

Committee Roundup

Editorial Policy Committee

Michael Callaham, Chair

The Editorial Policy Committee has added four members this year, including our first European member. There is also now a representative involved in the publishing industry.

The committee has completed the final draft of a policy on conflict of interest and sent it to the Board for review at its next meeting. A draft of a policy on the governance of editors by sponsoring bodies has

been revised and is approaching final status, and a policy on rights and responsibilities of reviewers is also nearly final; both should go to the Board soon for review.

The committee has been working with the National Library of Medicine to



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establish a link from its Web pages to CSE policy statements.

We continue to serve as a resource, answering several questions on the handling of common editorial problems each quarter. (I can be reached at mhc@itsa.ucsf.edu.) This points out again the need for an easily found, authoritative compilation of policies and FAQs for editors and authors alike, many of whom have little formal knowledge of these issues and feel lost in the wilderness.

Education Committee

Annette Flanagin, Chair

The Education Committee is charged with developing educational programs: short courses, workshops, and retreats for editors, publishers, and others interested in the communication of scientific information.

Nancy Taylor is working with Diane Lang, Joan Blumberg, Morna Conway, Penny Hodgson, and Sally Edwards to prepare four short courses to be held just before the 2000 CSE annual meeting in San Antonio. In addition to the courses for manuscript editors, journal editors, and managing editors, a new course for Web editors will be held. Details about the short courses appear on pages 62-63.

Susan Eastwood and the Editor's Network Task Force have developed a program for regional workshops. The first two regional workshops will be held this year and will focus on peer review. The first will be held in

Northern California. Additional information will be available soon.

Margaret Reich, committee vice chair, is investigating opportunities for a CSE retreat to be held in 2001.

Frank Davidoff, chair of the Authorship Task Force, submitted a summary report on the work of the task force, which was created in 1998 to "help resolve some of the current tensions and ambiguities associated with biomedical authorship". The task force established four working groups: (1) a group that produced a white paper describing the issues and controversies relevant to authorship, (2) a research group that is examining the



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data emerging from original research on institutional and journal policies and procedures regarding authorship, (3) a liaison strategy group to identify organizations and constituencies with major interest in biomedical authorship, and (4) a group to plan a conference on biomedical authorship, which was held during the 1999 annual meeting in Montreal. Davidoff's summary report reviews the problems in biomedical authorship, identifies the sources of the problems, and suggests how the problems might be addressed. Comments on Davidoff's summary report have been solicited. The next step for the task force could include collaboration with other societies and organizations. If you have ideas for the Education Committee, feel free to write to me at annette_flanagin@ama-assn.org.

Committee Roundup continued

Membership Committee

Barry Davis, Chair

We in the Membership Committee are preparing for the future of our group as the Council of Science Editors. It is our view that the name change represents a mandate to broaden our reach among editors and publishing professionals. In conjunction with this change we must develop a more structured and professional marketing initiative to provide research, market our group as CSE, and create marketing materials. At the time of this writing, we are searching for an organization that will serve as an outsource group for CSE. It has not been an easy search, but we intend to provide these services at a reasonable cost.

The first CSE membership directory will be available online as well as in its traditional print form within the first quarter of 2000. Please contact Drohan Management Group at 703-437-4377 if you have any difficulties associated with online access to the directory. (Your user name and password will be required.)

We have traditionally offered emeritus membership at no cost to those who have served our group over the course of their entire careers and beyond. A member can qualify for emeritus status if he or she (1) has 30 years of continuous CSE membership, (2) has reached age 65, is retired from regular employment, and has been a CSE member for the previous 5 years, or (3) is incapacitated by illness and has been a CSE member for the past 5 years. Our commitment to maintaining a preferred level of membership for our emeritus members has not changed, but the economics and demographics of our group have indeed changed. We have therefore decided to continue to offer full membership benefits, discounts on annual-meeting fees, *Science Editor*, and so on, to emeritus



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members for an annual price of \$40. (That is \$6 less than the price of a *Science Editor* subscription alone.) Members previously granted emeritus status will not have to pay the fee. We are not far from the time when a substantial portion of CSE members will qualify for emeritus membership. This change is necessary to ensure that we can continue to offer the services valued by all our members.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that I have appointed Stacie Lemick to be vice chair of our committee. Stacie has served on this committee for several years and has worked closely with me in my tenure as chair. She is employed by the American Society of Cell Biology and resides in Columbia, Maryland.

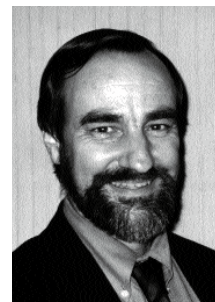
That's about all for now. After we select a marketing group, we'll have much more to write about. Until then, feel free to write to me at bdavis@tsp.sheridan.com with any questions or comments.

Program Committee

Tom Lang, Chair

The 2000 Program Committee is composed of 16 CSE members who represent all the constituencies of CSE: editors of scientific journals in any discipline, editors of biomedical journals, managing editors, manuscript editors, and printers and publishers. The committee met at the 1999 annual meeting in Montreal and generated a list of possible themes and sessions. Through the miracle of e-mail, by consensus we selected the theme and the topics for 30 sessions. Each committee member is responsible for organizing two or three sessions; this involves finding

a GOOD speaker on the topic, writing brief descriptions of the session and its leader(s), and making sure that the leader is present, accounted for, and introduced at the meeting itself. In addition, committee members have to find speakers who can provide their own transportation to San Antonio and bring copies of their own handouts—CSE cannot yet



Tom Lang

subsidize session speakers. Finally, all these activities must be completed under killer deadlines and the iron fist of the program chair.

Serving on the Program Committee is a great way to become more involved in CSE. The time commitment is minimal, the personal and professional rewards great, and the experience invaluable. Get in touch with the chair of the 2001 Program Committee, Ann Link, if you would like to contribute to making the annual meeting the high point of the CSE year.

Publications Committee

Leesa D Bruce, Chair

At the close of 1999, we were pleased to see the completion and publication of *How to Teach Scientific Writing*, by F Peter Woodford. This successor to 1968's *Scientific Writing for Graduate Students* is targeted at those who want to teach scientists how to contribute in a valuable way to scientific communication. Dr Woodford's major concern throughout the book "is not with weak style or even bad grammar, but with sound logic, good structure, and honesty". CSE believes that Dr Woodford succeeds admirably in fulfilling his aim to "help scientists strengthen their mental powers by preparing their publications in a strictly logical fashion, expressing themselves straightforwardly, and working ethically". We are grateful to Maureen E

Goode and Barbara Gastel for their substantial contributions to two of the chapters.

Also hot off the press are the first several titles of the *CSE GuideLines*, a series of thumbnail booklets on issues of interest to CSE members in particular and to the scientific community at large. Each of the titles and authors is affordable, informative, and very easy to use. The first five titles are

- "Editing Grant Proposals", Karen Potvin Klein
- "Levels of Technical Editing", David E Nadziejka



Leesa Bruce

- "Posters and Poster Sessions", Shirley M Peterson, Susan Eastwood
- "The Publication Process at Biomedical Journals", Karen Potvin Klein
- "Editing Science Graphs", Shirley M Peterson

The Publications Committee continues to search for new ways to expand its marketing and promotion efforts on behalf of CSE. We welcome suggestions, comments, or anecdotal information that would help drive the direction of new initiatives. You can reach me at lbruce@cdnpharm.ca.

I extend my continued thanks to all the committee members for their valiant efforts, their dedication, and the time that they devote to bringing these valued publications to fruition.

Sponsorship Committee

Diane Scott-Lichter, Chair

The Sponsorship Committee's role is to acquire funding from corporations, societies, associations, and other groups to support CSE activities and programs. The committee's responsibilities are to obtain sponsorship at various donor levels; to solicit exhibitors and, in conjunction with CSE headquarters, to organize annual-meeting exhibits; to secure grants for publications, educational programs, retreats, and workshops; to raise money through miscellaneous sales; and to undertake special projects as directed by the Board of Directors. The committee determines the levels and benefits of sponsorship on the basis of the history of donations and availability of benefits.

In 1998-1999, the number of groups exhibiting at the annual meeting grew to 20. Twelve sponsors contributed \$16,400 in cash and services. These sponsors are

listed below at their levels of contribution:

Diamond (\$5000 and up): The Sheridan Group Companies; Capital City Press & The Sheridan Press.

Gold (\$1500 to \$2499): Cadmus Journal Services; Impressions Book and Journal Services Inc; The Rockefeller University Press; W B Saunders Company.

Silver (\$1000 to \$1499): Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

Bronze (\$500 to \$999): Elsevier Science; IPC Communication Services; Odyssey Press Inc; Sage Science Press; *Science Magazine*, American Association for the



Diane Scott-

Advancement of Science.

Other (\$250): Edwards Brothers Inc.

Until last year the Sponsorship Committee was a subcommittee of the Membership Committee. However, the Board decided to designate it a full committee to centralize and enhance solicitation efforts. The committee had a successful first year, but we are still in our infancy and there is much we need to build. The committee works under the direction of our Board liaison, Tad Parker, and with the valuable advice and assistance of CSE headquarters. This year's committee consists of only four members: Robert F Kidd, Barbara J Rutledge, Diane Scott-Lichter, and Frank Stumpf. However, I would appreciate hearing from others who might want to join the Sponsorship Committee in our efforts to find ways to support CSE activities. I can be reached at d.scott-lichter@elsevier.com.

Committee Roundup continued

Style Manual Subcommittee

Peggy Robinson and Robert Wilbur,
Cochairs

The Style Manual Subcommittee was confirmed as a standing subcommittee of the Publications Committee after the publication of the sixth edition of the style manual, *Scientific Style and Format (SSF)*. The subcommittee is responsible for producing new editions of the style manual and is working toward publication of the seventh edition in about 3 years. In addition to seeking out updated recommendations in various fields covered by the manual and incorporating this information in later editions, the subcommittee fields inquiries from CSE members and others concerning scientific style. The subcommittee periodically informs members of important changes in style or format recommendations that it feels should not await the next edition, for example, the revision of the recommended number style, published in 1998.¹

Since publication of the sixth edition, the number and types of electronic resources available to scientific researchers have increased exponentially. The SSF



Robert Wilbur and Peggy Robinson

guidelines for citing such resources were appropriate when they were written but are no longer adequate, and we receive many inquiries on this topic. As indicated in chapter 30 of SSF, the formats for references given there are based on the *National Library of Medicine Recommended Formats for Bibliographic Citation*.² NLM has now established comprehensive recommendations for citing electronic resources, which are available in a supplement to the earlier NLM publication. The supplement was slated to be posted at the NLM Web site early in 2000 (to access it, go to the publications page at www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs

[/pubcat.html](#), select “R”, choose “Recommended Formats for Bibliographic Citation”, and follow the link to the supplement). Subcommittee member Karen Patrias, of NLM, plans to describe the rationale for the recommendations in a future issue of *Science Editor*.

In November 1999, SSF was reprinted by the copublisher, Cambridge University Press. This reprinting, the fourth since the initial run of 10 000, brings the total number of copies printed to 21 000. Users have continued to send suggestions for corrections and changes, and another batch of typographic corrections was included in the November reprinting (see list in the next issue of *Science Editor*).

References

1. Number style recommended in *Scientific Style and Format*. CBE Views 1998; 21(1):14-6.
2. National Library of Medicine. 1991. *National Library of Medicine recommended formats for bibliographic citation*. Bethesda (MD): NLM.