

# 1997 Annual Meeting Update

## Woodford to Keynote 1997 Meeting



F Peter Woodford

The keynote speaker for the 1997 Annual Meeting, CBE's 40th anniversary meeting, is F Peter Woodford—a man known to long-time CBE members for his many contributions to CBE and to scientists and editors around the world as the author of the long-popular CBE publication *Scientific Writing for Graduate Students*.

His love of science and words was evident as an undergraduate at Oxford University and then at Leeds University, where he attained a PhD in chemistry. After a time with the Royal Air Force, he went to the University of Leiden where he realized that his major interest lay in medicine and where he first became involved seriously in scientific editing as the executive editor of a new journal, the *Journal of Atherosclerosis Research*. In 1962 he took a leave of absence to spend a year at the Rockefeller Institute. This leave eventually led to permanent appointment at the Rockefeller as a researcher in the field of lipids and as the executive editor of the *Journal of Lipid*

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He joined CBE in 1964 and soon became the chair of the Committee on Graduate Training in Scientific Writing, which resulted in his preparation of *Scientific Writing for Graduate Students*. In 1969, Woodford became chairman (now called president) of CBE and, among other accomplishments, set up the committee that developed the criteria for the CBE Meritorious Award, an award presented to Woodford in 1984 when CBE met jointly with the European Life Science Editors (now the European Association of Science Editors, EASE).

While at the Rockefeller Institute, Woodford developed a course in scientific writing for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows that became a model for such courses across the United States and then in Europe. A grant from the National Library of Medicine allowed Woodford to develop a residential 8-month postdoctoral training course at the Rockefeller Institute to enable experienced scientists to become executive editors of biomedical journals; during the 3 years the course was presented, 12 persons received this training.

Next Woodford served as a consultant to and then managing editor (1970-71) of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA*, while continuing to teach his

course at the Rockefeller Institute. After that he moved to London where, among other works, Woodford coauthored with Maeve O'Connor a book titled *Writing Scientific Papers in English*, which was directed toward non-native English speakers. He continued his career in scientific research and scientific administration, accumulating awards and accolades for many and varied accomplishments. Today, he teaches scientific writing at a research institute in Milan and edits a broad range of biomedical works. To these activities, he has added historical research, editing of historical works, and chairing the Hampstead Music Club through which he shares his long-standing expertise and his talent as a pianist, sometimes as part of a chamber group and sometimes as accompanist to temperamental singers.

We look forward to being inspired and educated by this man of many parts whose name is so familiar to virtually all CBE members. Join us in Philadelphia as Woodford shares his insights in the keynote speech, titled "The Book That Launched a Thousand Snips". That book, he emphasizes enigmatically, is **not** *Scientific Writing for Graduate Students*. Woodford will award a prize to the person who can guess what book this could be! Check at the registration desk in Philadelphia for details about the drawing.