

Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) Medical Rhetoric
Standing Group (MRS) 2026 Annual Report

Executive Committee

- Chair – Kristin LaFollette (University of Southern Indiana)
- Associate chair – Martha Karnes (University of Arkansas at Little Rock)
- Communication officer – Amanda Pratt (Kennesaw State University)
- At-large member – Priyanka (Priya) Ganguly (Texas Tech University)
- Graduate student representative – Maggie Hart (University of Oklahoma)
 - Note – We did have another (returning) graduate student representative at the start of the academic year, but that person stepped down from their role before their responsibilities for the year began.

Summary of 2025-2026 Activities

- Maggie Hart (MRS) graduate student representative) planned and facilitated the group’s Third Thursday meetings. These meetings are informal gatherings of RHM scholars, focused on discussion and collaboration. Since CCCC 2025, we’ve facilitated the following Third Thursday events:
 - April 17, 2025 – CCCC recap (a few CCCC presenters shared a brief overview of their RHM-focused presentations)
 - October 16, 2025 – building RHM connections (networking event)
 - November 20, 2025 – RHM Symposium recap (a few RHM presenters shared a brief overview of their presentations)
 - February 19, 2026 – Book talk with Dr. Lilly Campbell (she discussed her book *Patient Sense: Rhetorical Body Work in the Age of Technology*)
- Priya Ganguly (MRS) at-large member) planned and facilitated the group’s sponsored panel at CCCC 2026, which was titled “Conference as Care in Rhetorics of Health and Medicine.” The following presenters participated in the sponsored panel:
 - Lilly Campbell (Marquette University)
 - Melissa Guadrón (Western Washington University) and Christa Teston (Ohio State University)
 - Elena Kalodner-Martin (Ohio State University)
 - Marissa McKinley (Quinnipiac University)
 - Linda Smith-Brecheisen (University of Texas at Dallas)
- At CCCC 2025, we organized a “field trip” for the MRS) and visited Davidge Hall—the oldest medical teaching facility in the northern hemisphere still in use—at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. We appreciated how this event brought the group together and strengthened connections, so we planned another “field trip” for CCCC 2026. The group visited the Dittrick Medical History Center at Case Western Reserve University. (A photograph of MRS) members at the medical history center is included below).



- The CCCC 2026 MRSBG business meeting was held on Thursday, March 5 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. and was facilitated by Kristin LaFollette (MRSBG chair). Everyone in attendance introduced themselves and talked briefly about their research interests and projects. Attendees were invited to put their names and email addresses on a sign-in sheet and indicate if they'd like to be added to the RHM listserv (Christa Teston, MRSBG member, offered to add them). Kristin then announced the two open executive committee positions for the 2026-2027 year (at-large member and one graduate student representative) and talked about the upcoming election, which will be facilitated by Martha Karnes (MRSBG associate chair). After, the group discussed ideas for next year's Third Thursday meetings and talked about sites/methodologies for RHM research. Executive committee members present at the meeting included Kristin LaFollette, Amanda Pratt, and Maggie Hart (on Zoom).
- The annual MRSBG social gathering was held after the business meeting at a local restaurant, Butcher & the Brewer.

Upcoming Tasks

- This year's election is currently in progress. Martha Karnes (MRSBG associate chair) will facilitate the election with the help of Amanda Pratt (MRSBG communication officer). The election information will be shared with the RHM, ARSTM, and Writing Studies listservs along with the MRSBG social media pages (Facebook and Bluesky). We will also send the information directly to the CCCC 2026 business meeting attendees.
- The CFP for the 2027 sponsored panel will be in progress once we've elected a new at-large member. This CFP will also be shared with our network, and the sponsored panel proposal—along with the MRSBG business meeting proposal—will be submitted by the deadline (May 27, 2026).

Plans for the Upcoming Year

- We will continue developing the partnership between the RHM Society and CCCC MRSG. Christa Teston, the current president of the RHM Society and MRSG member, attended the CCCC 2026 MRSG business meeting and joined us for our social hour after, so we are actively working to develop this partnership and hope to continue these efforts in the coming year. Christa exchanged contact information with Kristin LaFollette (MRSG chair) and Amanda Pratt (MRSG communication officer), and they plan to be in close contact.
- We will continue sharing our activities and events on our social media pages (Facebook and Bluesky) and the RHM listserv. The listserv hasn't been working lately, but the RHM Society is working on getting it back up and running.
- We will think about options for next year's MRSG "field trip." The conference will be held in Milwaukee, WI, and we will look into potential venues that would be of interest to RHM scholars.

The MRSG bylaws are included in the pages that follow.

MRSB Bylaws

Article 1: Membership

- Section 1. Membership in the MRSB shall be open to any member of CCCC who wants to join. All members are asked to join the MRSB listserv or arrange for another way to receive information from the list that is accessible to them.
- Section 2. All MRSB members are eligible to serve as officers. All members are eligible to vote for officers (see Article 6).
- Section 3. Members shall be informed of the activities of the MRSB through attendance at the MRSB meeting at CCCC each year, through the listserv, and the Facebook group.

Article 2: Officers

- Section 1. Officers of the MRSB 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 3: 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 MRSB membership via the listserv.
 - Implement the activities of the MRSB at the annual CCCC
 - Submit Business Meeting proposal each year
 - Organize topical program portion of the SG meeting at the CCCC (such as asks speakers to attend and present on a topic)
 - Lead the Business Meeting portion of the SG meeting at the CCCC
 - Serve as the point person/spokesperson for the SG
 - Serve as the primary liaison to the CCCC
- Section 2. Associate Chair
 - Assist the Chair with the duties and activities of the MRSB
 - 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
 - Post relevant notices to all communication channels in compliance with the bylaws
 - Coordinate the activities of the website
 - Manage the communication channels
 - Take 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 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 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 Officer. 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, Bluesky, 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 Chair. 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 8) and will be announced 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.