

# STC Establishes Journal Editor Fellowship Program

**Linda Wang**

To new or aspiring journal editors: Help is available. The Society for Technical Communication (STC) invites applications for its new Journal Editor Fellowship Program, approved last winter by the society's board of directors. STC ([www.stc-va.org](http://www.stc-va.org)) is a professional organization for technical writers, editors, illustrators, managers, and educators. It has more than 23,000 members in 147 chapters worldwide.

Lottie Applewhite, manager of the Journal Editor Fellowship Committee, says new journal editors often find themselves thrown into their jobs with little or no preparation and have to learn on the fly. This fellowship provides ample opportunity for transition into the role.

Each applicant indicates a peer-reviewed journal and mentor (a working journal editor) that he or she wants to work with. Applicants design their own programs according to their backgrounds and interests. "In planning your own program, you have already made contact with people in editorial positions who can employ you if you're prepared", Applewhite says.

To qualify for a fellowship, applicants

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should have some editorial experience, so they will know what gaps in their background need to be filled. "You know what parts you have and what parts you're missing", Applewhite says. "It's those missing parts that we try to help you fill."

The fellowship was conceived by Applewhite, who herself took a crash course in journal editing when she became the associate editor of the *American Journal*

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*of Sports Medicine*. She says it wasn't enough just to help edit the journal; she also needed to learn how ads were sold and how the publishing group put the journal together.

"This fellowship helps candidates get the big picture they need to be journal editors", says Applewhite. "We make sure they know what each individual does and what each group does to make the journal workable."

Fellows receive a stipend of up to \$10,000 to cover their costs, which may include those of travel, workshops, short courses, and training sessions with their

mentors. They typically spend a year completing their programs, during which they submit progress and financial reports.

Each year, the society will offer fellowships as funding becomes available. This year, it has \$20,000 and expects to have two fellows. Other societies are encouraged to join STC in promoting this fellowship. Donations to the fund are also welcome.

Both members and nonmembers of STC are invited to apply; international applicants are welcome. An applicant may be seeking a career at a peer-reviewed journal in any field.

"We have been searching all around the world for something like this and there's nothing like it", Applewhite says.

Candidates should complete an application form, which should be accompanied by a résumé, a detailed outline of the proposed activities (including starting and ending dates for each), a letter of endorsement from the host journal, an agreement from the mentor, an estimate of funding, and a letter describing goals for the fellowship.

For an application or more information, call or write to Lottie Applewhite at 919-918-3436 or [lottieapplewhite@mindspring.com](mailto:lottieapplewhite@mindspring.com). Applications must be postmarked by 1 March 2001 for programs to begin 1 July 2001.

