

Annual Report 2024
Medical Rhetoric Standing Group (MRSRG)

Brief Summary of Past Year's Activities

In 2023-2024, the MRSRG's main activities were:

- Regular collegial meetings for discussion and collaboration. Colloquially termed "Third Thursdays," we convened six times this year, loosely arranged around the following themes: Brainstorming; RHM Symposium Debriefs; Grant Writing/IRB; Chronic Illness & Emotional Labor; Methods/Methodologies; Leadership & Service.
- Mentoring graduate students. All of our "Third Thursday" meetings include graduate student mentoring.
- Planning and coordination of the CCCC MRSRG sponsored panel, a roundtable, "Writing Abundance in Rhetorics of Health and Medicine"

The other main activity of the MRSRG was its annual business meeting, held at CCCC on April 4, 2024. Sixteen MRSRG members attended the meeting. Associate Chair Lilly Campbell made announcements regarding elections for Associate Chair and Member-at-Large, as well as graduate student officer. Conversation at the meeting then turned to the following topics:

- (1) Round-robin sharing of members' research interests and what brought them to the SIG meeting, as well as best modes of outreach/communication going forward;
- (2) Brainstorming topics for the CCCC 2025 sponsored panel and for Third Thursday Conversations in academic year 2024-25;
- (3) Discussion of the grant funds available to SIG groups through CCCC and possibilities for trips for our group in Baltimore
- (4) The MRSRG as a site and source of peer and student (graduate and undergraduate) mentoring, including invitation to our panel and social hour on Friday, April 5.

CFP for 2025 CCCC Sponsored Panel

The CFP for our 2025 sponsored panel is in progress and will be circulated through the RHM listserv, twitter, Facebook, the RHM website, and the AWAC and Writing Studies listservs. Decisions about submissions will be made in a timely way to align with CCCC deadlines. The roundtable proposal will be submitted along with the business meeting proposal no later than May 31, 2024.

MRSRG Elections

We have just finished our elections and Kristin LaFollette will serve another term as Associate Chair while Priyanka Ganguly will begin a term as At-Large Member. We also voted to amend our bylaws so that we will elect a new graduate student representative each year, with one new and one returning member serving annually (revision highlighted below).

Recommendations for 2024-2025 Actions

During the next year, the MRSG will work toward the following:

- Continuing to formalize the grad student role in the organization and their coordination of Third Thursdays. This structure worked well this past year to provide opportunities for leadership and mentorship to our graduate representatives.
- Collaboration with our RHM colleagues, especially as they begin to formalize a Society and work on website revisions.
- Consideration of more ways we can facilitate community-building at the CCCC's conference, including the possibility of a group field trip.

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 (2021, 2023, etc.), and elections for the Associate Chair and At-large Member will occur in even-numbered years (2020, 2022, etc.). 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.
- Organizes topical program portion of the SG meeting at the CCCC (such as asks speakers to attend and present on a topic)
- Leads the Business Meeting portion of the SG meeting at the CCCC
- Serves as the point person/spokesperson for the SG
- 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 even-numbered years for Associate Chair and At-large Member and in odd-numbered years for Chair and Communication Manager. A new graduate student representative will be elected each year to serve a two-year term. There will be a total of two graduate student representatives per year: one new and one returning.

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 members in attendance for self-nominations or 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.