

2005 Annual Meeting to Address Editing Science for the Global Community

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The first time I attended a CSE meeting (well, back then it was CBE), I was managing the two-person editorial office of an international biomedical journal in Geneva, Switzerland. I had been working in publishing for only a couple of years and had learned everything on the job, making up a lot as I went along. We had developed our own Web-based peer-review system, and I was invited to present as part of a panel. I had no idea what to expect, and I was a bit overwhelmed when the audience for our session not only filled the seats but also spilled over into the aisles and even peered in through the doorway. I was amazed to learn that what I was doing in our little office in Geneva was of interest to so many other people. Furthermore, as I attended sessions over the following days, I learned an enormous amount, from practical aspects of journal management to overall issues within the scientific-journal community.

I was definitely not alone. In talking to colleagues about their CSE-meeting experiences, I found that for many, connecting with the community is a key benefit. Barbara Gastel told me that “the CSE annual meeting is a highlight of my year. Of course, the sessions are great for keeping up in the field. Also, I always look forward to seeing old friends and colleagues—and getting to know new people—at the annual meeting.” The CSE annual meeting is a place for all of us who work so hard within the spheres of

our individual journals and organizations to take a few days to share what we know, learn from others, and think about the big picture of science editing. This year’s meeting in Atlanta will be the perfect opportunity to do just that. The theme is “Communicating Science: Serving the Global Community”, focusing on the role of science editing in global health and environmental issues.

Atlanta is a fitting location for a conference on such a theme: With the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CNN, and the Carter Center, it is a city that plays a major role in scientific communication and outreach. Our program committee has worked hard to recruit speakers to share their knowledge on a number of topics that will explore the connections between the day-to-day work we do and the world we live in, from the ever-popular science for public consumption to the relationship between science and governments to authorship and editing in the developing world. Other sessions will bring you the latest developments and give you a chance to weigh in on policy-related issues that affect what we do, such as funding of science and registering clinical trials. We will also bring you the cold hard facts about such questions as what readers and librarians think about journals and what to expect from offshore outsourcing. You will have the opportunity to learn about the latest technologic advances in online publishing and about time-tested fundamentals of good science editing.

The meeting location in downtown

Atlanta gives those from other parts of the world the chance to discover an exciting city. Go behind the scenes at CNN, experience the beauty of the Atlanta Botanical Garden through the conference tours, and head out on your own or with friends to visit Centennial Olympic Park, the Carter Center and Library, the Michael C Carlos Museum on the campus of Emory University, or the World of Coca-Cola—there truly is something for everyone.

It’s been nearly 9 years and many job changes since my first CSE meeting, and I too feel that learning and sharing with a community of colleagues has been extremely valuable to me as I’ve learned and grown in my career. Likewise for Pritt Tamber of BioMed Central: “Sometimes during CSE meetings, you feel like you’ve heard it all before. But when you get back to the office, you slowly realize that what you’ve acquired is a more thorough understanding of the medical and science publishing field. And that gives you greater confidence and makes you more effective in your day-to-day work.”

If you’ve attended any of our recent meetings, you can count on CSE to once again raise the bar in terms of quality. If you haven’t been in a while, you should definitely come back. And if you’ve never been to a CSE meeting, please join us in Atlanta to explore science editing for the global community and to experience the unique community of the CSE for yourself.