

# Task Force Plans Editors' Network for Authorship Training

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Although the 1st purpose of CBE, as stated in the Bylaws, is to "improve communication in the life sciences. . . . by educating authors", CBE has had difficulty identifying a mechanism by which to accomplish that goal. We have made sporadic efforts to take CBE-sponsored workshops into university research centers and scientific societies, but even when these programs have been successful, the impetus to pursue the effort further has been lacking. We return to educating editors, which in itself is an important goal—but is our motivation pure? I have wondered at that, the many times I find myself preaching to the choir.

Determined to rectify neglect of this important aspect of CBE's mission, the CBE Board of Directors has this year approved the appointment of a new task force charged with developing a plan for a program tentatively called the "Editors' Network for Authorship Training". Under the leadership of Addeane Caelleigh as chair, the task force will constitute a small working group whose goal is to develop a plan for a CBE-sponsored network for authorship training within the basic and applied biological sciences, the biomedical and health sciences, and to the maximum extent possible other scientific fields represented in CBE.

The task force to develop an "Editors' Network for Authorship Training" has been given full latitude to devise and propose an original program. The following is 1 possible concept: The core of the network might be a steering committee of CBE members based in academic and research institutions—mainly principal editors of scientific journals but also teachers of scientific writing and research ethics and academic (author's) editors. That steering committee could

- identify senior scientific journal editors located on academic campuses who are willing to act as program coordinators at their institutions; who will identify on their campuses other scientific editors, associate journal editors, teachers of scientific writing and research ethics, and academic (author's) editors; and who will engage those they identify in becoming faculty for activities designed to attract and educate scientific authors and trainees with the goal of improving the reporting of research;
- identify, from CBE activities, the issues, information, and documents that those editors in institutions can make available to senior investigators, educators, and trainees through such interinstitutional activities as panel presentations or seminar series;
- provide continuing support for the pro-

gram coordinators through ongoing encouragement of programs and communication of information and issues from CBE.

To develop a plan to build and maintain a network, the task force must consider a multitude of problems, not the least of which is a means of identifying the editors who will participate, including the editors of society journals that have a rotating editorship and the editors of small journals not listed in major databases. CBE's Website could be used to enhance the communication and, perhaps in the future, could provide for intrainstitutional networking of authors and editors.

CBE has undertaken several major projects during the past few years, ranging from the Editorial Policy Committee's statements on ethical issues in scientific publication, to development of peer-review guideline recommendations, to publication of the new GuideLines series, to the CBE retreats. Together with progress in those programs, the efforts of this task force and the network it envisions can have far-reaching benefits to investigators, educators, and trainees in academic science while expanding CBE's ability to contribute to the education of scientists and to the quality of scientific reporting.