

# Annual Report 2020

## Medical Rhetoric Standing Group (MRSRG)

### Brief Summary of Past Year's Activities

In 2019-2020, we successfully completed the following initiatives:

- Continued to build the resources on [medicalrhetoric.com](http://medicalrhetoric.com)
- Worked on updating the site's extensive bibliography
- Continued to co-sponsor and plan Third Thursdays, which is an online space for scholars to meet once a month
- Began planning for the 4<sup>th</sup> Rhetoric of Health and Medicine Symposium, which has been moved to a virtual format due to uncertainty surrounding the impact of COVID-19 in fall 2020; this symposium is the only stand-alone conference for scholars across disciplines and fields who specialize in the rhetoric of health and medicine ([medicalrhetoric.com/symposium2020/](http://medicalrhetoric.com/symposium2020/))

We did not have our regular business meeting in March due to COVID-19, and we did not hold an online meeting of the entire standing group. However, officers of the standing group have been in contact throughout the spring term to work on various items of standing group business, e.g., the sponsored panel at CCCC and elections.

The CFP for our sponsored CCCC panel went out on April 13, and we will have the panel proposal submitted by the May 28, 2020 deadline.

### Election Results

We ran elections for a new Associate Chair and a new Member-at-Large. The results of the election are

Associate Chair: Lucia Durá

Member-at-Large: Molly Kessler

Terms for these positions run 2020-2022.

We have appointed two graduate students to the leadership team: Danielle Stambler, University of Minnesota; and Erin Fitzgerald, Auburn University. These terms run for one year, from 2020-2021.

### Recommendations for 2020-2021 Actions

MRSRG will work toward the following

- Move the bibliography project forward by continuing to annotate and tag the resources
- Assist with planning the 4<sup>th</sup> Rhetoric of Health and Medicine Symposium

- Continue to help grow RHM's Third Thursdays
- Gather and collate additional resources of interest to our members, with a primary focus on teaching and funding
- Work on building stronger relationships with other SIGs and Standing Groups within CCCC and related groups outside

## **By-Laws**

### **Article 1: Membership**

Section 1. Membership in the MRSG shall be open to any member of CCCC who wants to join. All members are asked to join the MRSG listserv (<https://list.arizona.edu/sympa/subscribe/medrhet>), or arrange for another way to receive information from the list that is accessible to them.

Section 2. All MRSG members are eligible to serve as officers. All members are eligible to vote for officers (see Article VI).

Section 3. Members shall be informed of the activities of the MRSG through attendance at the MRSG meeting at CCCC each year, through the listserv, and the Facebook group.

### **Article 2: Officers**

Section 1. Officers of the MRSG shall include elected positions of Chair, Associate Chair, Communication Officer, and an At-Large Member, and also one appointed grad student member. Each elected officer serves a term of two years.

Elections for the Chair and Communication Officer will occur in odd-numbered years (2017, 2019, etc.), and elections for the Associate Chair and At-large Member will occur in even-numbered years (2016, 2018, etc.). The current Associate Chair and At-large Member will initially have a one-year term. The appointed grad student officer will be appointed to a one-year term and will be decided on by the elected officers with input and recommendations from the membership.

Section 2. Individuals may be re-elected to any office.

### **Article 4: Duties of Officers**

#### Section 1: Chair

- Submit the annual report no later than 30 days after the CCCC annual meeting each year. The brief annual report should include a report of activities, with recommendations for future action, and be addressed to the CCCC Officers. This report should also be sent to the MRSG membership via the listserv.
- Implement the activities of the MRSG at the annual CCCC
- Submit Business Meeting proposal each year.<sup>2</sup>

- Organizes topical program portion of the SIG meeting at the CCCC (such as asks speakers to attend and present on a topic)
- Leads the Business Meeting portion of the SIG meeting at the CCCC
- Serves as the point person/spokesperson for the SIG
- Serves as the primary liaison to the CCCC

#### Section 2: Associate Chair

- Assist the Chair with the duties and activities of the MRSG
- Conduct elections
- Assist in the planning of activities at the annual conference
- Serve as liaison to other relevant standing groups or consortiums (such as the Disability Rhetoric Standing Group)

#### Section 3: Communication Officer

- Responsible for posting relevant notices to all communication channels in compliance with the bylaws
- Coordinates the activities of the web site
- Manage the communication channels
- Takes Minutes at the annual meeting
- Assist in the planning of activities at the annual conference

#### Section 4: At-Large Member

- Create CFP for standing panel and ensure that it is presented to the Communication officer for posting
- Facilitate the process of arranging the MRSG panel at the CCCC
- Assist in the planning of activities at the annual conference
- Assist as needed in the running of the MRSG

#### Section 5: Graduate Student

- Assist in the planning of activities at the annual conference
- Sit on the committee for standing panel selection
- Provide insights on graduate student concerns

#### **Article 4: Standing Panel**

The At-Large Member Officer is responsible for creating a CFP and facilitating the coordination of the selection of the MRSG's panel at the annual CCCC. Selection will be made by a committee to include the officers.

The officers may be on this panel, though this is by no means required. This will be done by soliciting panel proposals through the MRSG communication channels by April 20 and making a decision by April 28.

#### **Article 5: Meetings**

Section 1. The annual planning meeting shall be held during CCCC each year. This meeting should report on activities from the year and welcome new members, and should also provide a site for planning activities, such as panels or suggested featured speakers for the following year. Other activities to be determined by the members.

Section 2. Notification of the annual meeting time at CCCC will be announced across the MRSG communication channels at least four weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

#### **Article 6: Elections**

Section 1. Elections shall be held within a month after the MRSG meeting at CCCC. Elections are held in odd-numbered years for Associate Chair and At-large Member and in even-numbered years for Chair and Communication Manager.

Section 2. Elections are won by a simple majority vote of those members who choose to participate in the election.

Section 3. At the MRSG meeting at CCCC, the Associate Chair will query the membership attendance for self-nominations of nominations for the positions up for election. Those nominated and willing to run will need to submit a 200-word statement (also acceptable in other forms for reasons of access). Voting will begin within 30 days of the CCCC meeting, will be anonymous, and will be open for one week. Voting mechanism and link and the results will be announced on the MRSG communication channels (i.e., listserv, Facebook group, twitter, feed, etc.).

#### **Article 7: Amendments**

Section 1. Proposals for amendment to these bylaws may be made by member suggestion at any time, on the listserv, at the annual MRSG meeting at CCCC, or by directly contacting the Co-Chairs. The proposed amendment shall be distributed to MRSG members via the listserv. Changes will be formally approved through a majority vote of the members in the annual election. If approved, the amendment is effective immediately.

Section 2. Amendments and/or changes to these bylaws that are a result of changes in CCCC-approved policies will be automatically incorporated into these bylaws for consistency (if consistent with Article VIII), and will be announced on through the group's communication channels and at the MRSG meeting at CCCC.

#### **Article 8: Access**

MRSG is committed to access for all members. All materials for this group must be provided in multiple formats, and consider the access needs, stated and potential, of all members.

#### **Article 9: Dissolution**

If there fails to be a meeting of the MRSG at CCCC for two consecutive years, the group is considered dissolved.

