other Chapter Volunteers+:

- Local Network Coordinators
- Committee members
- Session reporters
- Bookclub leaders etc

* Executive committee required per Chapter Bylaws (Article VII, 2)

** BoD carries out the objectives/purpose & manages affairs of the Chapter (Bylaws Article VI, 1)

+ Per Chapter Bylaws (Article VII, 4)

2025 Executive Committee



President
Jayanika
Samaranayake



President-Elect
Abigail Agoglia



Treasurer
Simone Otto



Secretary
Katie Kelm

**THANK YOU
FOR VOLUNTEERING**

**"VOLUNTEERS DO NOT NECESSARILY HAVE
THE TIME; THEY JUST HAVE THE HEART."
- ELIZABETH ANDREW**



2025 AMWA Carolinas Leadership Team

- Immediate Past President – Jenni Pickett
- Website Manager – Nina Oshiokpekhai
- Communications Director – Dilmeet Singh
- Social Media Coordinator – Nadia Sabeva
- Events Coordinator – Molly Rodriguez
- Volunteer Coordinator – Kim Jochman
- Student Volunteer and Podcast Coordinator – Amber Carr
- Member Liaison (LNC) – Maria Cardenas
- Member Liaison (Membership) – Michaela Price
- Conference Committee Chairs
 - Nina Oshiokpekhai
 - Dilmeet Singh
- Chapter Advisor: Demetrius Carter
- Chapter Advisory Council Rep - Jennifer Bridgers



Pictured: Nina Oshiokpekhai (Website Manager), Demetrius Carter (Chapter Advisor), Molly Rodriguez (Events Coordinator), Simone Otto (Treasurer), Abi Agoglia (President-Elect), Jaya Samaranayake (President), Dilmeet Singh (Communications Coordinator), Maria Cardenas (Member Liaison), Michaela Price (Member Liaison), Nadia Sabeva (Social Media Coordinator), Jenni Pickett (Immediate Past President), Kim Jochman (Volunteer Coordinator)

2025 Conference Committee

- **Chairs:** Nina Oshiokpekhai, Dilmeet Singh
- Abigail Agoglia
- Emma Arigi
- Laura Bisogno
- Maria Cardenas
- Romana Hinton
- Jeffrey Husen
- Simone Otto
- Jenni Pickett
- Abigail Poff
- Michaela Price
- Molly Rodriguez
- Jayanika Samaranayake
- Cornelia Smith
- Keeley Spiess



Pictured: Jeffrey Husen, Laura Bisogno, Sam Stadtmiller, Nadia Sabeva, Simone Otto, Keeley Speiss, Abi Agoglia, Abby Poff, Maria Cardenas, Molly Rodriguez, Jaya Samaranayake, Jenni Pickett, Dilmeet Singh, Nina Oshiokpekhai, Michaela Price, Cornelia Smith, Emma Arigi

2025 Additional Volunteers

- Podcast team: Amy Fulton, Nhu (Alaina) Nguyen, Samantha Stadmiller, Abigail Poff, Sebnem Cevik, and Amber Carr
- Book club leads: Demetrius Carter, Amritha Kidiyoor, and Oluyinka Amon
- Journal club volunteers: Jayanika Samaranayake, Abigail Agoglia, and Steven Greer
- March education fundraiser speaker: Gretchen Griffin
- Chapter conference volunteers:
 - Reporters: Melissa Growney, Diana Henzel, Madelyn Mauterer, Laura Sommerville, Kylie VanDerMolen
 - Session report peer reviewers: Michaela Price
 - On-site support: Samantha Stadmiller
 - NC Biotech Center liaison: Mai Le
- NCRAF event:
 - Moderators and panelists: Batu Sharma and Laura Sommerville
 - Panelists: Tara Hun-Dorris, Dorothy Keine, Erin O'Reilly, and Maria Oyaski
 - Reporter and peer reviewer: Melissa Growney and Taylor McNeely
- LNCs: Leslie DeCraene, Madelyn Mauterer, Chantelle Rein-Smith, and Molly Rodriguez
- Website assistant: Alison Watta

Events Review

AMWA National Requirements for Chapter Events

Each chapter must host at least 4 events per year:

- 1 annual business meeting
- At least 3 in-person events
- Events can be educational, networking, or community service

2025 Total: 17 Events!

2025 Chapter Events: Q1

- **January 28** – Annual Business Meeting & Journal Club: “Health Economics and Outcomes Research” (virtual)
- **February 20** – Bookclub: *For Blood and Money*, *The Data Detective*, and *The Undoing Project* (virtual)
- **March 13** – Workshop: “Enhancing Emotional Intelligence – The Key to Personal and Professional Success” (virtual)
- **March 27** – Networking Sip and Trade Event (in-person, Apex NC)



Pictured: Happy book lovers pose at Alleyway Bookstore during the Sip and Trade Event

2025 Chapter Events: Q2

- **April 29** – Journal Club: “Navigating Oncology” (virtual)
- **May 15** – Preconference Networking Reception (in-person, Carborro NC)
- **May 16** –AMWA Carolinas Chapter Conference (in-person, Chapel Hill, NC)
- **May 16** – Post-conference Networking Reception (in-person, Chapel Hill NC)



Pictured: A spellbound audience eats lunch and listens to President Jaya Samaranayake during the 2025 AMWA Carolinas Chapter Conference

2025 Chapter Events: Q3

- **July 09** – Summer Networking Event (in-person, Raleigh NC)
- **August 27** – Yoga Networking Event (in-person, Durham NC)
- **September 18** – AMWA/NCRAF Panel Discussion (hybrid, Durham NC)
- **September 19** – Triad Networking Event (in-person, Kernersville NC)



Pictured: Panelists and moderators at the AMWA/NCRAF Panel Discussion (left), attendees achieving calm(er) minds during the Yoga Networking Event (right)

2025 Chapter Events: Q4

- **October 15** – Educational Event: “Pipettes Down, Pencils Up” (hybrid, Durham NC)
- **November 06** – AMWA National Conference Chapter Dinner (in-person, Phoenix AZ)
- **November 12** –Journal Club: “Role of AI in regulatory submissions” (virtual)
- **December 10** – RTP Holiday Party (in-person, Durham NC)
- **December 11** – Asheville Holiday Party (in-person, Asheville NC)



Pictured: Post-dinner happy faces at Arizona Wilderness Brewing Company during the AMWA National Conference Chapter Dinner

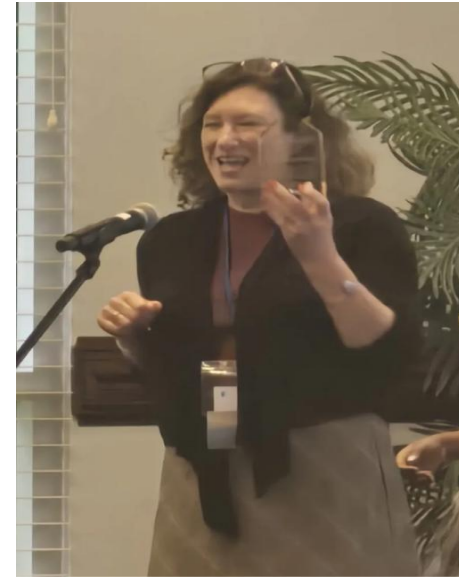
Five-Year Chapter Service Awards

Awarded to:

Tara Hun-Dorris, for her service to the chapter as Newsletter Editor, President-Elect, President, Immediate Past-President

Demetrius Carter, for his service to the chapter as President-Elect, President, Immediate Past-President, and Chapter Advisor

Deana B Kaye, for her service to the chapter as Newsletter Editor, President-Elect, President, Immediate Past President, and Secretary



Chapter Historian: Maria Cardenas

2025 Highlights

- Launch of the AMWA Carolinas Chapter Podcast Series!
- Chapter Journal Club
- Website Updates
- Partnership with Woman In Bio – RTP

Launch of Chapter Podcast Series

- Episode 1: 2024 Year in Review
- Episode 2: 2025 Year in Preview
- Episode 3: Planning a Successful Event
- Episode 4: 2025 Conference Recap and Highlights



2025 Podcast Team: Amy Fulton, Nhu Nguyen, Samantha Stadmiller, Abigail Poff, Sebnem Cevik, Amber Carr

Launch of Chapter Journal Club

Articles:

- Jan 28: Growth of Health Economics and Outcomes Research and Real-World Evidence in Medical Communication, and Opportunities for Medical Writers (2024 Winter Issue)
- Apr 29: Navigating Oncology: Expert Strategies for Effective Medical Writing (2025 Spring Issue)
- Nov 12: The Evolving Role of Medical Writers: AI as a Partner in Regulatory Submissions (2025 Summer Issue)



AMWA Journal



Journal club slides

Journal club leaders: Jayanika Samaranayake, Abigail Agoglia, Steven Greer



Website Updates

- Member highlights page to celebrate our members' professional achievements
- Send requests for consideration to amwa.carolinas@gmail.com
- Other resources on our chapter website:
 - Monthly newsletter
 - General medical writing resources (updated 2025)
 - DEI resources for medical writing (2024)
 - Session reports from our events



2025 Website Manager: Nina Oshiokpekhai

Collaboration with WIB-RTP



- Member of the NC Biotechnology Center's exchange group
- WIB is an organization of professionals committed to promoting careers, leadership, and entrepreneurship of women in the life sciences
- NCBC has 20+ exchange groups that are communities of academic, government, and other life sciences professionals who gather to discuss their science, network, find potential partners, and create new ideas



Credit: Dilmeet Singh
AMWA Carolinas Board of Directors and
WIB-RTP Board of Directors



Updates from AMWA National HQ

- Chapter re-envisioning initiative:
 - Why? Some chapters are struggling with compliance, geographical area burden, finding volunteers
 - Chapter re-envisioning taskforce: Elise Eller is Chair; other committee members are being recruited, including Demetrius Carter (Carolinas Chapter BoD)
 - Remit:
 - Review of chapter structure: changing from chapters that are geographically defined (ie, neighboring states) to groups that are work-area focused (ie, regulatory, med comms, CME)
 - Evaluate and recommend KPIs
 - Obtain input from members who are not chapter leaders

Executive Committee Slate

Per Chapter Bylaws, this slate is created by the Board of Directors and becomes official at this meeting.



2026 Executive Committee



President
Abi
Agoglia



President-Elect
Nina Oshiokpekhai



Treasurer
Simone Otto



Secretary
Michaela Price

2026 Board of Directors



Past President
Jaya
Samaranayake



**Volunteer
Cord.**
Kim Jochman



Events Cord.
Molly
Rodriguez



**Com. Cord.
Conference Chair**
Dilmeet Singh



Website Mgr.
Laura
Sommerville



**Social Media
Cord.**
Nadia Sabeva



**Member
Liaison**
Maria Cardenas



**Student
Cord.
Mentor Cord.**
Amber Carr



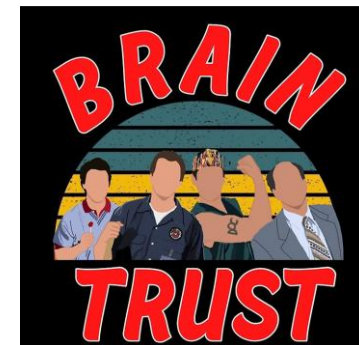
**Conference
Chair**
Keeley Spiess



CAC Rep
Jennifer
Bridgers



**Chapter
Advisor**
Demetrius
Carter



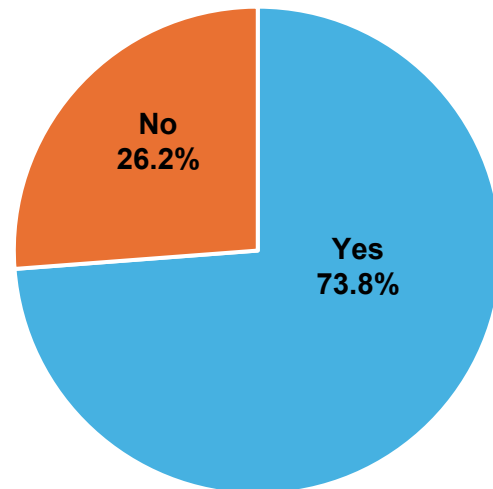
2025 Member Survey Results

Record-Breaking Survey Responses

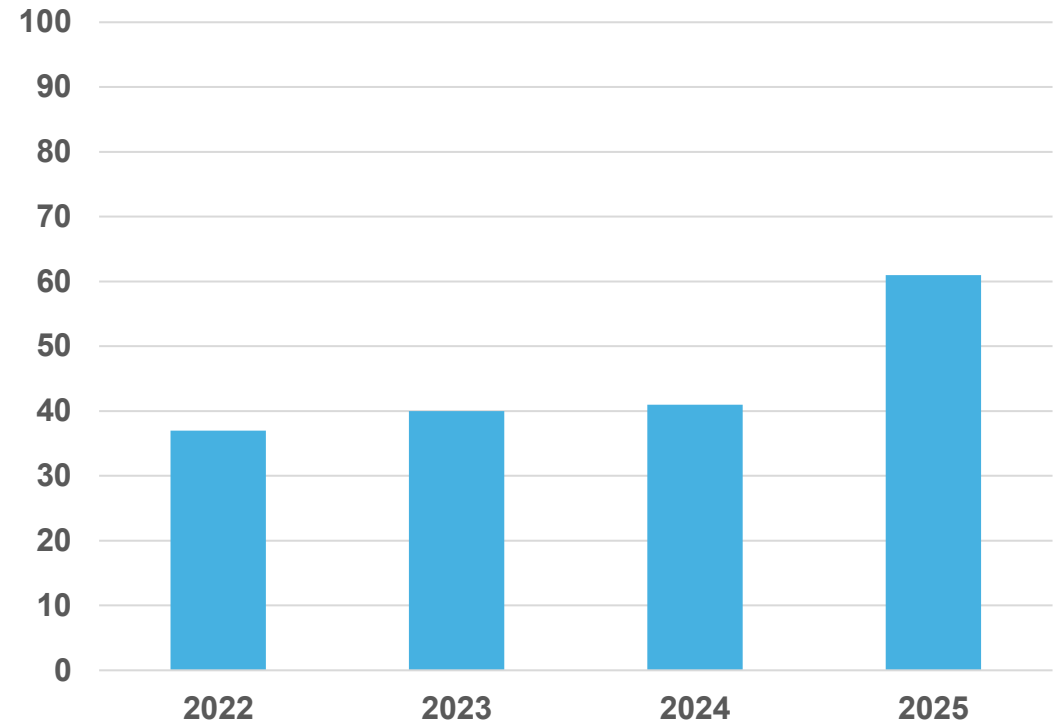
Total of 61 respondents in 2025

- Most respondents attended the chapter conference

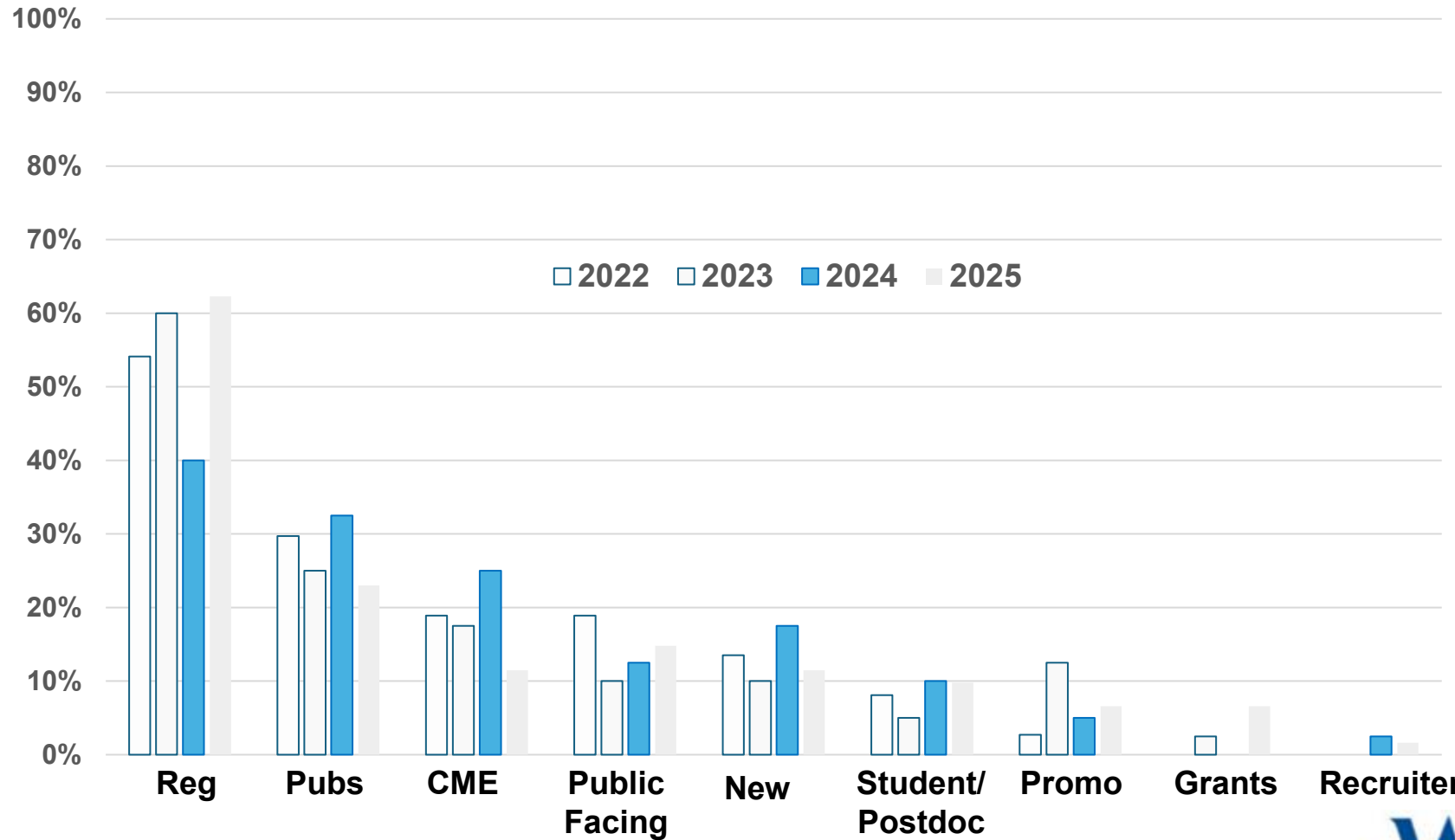
“Did you attend the 2025 AMWA Carolinas Chapter Conference?”



Total Survey Responses 2022-2025

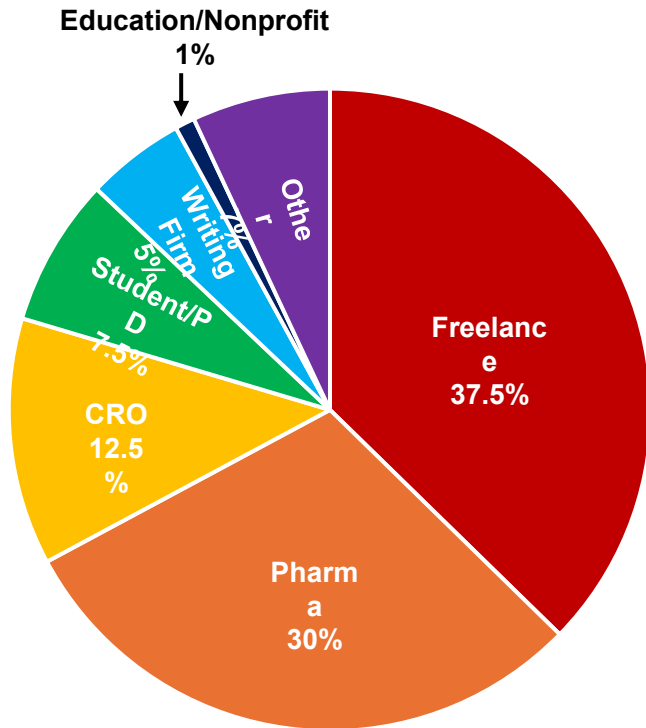


Respondents by Type of Writing

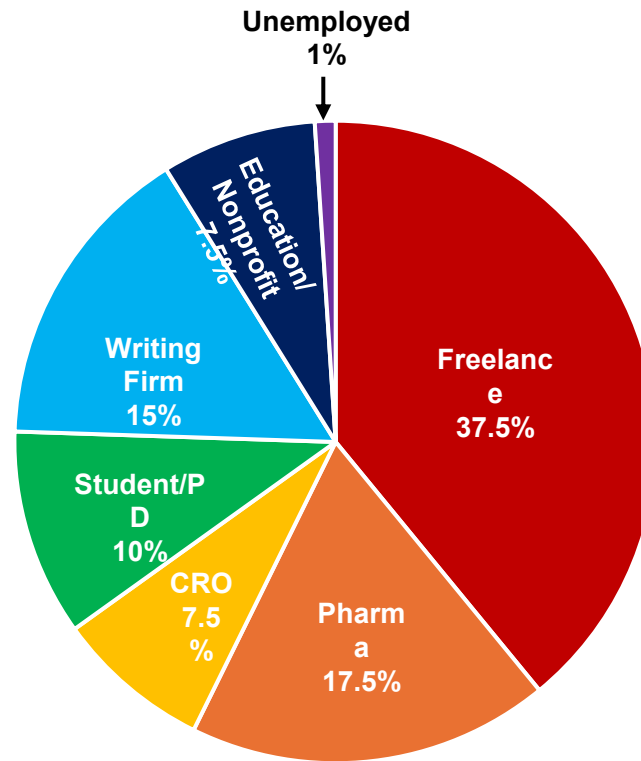


Respondents by Employer

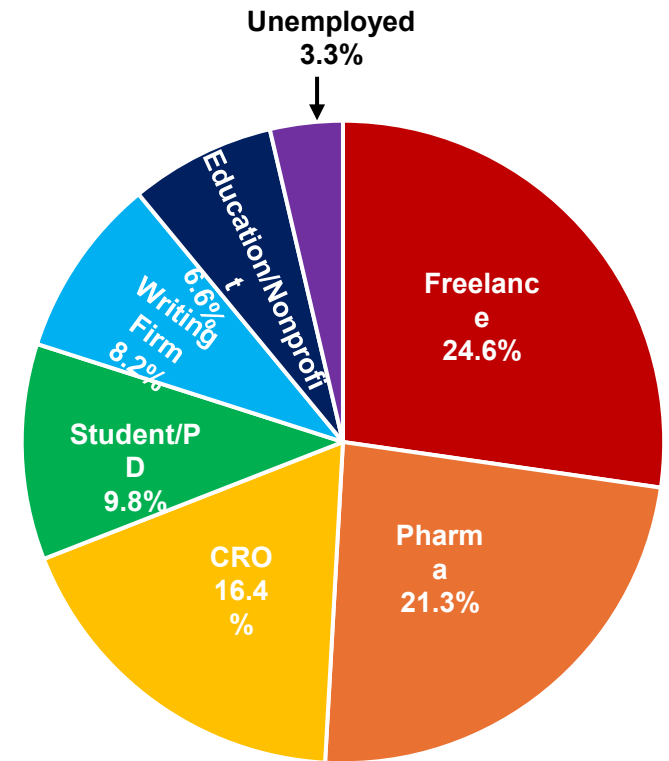
2023



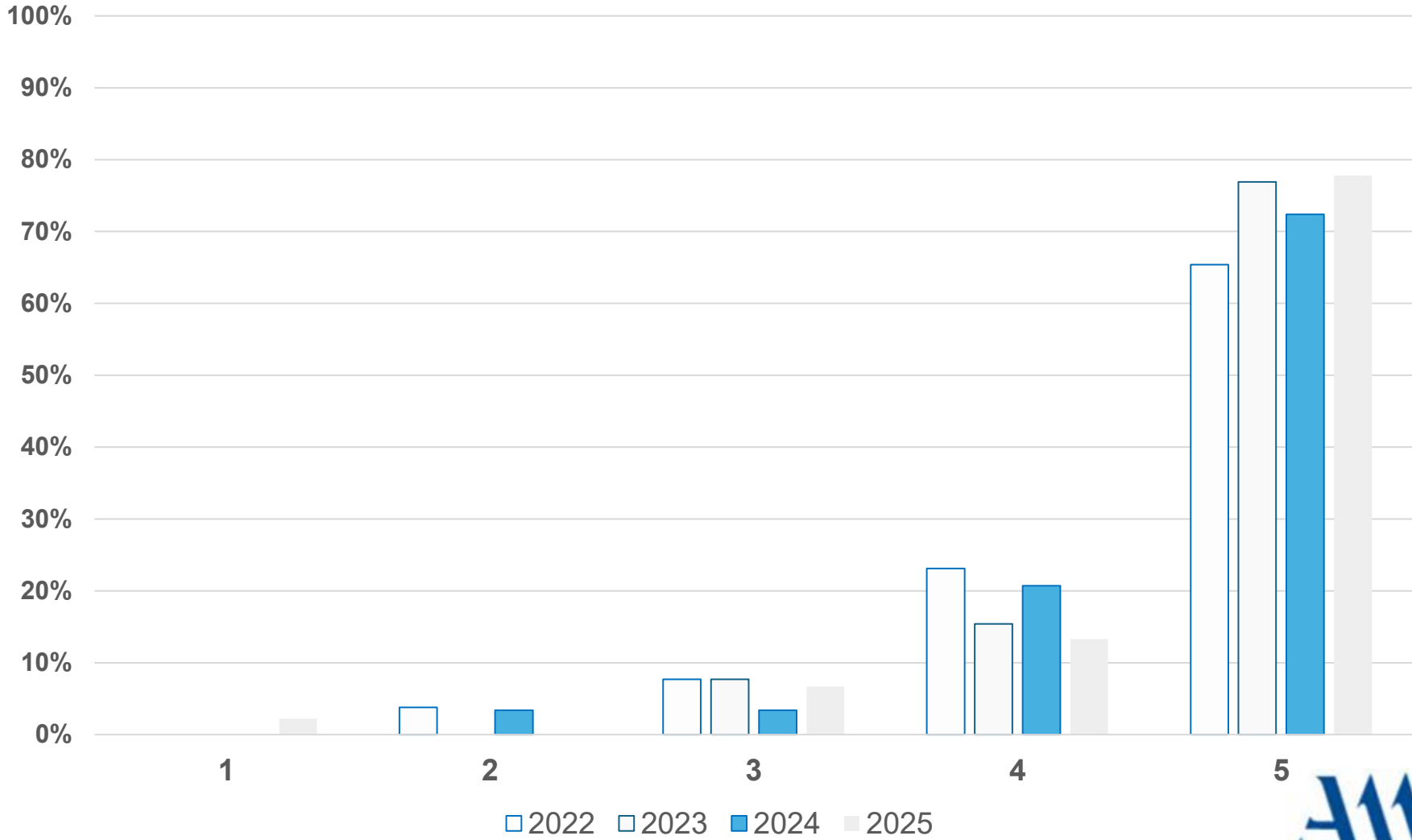
2024



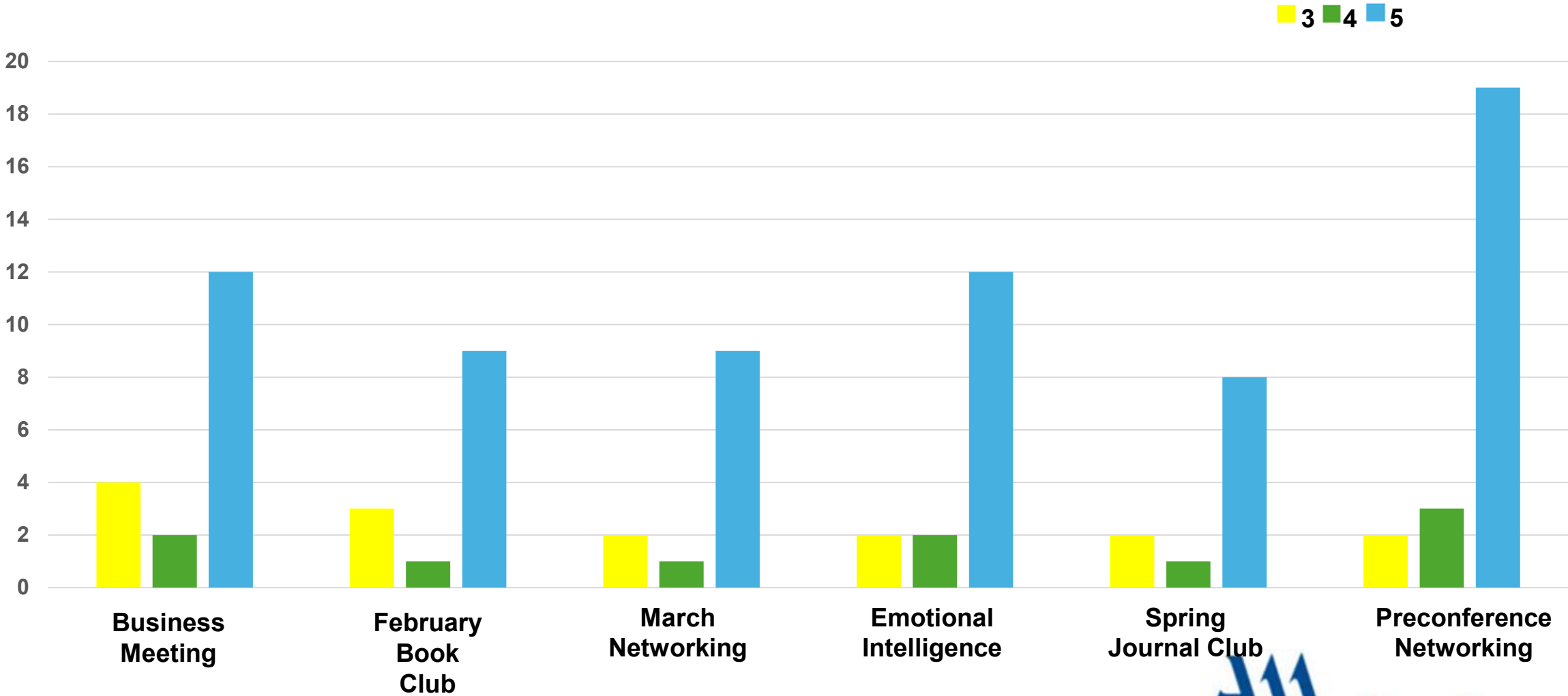
2025



Conference Satisfaction is Consistently High

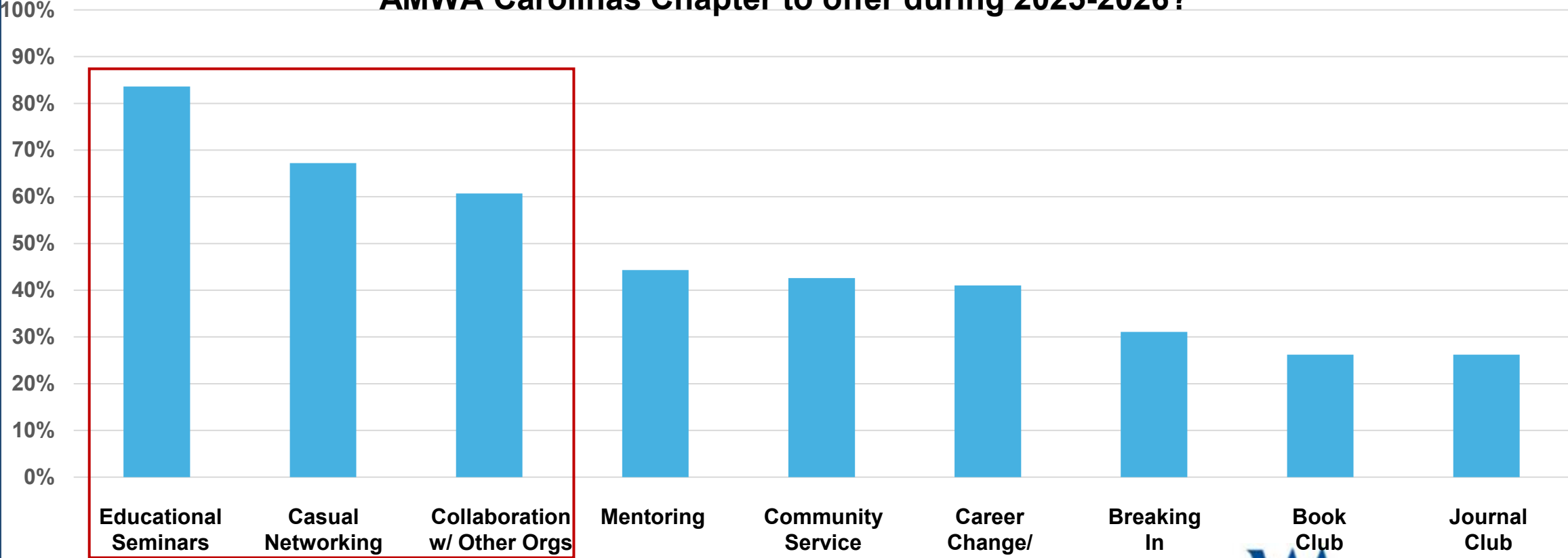


Satisfaction for Other Chapter Events



Top Requested Events for 2026

“What other types of activities or initiatives would you like the AMWA Carolinas Chapter to offer during 2025-2026?”



Planned 2026 Chapter Events

2026 Planned Events (Jan to June)

- Jan 27 - Business Meeting (virtual)
- Feb 25 - Book Club (virtual)
- Mar 25 - Educational Session on Health Literacy (virtual)
- April - Journal Club (virtual)
- May 14 - Pre-conference Networking Event (in-person, Durham)
- May 15 - Chapter Conference (hybrid, Durham)
- May 15 - Post-conference Networking Event (in-person, Durham)

2026 Planned Events (Jul to Dec)

- Jul - Networking Event (in-person, RTP)
- Jul - AMWA/WIB-RTP Joint Event
- Aug - Yoga Session (hybrid, Durham)
- Sep - AMWA/NCRAF Joint Panel Event (hybrid, Durham)
- Oct - Educational and Networking Event (hybrid, Durham)
- Nov 6 - AMWA National Conference Chapter Dinner (in-person, DC)
- Nov - AMWA Journal Club (virtual)
- Dec - Regional Holiday Events (in-person, RTP and TBD)

2026 Chapter Conference (May 15, 2026)

- Call for Proposals - Due this **Sat, Jan 31!**
 - We would like to invite you to share your expertise with us at the 2026 Carolinas Chapter Conference (**May 15, 2026 at the North Carolina Biotechnology Center in Durham, NC**) by submitting a proposal.
 - Accepted educational session presenters will receive **free registration** and accepted roundtable presenters will receive a **50% discount** on registration.

Scan the QR code below to

submit a proposal!



Scan the QR code below for details

on becoming a sponsor!



Conference Chairs: Dilmeet Singh & Keeley Spiess



Feb Book Club: Choose Your Adventure!

Date: Wednesday, Feb 25, Time: 6:30 - 8 pm EST; Location: Virtual (Zoom)

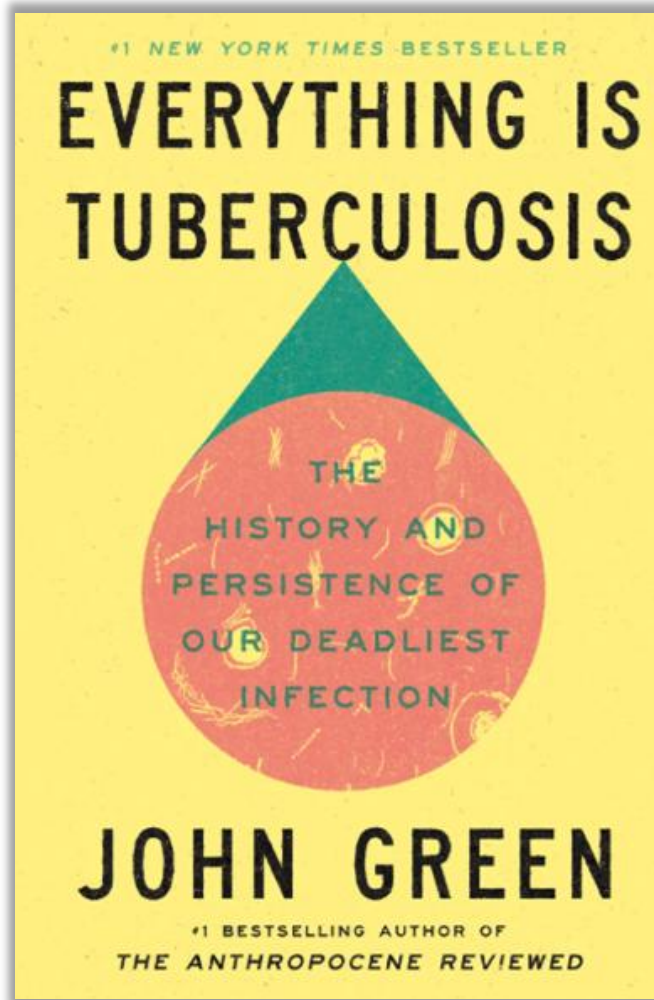
- The BoD made 2 book selections, and you can choose 1 book to read and discuss and learn about the other book at the meeting (or read both/neither!)
- Attendees (not registrants) will be entered to win 1 FREE admission to our March virtual educational event!

Scan QR code to register:

All are welcome to this free virtual event!



Book Club: Book 1



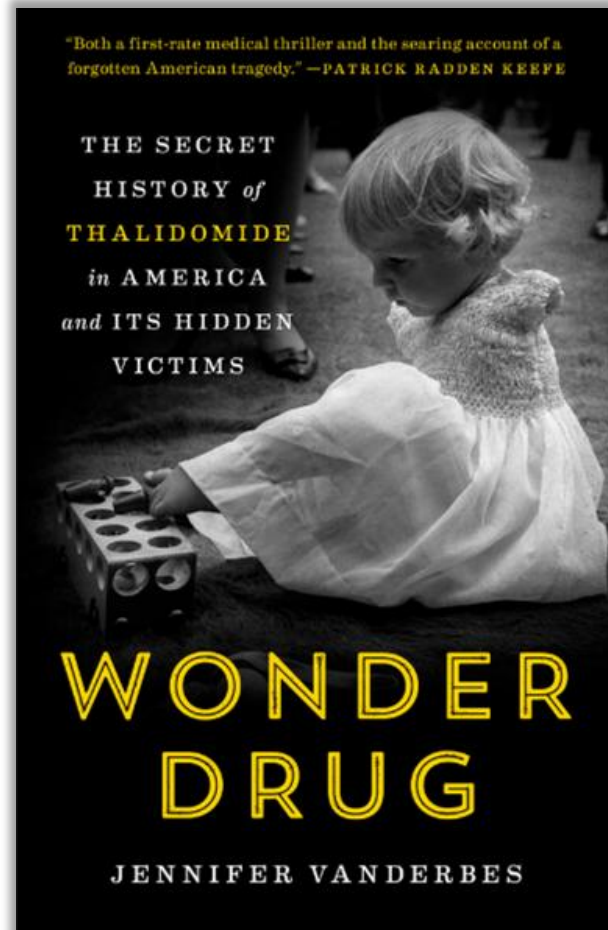
Everything is Tuberculosis by *John Green* *Discussion led by Bavine Opiyo*

Blends history, science, and deeply human storytelling to reveal how a single disease has shaped lives, inequalities, and global health in ways we still live with today. Thought-provoking and compassionate, this book sparks discussion about medicine, justice, and what we owe one another.

*Scan QR code
to register:*



Book Club: Book 2



Wonder Drug by *Jennifer Vanderbes* *Discussion led by Blanca Arantxa*

A gripping blend of medical history and narrative nonfiction that explores the unintended consequences of faith in a miracle cure. Smart and unsettling, it invites discussion about science, ethics, and how progress can reshape society in unexpected ways.

*Scan QR code
to register:*



Virtual Educational Session Fundraiser

Wed, Mar 25, 7:00 to 8:00 pm EST



“Principles of Health Literacy Throughout a Clinical Trial Lifecycle”

- Learn about organizational health literacy, its impact on patient advocacy & health equity, and how medical writers can support health literacy in their work.
- Led by Rosemary Meister, Senior Manager of Clinical Trial Disclosure and Transparency at Anylam Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
- Proceeds from this session help AMWA Carolinas charge a reduced rate for students and postdocs at the May Chapter Conference!

Registration link to be released in Feb

At the end of this mtg, 1 attendee will win free registration; another free registration will be awarded at book club





NCRAF Upcoming Events

Unlocking the Potential of Regulatory Pathways for Global Health Products Using the EMA "Article 58" Procedure - A Case Study

- Date & Time: **February 19, 2026** | Networking: 5:30-6:30 PM, Seminar: 6:30-7:30 PM
- Location: IQVIA Innovation Park, 2400 Ellis Road, Durham, NC
- Speaker: Susanne Wilhelm
- Format: **Hybrid** (In-person & Zoom)
- Overview: This session will discuss the FDA's final rule on laboratory developed tests (LDT) and describe the European Union's approach to regulation of LDTs. The session is of interest to manufacturers and laboratories who develop home-brew diagnostic tests. Attendees will learn about approaches to bringing LDTs to market in the US and EU.

Pricing: Free for NCRAF members (annual membership is \$50); \$20 for non-members. Visit www.ncraf.org for more details and registration. Discounted rates available for students and jobseekers.





WIB Upcoming Events

WIB-RTP & PDA Southeast: Give to Gain – A Panel Discussion Around Career & Community

- Date & Time: **February 17, 2026** | Registration: 5:30-6:00, Seminar: 6:00-7:00 PM, Networking: 7:00-8:00 PM
- Location: North Carolina Biotechnology Center, 15 T.W. Alexander Drive, Durham
- Speakers: Cherell Harris, Alma Montemayor, Casey Bailey Poirier, Romaine Waller
- Format: **Hybrid** (In-person & Zoom)
- Overview: Join WIB-RTP and the Parenteral Drug Association (PDA) Southeast Chapter for a panel discussion with women from our industry. Learn about their career journey and how investing in their community has shaped both their lives and others.

Pricing: \$25 for WIB/PDA members (annual membership in WIB is \$120/students \$50);
\$35 for non-members.

Visit <https://community.womeninbio.org/clubs/view/rtp> for more details and registration.



How You Can Get Involved

2026 Volunteers Needed

- **Event Coordinators** (short-term role)
- **Quarterly Journal Club Leaders** (short-term role)
- **Event & Conference Reporters** (short-term role)

- **Why volunteer?**

- Grow your **network**
- Develop **new skills**
 - Leadership
 - Project management
 - Public speaking
 - Graphic design
 - Web design
 - Social media management
- Receive **discounted registration** to select events
- **Make friends & have fun!**



Pictured: Chapter volunteers and emotional support spouses enjoying a well-earned night out

Next Steps to Get Involved in Our Chapter

- **Visit amwacarolinas.org to:**
 - **Join our LinkedIn group** (link at the bottom of the page under Social Media or Get Involved)
 - **Fill out our volunteer interest form** (Get Involved->Volunteer With Us)
 - **Register for our upcoming events** (Calendar of Events)
 - **Enhance your career** (Resources)
 - **Join AMWA** (Get Involved->Join Us)
- Scan the QR code to complete our **Volunteer Interest Form**.
 - Under 'Other' on the form, please be as specific as you can on what role you are interested in.



Last Chance to Enter Your Name to Win a Free Registration to Our March Educational Session

- Event date and time: **Wed, Mar 25th, 7 to 8 pm EST**
- Scan QR code/click on link in the chat
- Enter your name in the spreadsheet - 1 name per row

