

## From the President

If your life is anything like mine, just treading water in our current sea of information—blogs, listservs, and e-mail, arriving courtesy of an ever-increasing number of devices—has become a Sisyphean task. So when I read recently that data from the Hubble telescope confirm that the universe is expanding, thanks to “a dark unseen energy”, I wasn’t the least bit surprised.

The universe of scientific editing also appears to be expanding. A short list of current editorial issues might include the effect of government regulation on journals; conflicts of interest among authors, editors, and funding agencies; and the increasing entanglement of science, academia, and industry. Editors are increasingly facing ethically difficult cases. Open access is challenging all aspects of scientific publishing. And in the United States, editors are now

snared in a bewildering web of regulations governing trade with countries against which the United States has embargoes. Big Brother, apparently bored with export duties and the like, has now turned his gaze toward editing, reviewing, and scientific conferences.

Those issues represent an expansion of our editorial universe. Can CSE keep up? We are facing a test of relevance. To meet the challenges, we must strengthen and speed up the communication of our expertise, both within and, crucially, beyond our relatively small community. I envision this happening through special projects, educational programs, editorial policy, and electronic resources.

Two special projects have already begun: a partnership with African journals and a task force on journals, poverty, and human development. These will enlarge the scope of our

outreach and provide opportunities for us to learn from colleagues around the world. Another task force will explore the possibility of establishing a mentoring program that would pair newly appointed editors with experienced ones.

The annual meeting, *Science Editor*, our other publications, and the Web site will continue to anchor our educational mission. I will also ask the Education Committee to devise a blueprint for expanding our other forums for debate—retreats, short courses, and workshops—and for exploring other venues for presenting them, such as the annual meetings of professional organizations in science and medicine.

Because editors are clearly clamoring for guidance and resources to help them address the increasingly complex problems they face, we will renew our efforts in editorial policy

development. An expanded committee will review and revise our current policies and formulate new ones. I will also ask this committee, in conjunction with the Web Committee, to create a plan that fully exploits our Web site and listserv capabilities in developing and disseminating policy statements.

Those are tall orders in an organization of volunteers. In times of rapid change, we may be tempted to hunker down and keep doing only what is tried and tested and feels safe. But I believe it is critical to engage more deeply with our expanding universe, tethering ourselves to our historical strengths while using them as a base for exploring new ideas, programs, and activities. I am confident that CSE will rise to the challenges.

**Faith McLellan**

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