

Copy Talk



Monthly tips on style and quality

February 2017

Gaffe of the Month



Errr, wasn't it a march for *women's rights*?

OUR BACK ISSUES HAVE A NEW HOME (PAGE)

Have you ever been in the unfortunate position of having a burning editorial question late at night or early in the morning when there are no Nucleus Central editors online? Or perhaps, during lunch or at day's end, you've wanted a little entertainment or edification—or both?

We hope you'll find what you're looking for at the new [Copy Talk home page](#) on my.nucleus. You can browse through our past issues or use the search function in the left-hand menu to help you find the exact answer that's eluding you. And every month you'll find our newest issue posted there.

Enjoy! And please let us know of any ideas you have for making *Copy Talk* even more useful or accessible to you.

PUB HUB: PEER REVIEW AFTER PUBLISHING

We all know the pain of long delays caused by the peer-review process, a process that sometimes ends in rejection or anonymous comments that require extensive revision and leave little room for response. The journal *F1000Research* wants to change all that by using a novel approach for a scientific journal: publication now, peer review later. Articles

submitted to *F1000Research* are published online approximately 7 days after submission; provided they are written in good English and meet ethical and editorial policy standards, there is zero chance of rejection.

After publication, the journal will invite expert peers to provide transparent review. (Authors are asked to provide 5 suggested reviewers.) Reviewers' names and comments are posted with the article, and authors are encouraged to address comments by revising the article and/or adding their own comments. This dialogue allows for an open exchange of ideas, making the articles a richer reading experience.

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IS COMPARED WITH BETTER THAN THAN?

You may have noticed your editor changing *compared with* to *than* and wondered why. From an English grammar standpoint, *than* is considered superior to *compared with* because it results in a clearer, more concise sentence.

One of our reference books, *Essentials of Writing Biomedical Research Papers*, states that *compared* is overused and should be replaced with *than* when a sentence uses a comparator, such as *higher*, *greater*, *lower*, or *less*.

However, we won't always change it, because there are some constructions in which *compared with* is perfectly fine, such as:

In a trial with 200 patients, 65% of patients treated with the study drug achieved complete remission at 6 months *compared with* 50% of patients who received placebo.

BREAKING NEWS!

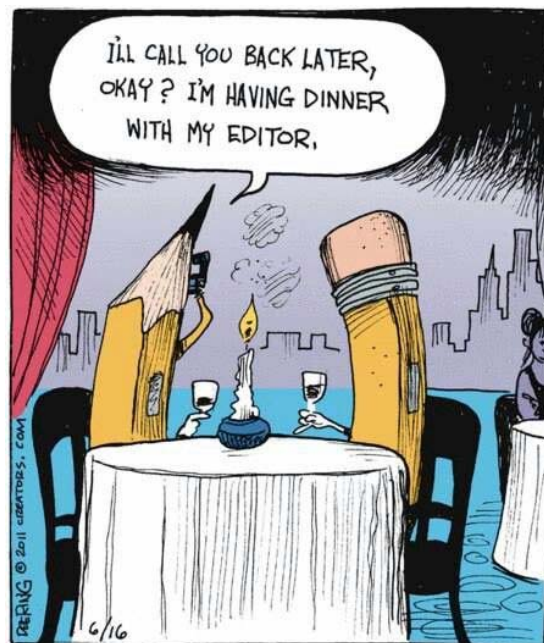
We're heaping on the initials, people! Meredith Weaver has a major new accomplishment: She just earned her master's degree in clinical trial sciences from Rutgers University.

The core clinical trial sciences curriculum gives its graduates a foundational understanding of research design, ethics, drug discovery, and the federal and international regulations governing drug and device development. The program culminates in a capstone project; for hers, Meredith wrote copy and designed a website for the ongoing clinical trials at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School.

For 2 years Meredith has been working in her spare time to earn this degree, spending countless nights and weekends studying and taking tests—not an easy feat! Please join us in congratulating Meredith Weaver, MS!

And finally...

JUST FOR LAUGHS



Hope you're enjoying *Copy Talk*. Let us know: edit@nucleuscentral.com