

Committee Roundup

Education Committee

Jessica Ancker, Chair

Subjects of Education Committee attention in recent months have included two future retreats. Please save the date for the November 2003 retreat on scientific misconduct.

2003 Retreat

A 2-day retreat on "The Journal's Role in Scientific Misconduct" will be held 7-9 November 2003. The retreat is intended to bring together the academic and scientific publishing communities to discuss how journals can respond to and manage allegations of scientific misconduct.

The event is designed to provide a forum for educational discussions of ethical, legal, and pragmatic issues among a broad range of attendees, including academics and new or part-time journal editors who might not be members of CSE.

The event, organized by Faith McLellan, will be held at the Lansdowne Resort and Conference Center near Washington, DC. Planning for the retreat went into high gear last summer when the federal Office of Research Integrity awarded CSE \$20,000 in sponsorship money.

Editors' Network

An Editors' Network symposium on peer review and conflict of interest at the University of California, San Francisco on 6 November 2002

drew 25 attendees. Speakers included Michael Callaham and Lisa Bero. The discussion was structured around a case study. Editors' Network chair Susan Eastwood plans to post her workshop materials on the CSE Web site for other groups to use in organizing Editors' Network meetings.

In addition, Iain Taylor has assembled an interdisciplinary editors' group that meets regularly in Vancouver. The group includes editors of journals in the humanities and the social sciences, as well as medicine and science. He notes that the value of interdisciplinary meetings is in learning about how various disciplines face the same issues. For example, he notes that the concept of conflict of interest among humanities journals is much broader than the concept among science journals; editors recognize "that peer reviewers are almost always in some form of conflict of



Jessica Ancker

interest with an author simply because they are researching in the same field."

CSE headquarters has assembled data suggesting that the Editors' Network activities help CSE's outreach effort. Of 11 attendees at the 2001 Editors' Network meeting in San Francisco, only two were already CSE members. After attending the meeting, two of the others joined CSE, and one attended a short course.

Short Course Directors

Short Course Director Diane Lang has appointed new course directors for all the vacancies. The directors for the May 2003 courses are Robert Utiger for the short course for journal editors, Cheryl Iverson for the course for managing editors, Margaret Perkins for the course for manuscript editors, and Nancy Wachter for electronic publishing solutions. (For more about plans for the short courses, see page 65.)

New Retreat

The committee has approved a proposal by CSE President Annette Flanagan for a new retreat on conflict of interest to be arranged after the misconduct retreat. Flanagan and Drummond Rennie will assist in developing the retreat.

Committee Roundup continued

Membership Committee

Diane Scott-Lichter, Chair

The Membership Committee's role is to retain and recruit members. To fulfill that role, the Council of Science Editors must first serve the needs of its membership. The Council offers many tangible benefits of membership, including the following free or at discounted fees:

- Annual meeting.
- Short courses, retreats, and seminars.
- Publications (for example, books and guidelines).
- Membership directory available in print and online.
- *Science Editor*—a bimonthly journal.
- Web site (www.CouncilScienceEditors.org) with career-related information, events, and job postings.

However, there are also many intangible benefits of membership, including the following:

- Joining a community of fellow editors and publishers and becoming part of a network of professional support.
- Advancing your career by implementing the best practices shared by your colleagues.
- Receiving a continual flow of information on new technologies, editorial policies and procedures, publishing trends, and ethical and legal con-

cerns.

The most recent biennial print version of the Council's membership directory became available in December 2002; the directory also is updated on www.CouncilScienceEditors.org. In addition to the gratitude due the Council's management company, Drohan Management Group, for its work on the directory, thanks go to volunteers Roxanne Young and Cheryl Iverson for their many hours of editing the directory to ensure that the information in it is complete and consistent.

In an effort to reclaim members who had let their membership lapse, the committee enlisted the help of the Council's officers, board members, and committee chairs to contact personally each member who did not renew his or her membership in 2002.

To expand the Council's membership base, the committee collected the names of more than 700 medical and scientific editors from around the world. A targeted e-mail letter was sent to them,



Diane Scott-Lichter

inviting them to join their fellow editors and publishing colleagues as members of the Council. Also, a recruitment mailing is being sent to nonmembers who have attended a recent workshop, retreat, or seminar organized by the Council.

Membership dues increased modestly for 2003. Dues are now \$130 for US and \$160 for non-US members and \$35 for both US and non-US students. The dues renewal form has been revised.

The committee will continue to work with Barbara Meyers, who has been engaged as the Council's adjunct director of marketing. The results of Barbara's work will help us learn more about what our members want from the Council, tell us how we can reach potential members, and prepare informational marketing materials for distribution.

I invite you to contact me or any member of the Membership Committee. We are fortunate to have a dedicated group of members serving the Council, including Lisande Bissonette (vice chair), Lori Barber, E Ann Donaldson, Richard Horton, and Cheryl Taub. We would very much appreciate hearing from you regarding what you especially value about membership in the Council and suggestions for improving it.

Program Committee

Brenda Gregoline, Chair

I admit to being pretty nervous serving as chair of the 2003 Program Committee. I served as cochair with Jessica Ancker last year and got a feel for the process (aided by her helpful tips and awesome organizational powers), but the challenge of planning a meeting that would appeal to all our diverse members seemed daunting. A happy surprise has been the free flow of ideas and the amazing efficiency and competence of the rest of the committee.

The Program Committee met for a brainstorming session during the 2002 annual meeting in San Diego. After about 2 hours of discussion of possible speakers and sessions, a theme of sorts began to emerge: many of our sessions are about the special challenges of publishing in this digital age and about the interface between

humans and computers in scientific communication. I received many ideas in the following weeks for keynote speakers and sessions, and I generated a huge numbered list of session ideas, which was circulated via e-mail with people's comments. In midsummer, the list was converted into a more time-oriented format while we started to try to put sessions into time slots. This was invaluable in getting a feel for how the conference will work as a whole (that is, are there sessions in each set that will appeal to our different types of members?). Committee members in the meantime were hard at work putting sessions together and e-mailing me infor-



Brenda Gregoline

mation on the presenters.

Although some of our top choices turned out to have other commitments, we have lined up a fine array of speakers. I feel lucky to be working down the hall from CSE President Annette Flanagin—her energy, contacts, and advice have been wonderfully useful in planning and organizing this giant project. The 2003 annual meeting will truly have been a group effort. Although it's up to me to "direct traffic", all the sessions have been coordinated by committee members, and their combined experience and dedication are what makes the annual meeting work. We look forward to seeing you in Pittsburgh!

Publications Committee

Cheryl Smart, Chair Todd Hummel, Vice-Chair

A newly formed Publications Committee—consisting of Cheryl Smart, Todd Hummel, Barbara Good, Ed Huth, Maya Flikop, Melissa Durborow, and Sharon Naron—met for the first time at the CSE meeting in San Diego. With guidance from Michael Held, the committee moved toward developing a new mission statement, as follows:

VISION: To acquire and extend, through information products in any medium, CSE's mission to improve communication in the sciences by

informing and educating authors, editors, and publishers.

PURPOSE: To review and recommend to the CSE Board of Directors the publication and sale and/or distribution of information products relevant to CSE's mission, total publications to financially produce, at a minimum, a revenue neutral budget.

In addition, the committee was assigned to complete a review of all previously published CSE guidelines and books. To facilitate review of existing and proposed projects, a standard review form was developed and implemented for immedi-

ate review of existing products. The committee's recommendations were presented to the CSE Board, and three books have been identified for revision, including *Financial Management of Scientific Journals*, *Illustrating Science*, and *Editorial Forms*. In addition, the vice-chair of the committee headed an RFP for publication of the seventh edition of *Scientific Style and Format* and will prepare and send an additional RFP related to development of a Web version of the book. As the year progresses, it is expected that the Publications Committee will be actively reviewing new projects for publication by CSE.

Committee Roundup *continued*

Sponsorship Committee

Devora Mitrany, Chair

The Sponsorship Committee generates revenue for CSE by offering attractive opportunities to organizations interested in supporting CSE programs. Our two major approaches are obtaining sponsorship of CSE activities and recruiting exhibitors for the annual meeting.

We have an excellent committee this year. Joining me are Vice-Chair Dana St John, Past Chair Frank Stumpf, and members Tom Kelly, Peter Kirby, and Paul Weislogel. In addition, our board liaison, Stephen Prudhomme, actively participates in our efforts.

Contact New Prospects. In keeping with the broadening of CSE's member base, we are expanding the list of pro-

spective sponsors and exhibitors to include technology and freight companies, subscriber services, small software companies, the US Postal Service, and others.

Integrate Sponsor and Exhibit Materials. We are also combining the exhibit and sponsorship materials into one integrated packet. This will save money on mailing costs and encourage exhibitors to become sponsors as well. To help prospective exhibitors to plan ahead, we are also including the dates and location of the 2004 annual meeting.



Devora Mitrany

Increase Traffic. With CSE Executive Director Kathy Hoskins and Program Committee Chair Brenda Gregoline, we are planning to make the exhibits a more integral part of the conference venue to increase traffic for our exhibitors. New exhibitor activities will create several sponsor opportunities and provide some exciting raffle prizes for annual-meeting attendees—a win-win situation for CSE.

Revenue Goals. This year, the Sponsorship Committee has been asked to raise \$12,000 in exhibitor fees and \$10,000 in sponsorships, a \$1,000 increase over last year in each category. We are working hard and planning ahead so that we can exceed those goals.

Style Manual Subcommittee

Peggy Robinson, Chair Karen Patrias, Vice-Chair

We hope that those of you with an interest in the intricacies of citing electronic resources noticed Karen Patrias' article in the May-June 2002 issue of *Science Editor* (25[3]:90-2). In addition to outlining the essential elements of such citations, Karen explained why some new elements, such as medium designators and availability statements, are important. These topics will all be covered in the chapter on citations and references of the next edition of *Scientific Style and Format*, and we hope that this advance information proves helpful.

At a session during the 2002 CSE annual meeting, we were pleased to join



Peggy Robinson and Karen Patrias

representatives of other style manuals—from the American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association, and the American Physiological Society—for a discussion of how technologic innovations affect the content and presentation of style manuals (see *Science Editor* 25[5]:160). We emphasized that regardless of presentation format, be it

print or online, adherence to standards and established conventions should help to make scientific information comprehensible within and across disciplines.

The Style Manual Subcommittee continues its work of drafting, revising, and reviewing material for the next edition. We appreciate the input we've received to date from numerous CSE members and nonmember experts. One of our current challenges is selecting the appropriate level of detail for an overview manual of this type—enough to give authors and editors the guidance they need but not so much as to make the manual unwieldy.

We appreciate the work of the SSF Task Force, which has been examining a variety of options for publication of the manual, allowing us to focus on the content.