

Annual Meeting Program Highlights Interacting with the Digital Environment: Modern Scientific Publishing

Pittsburgh Hilton and Towers
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The 2003 annual meeting will focus on human-computer interaction and publishing in the digital age. The Program Committee has arranged nearly 40 concurrent sessions that address the interests of editors-in-chief, manuscript editors, managing editors, publishers, production specialists, publishing-technology experts, librarians, researchers, and others. Sunday, 4 May, will open with a keynote address from Stevan Harnad, an expert on archiving and access to scientific information. Harnad is a dynamic speaker and the founder of *Psycology* (an electronic journal sponsored by the American Psychological Association). Some abstracts dealing with his approach to archiving can be found at www.ecs.soton.ac.uk/info/people/harnad.

The other plenary speakers, scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, are Karen Schriver and Robert Weinberg. Schriver, president of KSA Document Design and Research, will discuss what scientific communicators can learn from research in information design. Sensitivity to patterns of visual-verbal integration, Schriver notes, will lead to better-designed and more reader-friendly publications. Weinberg, recipient of a 1997 National Medal of Science and a pioneer in cancer research, discovered the first human oncogene and the first tumor-suppressor gene. He is actively engaged in the public debate on the future of cloning and the scientific importance of therapeutic cloning and will discuss how the cloning debate has been misrepresented

in the press.

The committee has worked hard all year at developing a program that will be of interest to all CSE members. We are lucky this year to have a number of panels and sessions that include speakers in nonbiomedical scientific disciplines, from non-North American countries, and in fields outside what are usually considered the boundaries of "the publishing world." For instance, one session will be presented by librarians who oversee scientific collections, focusing on what publishers can do to improve access to their journals. Another concerns initiatives to provide free scientific-journal access to less-privileged countries, such as HINARI (the Health InterNetwork Access to Research Initiative). Other topics in the seven sets of five concurrent sessions each include the social responsibility of journal editors, how to maintain the integrity of scientific images, securing good press coverage for science journals, working with an editorial board, the unique problems in publishing an online version ahead of a print version, wireless delivery of scientific content, the latest issues in the transfer of copyright from author to publisher, and ethical dilemmas encountered by manuscript editors.

It won't be just business in Pittsburgh, however. Seth Beckerman, our local-arrangements chair, has put together some optional activities that take advantage of the Pittsburgh area's natural beauty and fantastic academic resources. Those interested in both nature and science will have a great time this year: we have trips planned to Powdermill Nature Reserve, one of the largest bird-banding facilities in North America, where field ornithologists will give us a demonstration. The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation at Carnegie Mellon University will give a tour of its collections of books and manuscripts



PHOTO FROM GREATER PITTSBURGH CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

A view of the Pittsburgh skyline

on the history of botany. Attendees will have a chance to participate in collecting samples from and observing Pittsburgh's river ecosystem on board the *Pittsburgh Discovery*, an 80-ft "floating laboratory". And an excursion to two Frank Lloyd Wright homes, including the famous Fallingwater, is planned.

Please plan to take advantage of social opportunities at the meeting and get to know your colleagues at the networking breakfast, a continental breakfast with tables set up according to the various constituencies of CSE. It is a casual, friendly way to meet others in your field and to become more involved in CSE in general. As in years past, the opening reception will take place on Saturday evening, and attendance is another great way to mix and mingle before the busy days of the annual meeting begin.

We look forward to seeing you this May in Pittsburgh!