

IFSE-12 Meets in Mexico; Public Perspective Included

Luis Benítez-Bribiesca

The 12th International Conference of Science Editors (IFSE-12) was held in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico on 10-14 October 2004.

The organizing committee included distinguished science editors from Mexico and other countries: Luis Benítez-Bribiesca, president; Gladys Faba, secretary; Homero Martínez, treasurer; Jorge Flores, for international affairs; Onofre Muñoz-Hernández, for national affairs; Zhiying QI, for Asia; Lewis Greene, for Latin America; and Miriam Balaban, for Africa and the Middle East.

There were some 200 registrants for the conference. Participants came from Mexico, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, China, Kenya, Spain, France, Switzerland, Israel,

LUIS BENÍTEZ-BRIBIESCA is editor of Archives of Medical Research.

Canada, Argentina, and the United States.

The organizing committee, aware of the need to discuss and face new challenges in scientific editing, prepared a program of eight panels and three plenary lectures with invited lecturers who were experts in their fields and who represented a number of nations worldwide. Among topics addressed were the drawbacks of publishing science in developing countries, the benefits of open access and electronic publishing, aspects of publishing in the social sciences, and the increasing problems related to ethics in scientific publication. For perhaps the first time in these conferences, the problems of bringing science to the mass media and the role of editors in translating science for the public were discussed.

The poster sessions served as an open forum for presenting a variety of experiences related to scientific editing. We wit-

nessed lively and intense discussion from the audience at the conference, which enriched the conference and promoted the emergence of new ideas.

We were proud to see that during the 3 days of our conference there was great attendance and active participation by the public. When the current report went to press, it was expected that all presentations would soon be available at www.ifsemex.org. Because of the great interest in the presentations, a book with full-length manuscripts is being prepared. We expect the book to be ready by about the middle of 2005.

The social program was no less interesting. The local authorities rolled out the red carpet and provided all the facilities so that our guests could witness the richness of Yucatan folklore and experience the grandeur of the Mayan ruins, some of the most spectacular remains of Mesoamerican civilizations. 

Advertise in color in *Science Editor!*

For more information, please contact
CSE headquarters,
phone (703) 437-4377,
e-mail CSE@CouncilScienceEditors.org