

2003 CSE Annual Meeting To Address Technologic Impacts and Much More

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The 46th annual CSE meeting in Pittsburgh, 2-6 May 2003, will focus on the impact of technologies of all kinds on the scientific publishing community. Sessions on online submission, Web portals, the use of animation and video on scientific Web sites, interface design, and wireless technologies and their applications for journals are all in the “fast and furious” planning stages. However, the Program Committee is dedicated to making the technologies discussed relevant to all our constituencies—in putting together these sessions about technology, we are always focusing not only on the “what” (What new technologies are out there?) but also on the “why” (Why would my journal/press/institution be interested in such a thing? Why would it improve my professional life?). In particular, we are interested in the long-term impact of new technologies on science publishing and how they might change the very nature of our business and our craft. Long-established institutions—such as the embargo system, the methods of peer review, and the traditional focus on print versions as “the journal of record”—are all being reconsidered as new technologies change our methods of communication. We hope to foster lively debate about these topics.

Rethinking process and workflow is a major part of implementing any change wrought by technology. A session on online submission and peer-review systems will discuss a decision matrix that covers the functionality of the peer-review process to help journals of all sizes and scientific disciplines discover what sort of system is right for them. Another session in the planning stages will talk about the very idea of “workflow”: What is it? Why is it helpful to plot it out?



PHIPPS CONSERVATORY AND BOTANICAL GARDENS

Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, a Pittsburgh attraction, is an 1893 Victorian glasshouse offering plants, butterflies, flowers, and special exhibits.

And Elizabeth Blalock, of the *Journal of Investigative Dermatology*, will speak about “offices in transition”. Moving geographic locations, changing chief editors, and switching publishers all require lots of planning and forethought, not just before the transition but after as well.

This year’s meeting will also take a look at ethics in scientific publishing with sessions on ethical dilemmas for manuscript editors, the social responsibility of journal editors, and initiatives to help people in developing countries access scientific journals. We hope to set aside time in each of these sessions for questions and debate.

The membership of CSE is drawn from every sector of scientific publishing, and the Program Committee has tried to formulate the meeting program to reflect that. In addition to the more “macro-level” sessions on editorial policy, ethics, and the impact of technologies, we will include many practical sessions for manu-

script editors; how to evaluate tables and graphs, how to formulate author queries to get the answers you need, and the special problems of copyediting abstracts are all being discussed as the subjects of sessions.

In 2003, we also plan to revive the “networking breakfast”. This will be a casual opportunity for CSE members and other attendees to get to know each other during Monday’s continental breakfast. We will have tables set up where you can meet (and eat with) other people who work in your field, whether that is copyediting, journal production, editorial-office management, or publishing. We hope that this will foster a greater sense of community among the CSE membership and give us all an opportunity to learn from each other.

The Program Committee continues to work on the program and will bring you more updates, both here and on the CSE Web site, as we get closer to meeting time.