

# Authorship Retreat to Accompany Annual Meeting

## **Drummond Rennie, Chair Authorship Task Force**

The Authorship Task Force was formed to deal with the rapid growth of authorship-related problems in research institutions and for journal editors. Under the leadership of Frank Davidoff, editor of *Annals of Internal Medicine*, and under the aegis of the Council, the Authorship Task Force held retreats in Berkeley in February 1998 and Montreal in May 1999. They were attended not just by editors, but also by a number of prominent scientists, university administrators, and other stakeholders in a wide variety of fields. The history, meaning,

and social significance of authorship were fully explored, and recommendations for the future were framed. The task force has proved a powerful agent of change as journals try to develop means to link the two aspects of authorship—credit and accountability—more closely.

The task force, now under my chairmanship, is moving into the second stage, in which the object will be to educate and to promote the implementation of systems to encourage responsible authorship, such as the disclosure of individual authors' contributions to readers. At the CSE annual meeting in Washington DC in 2001, a third retreat will be held. During the 4-

hour session I hope that we will hear short presentations detailing the experiences of editors of journals that have changed their policies. I also hope to get the opinions of authors, editors, scientists, officers of scientific societies, and administrators of research institutions concerning developments and where they think we should be heading.

We are interested in hearing from members of CSE and others who might be interested in giving presentations at this third retreat. Anyone who has relevant information to report is invited to write to me at [rennie@itsa.ucsf.edu](mailto:rennie@itsa.ucsf.edu) or to Margaret Reich at [mreich@aps.faseb.org](mailto:mreich@aps.faseb.org).