

## ◆ Vancouver, Revisited

In 1978, a small group of editors of medical journals met informally in Vancouver to establish guidelines for manuscript submission to their journals. The group became known as the Vancouver group. Over time, the group evolved into the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE), and its concerns grew to extend beyond manuscript preparation to ethics and other key policy issues.

At our welcome reception in Vancouver, I watched CSE members coalesce. The Council of Biology Editors had evolved from a founding group focused on biomedical issues to a more comprehensive group, the Council of Science

Editors, to meet the needs of its constituency.

As we formed the Program Committee, we sought to reflect the diverse scientific disciplines and the international membership of CSE. I was impressed by the wealth of expertise and dedication that each committee member brought to the job. And I am deeply indebted to them for their tireless efforts throughout the process of shaping the annual-meeting program.

In structuring the program, we set out to address the needs of journal editors, managing editors, manuscript editors, publishers, and vendors involved in the rapidly changing and challenging arena of scientific com-

munications—no easy feat when the technology around you and the ground under you are constantly shifting.

Out of the many discussions and e-mails that ensued, we crafted 30 sessions that provided updates, introduced new topics, and offered solutions to problems from the wide-ranging panels of experts. The theme of public access to science constituted a thread that connected the dialogue from panel speakers to keynote and



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plenary speakers, and the dialogue continued well after the days' events.

In looking back at my experience as Program Committee chair, I see the lessons learned through the process as very rewarding; and I came away from the meeting armed with the remnants of provocative dialogue, of process set in motion. Science is a global enterprise. It's not the coda, but an organic body of knowledge.

**Christine A Arturo**

*CHRISTINE A ARTURO chaired the 2004 Program Committee. She extends best wishes to the chair of the 2005 Program Committee, Joy Moore.*

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