

Open Meeting of the Editors' Council Task Force

Moderator:

Mary Scheetz
Office of Research Integrity
Washington, DC

Panelists:

Susan Eastwood
Chair, CSE Editors' Council Task Force
Emeryville, California

Stanley G Korenman
University of California, Los Angeles
Los Angeles, California

Michael Kalichman
University of California, San Diego
San Diego, California

Bruce Dancik
National Research Council of Canada
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Reporter:

David Perrin
Journal of Athletic Training
Columbus, Georgia

The CSE Editors' Council Task Force was established with two key purposes: to provide journal editors at academic institutions who are not able to attend annual CSE meetings with opportunities and resources for improving their journals, and to enlist those editors as a core faculty in their institutions for educational symposia that foster the principles of responsible conduct of research (RCR). For journal editors, the goals of the Editors' Council Task Force are as follows:

- to improve opportunities for inexperienced editors to be in contact with experienced editors within their own institutions,
- to make CSE and RCR resources available to editors, to help them educate associate editors, editorial board members, and peer reviewers, and
- to make the CSE short course for journal editors available to more editors.

The primary goal for institutions is

- to encourage faculty affiliated with journals to use CSE and RCR resources to develop symposia, classes, or other programs for faculty and trainees who will be the next generation of reviewers and editors.

An "Advanced Misconduct Workshop" titled "The Journal's Role in Preventing, Detecting, Investigating, and Correcting Scientific Misconduct", said Mary Scheetz, is being developed with an educational grant from the Office of Research Integrity (ORI) and is scheduled for fall 2003 in the greater Washington, DC, area. During the workshop, RCR principles will be outlined, issues related to RCR will be discussed, and stakeholders will learn about RCR resources and the concept of editors' councils and symposia as mechanisms for fostering RCR and improving the quality of research and reporting in their institutions.

Thus far, the following has been accomplished in establishing the Editors' Council program:

1. A task force has been established with CSE members in five geographic areas interested in developing the editors' council concept.
2. A method has been developed for identifying journal editors in individual institutions.
3. On the basis of four programs presented at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), two model programs have been developed: on editors' convocations and on RCR symposia.
4. Plans are being made for a listserv via the CSE Web site to encourage communication among editors identified through the editors' councils.
5. A half-day regional short course for journal editors has been presented in Northern California.

Stanley G Korenman teaches a 14-hour course at UCLA and is developing a Web-

based course on the role of journals in RCR. He discussed the importance of disclosing conflicts of interest in publishing reports of studies.

Michael Kalichman shared the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) experience and educational programs on RCR. Details of the UCSD Research Ethics Program and examples of the educational sessions can be found at ethics.ucsd.edu.

Bruce Dancik commented on his experience at the regional short course in Northern California and described the Canadian experience and the success of microcourses designed for beginning science editors. He explained the challenge of finding a mechanism to reach more of the people with an interest in ethics and publication issues.

Susan Eastwood reviewed the purpose and goals of the task force and summarized the progress of the CSE Editors' Council in Northern California. The first step in the Northern California experience was to call a convocation of journal editors from research institutions all across the northern sector of the state. Next, several UCSF-UCSD clinical research workshops were conducted. From them, it was learned that the following issues, listed in order of importance, are of interest to participants in academic research institutions: research with humans, writing papers, writing grants, authorship, intellectual property, research misconduct and fraud, and issues related to publication (such as plagiarism), issues related to collaboration, and conflict of interest. A handbook, syllabus, and instructional materials are being developed to help task force members in other areas of the country develop editor convocations, RCR symposia, and half-day short courses for journal editors in their own areas.

To learn more about the fall meeting to be sponsored jointly by CSE and ORI, contact Iain Taylor at iepiep@interchange.ubc.ca. To learn more about the Editors' Council Task Force, contact Susan Eastwood at eastwood@neurosurg.ucsf.edu. 