Annual Meeting Program Highlights
Communicating Science in the 21st Century: Research Integrity from Design to Dissemination and Beyond

From the planning of studies to the presentation of findings in the mass media, science editors encounter issues of integrity regarding research. The CBE 42nd annual meeting, to be held 21-25 May in Montreal, Quebec, will focus largely on such issues. It will also include sessions on other topics of interest to editors in chief, managing editors, manuscript editors, and others.

Plenary Sessions
The keynote speaker for the meeting will be Miriam Schuchman, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation radio reporter and former medical commentator for (US) National Public Radio. Schuchman, who holds a faculty position in psychiatry at the State University of New York at Buffalo, will talk Sunday morning on research integrity and industry sponsorship.

Janice (Ginny) Redish, president of Redish & Associates Inc, will give the Monday plenary session, titled “Evidence-Based Scientific Writing”. Drawing on research in technical communication, Redish will discuss ways to evaluate and improve both general and scientific written communication.

The final plenary speaker, Joe Nickell, of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, will open the Tuesday program. His topic will be “Science Without Integrity: Lessons from Investigating Claims of the Paranormal”.

Concurrent Sessions
The concurrent sessions—some 25 in all, distributed over 5 time slots—will address various aspects of integrity in science and in the communication thereof. Among session topics tied most closely to the conference theme are enforcement of scientific integrity, the mentor-student relationship in research and publication, international integrity issues, the ethics of ghostwriting, scientific conduct and the editorial office, ethical considerations for journal advertising, and research integrity and the media.

A concurrent session titled “Copy Editing: Pet Peeves and Betes Noires” will feature Cheryl Iverson, of the Journal of the American Medical Association, who chaired the committee for the most recent American Medical Association Manual of Style; Lorraine Loviglio, retired manager of manuscript editing for the New England Journal of Medicine and author of “The Word Watcher” in CBE Views; Margaret Mahan, retired managing editor at the University of Chicago Press, who is working on a new edition of The Chicago Manual of Style; and Barbara Wallraf, a senior editor of The Atlantic Monthly and author of its column “Word Court”. Additional topics of concurrent sessions include the relationship between journals and their associations, publishing in developing countries, repositioning of journals, the migration from print to the Internet, and strategies for small journals.

Other Events
CBE short courses for journal editors, managing editors, and manuscript editors will precede Saturday evening’s official opening of the meeting. Tours of Montreal will also be available beforehand.

To help attendees with similar interests connect with one another early in the meeting, the networking breakfasts this year will be on Sunday. The meeting also includes the annual award banquet and annual membership luncheon.

Monday afternoon, participants can attend either a conference-within-a-conference or 1 of 2 concurrent technical workshops. The conference, which continues into the evening, is titled “Authorship in Biomedical Publication: Progress and Challenges”. One technical workshop is on electronic copyediting, the other on manuscript-tracking systems.

Additional events include a “Windows” tour of the Canadian Space Agency, to be held on Tuesday.

The program committee for the meeting is chaired by Margaret Reich Levene. The other members are Tom Lang (vice-chair), Mildred Cho, Tom Ferguson, Cheryl Iverson, Ann Link, David Perrin, C Michael Phillippe, Carole Pippin, Mary Scheetz, Diane Sullenberger, Ana Arias Terry, and Margaret Winker.

If you have not yet registered for the meeting and still can do so, we hope you will join us. In any event, we look forward to bringing you reports on various sessions in upcoming issues of CBE Views.