

Della Mundy to Retire as Solution Corner Columnist

Claudia Clark

Della Mundy steps down after this issue as the editor of the Solution Corner column, completing a decade in this role. Barbara Gastel, editor of *Science Editor*, notes that “Solution Corner has exposed readers to experts’ thinking on a wide variety of editorial issues”. (See table for a list of column topics.) She adds, “I’m grateful to Della for all she devoted to this column.”

During the years she has edited the column, Mundy has been the principal editor at the Kaiser Foundation Research Institute, where she has worked since 1976. Previously, she worked at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, where she started as a part-time Russian-to-English translator and moved into a position—created for her—as a technical writer in the biomedical group, “translating English to English”. Mundy, who joined CSE in 1980, currently serves on the CSE Editorial Policy Committee, and she has also served on CSE’s author’s editors committee. At CSE annual meetings, she has spoken

CLAUDIA CLARK prepared this article while a *Science Editor* intern.

about manuscript tracking, authorship and acknowledgment policies, and copyright issues.

In editing Solution Corner, Mundy says she has faced many challenges: making sure situations described do not permit identification of any person or institution involved, asking questions on diverse topics, obtaining varied questions on topics of perennial interest, finding experts in a wide range of scientific disciplines, and persuading enough experts to respond. Martha Tacker, editor of *CBE Views* (the predecessor to *Science Editor*) when Mundy began, says, “What really impressed me was Della’s willingness to do this often-complex task for a number of years. I could rely on her.”

Mundy says she has enjoyed her work on Solution Corner for it reflects her devotion to scientific editing: “Communication is the most fascinating thing going on around us. We all struggle with it, and it’s a joy when it works.” She has also “loved”



Della Mundy

the journalistic part of the work and has learned to “keep her ears open” for topics while at meetings and online. She has been able to prepare columns on her favorite topics—developing policies for authorship and acknowledgment—and the opportunity to prepare columns on topics she knows very little about has been “fascinating”. Finally, she has met many people through her role: “It’s not unusual for people to recognize me and say ‘Hi, Della!’ at meetings when I don’t know them!”

After stepping down, Mundy would like to do “something else” for *Science Editor*. She hopes, however, that the journal will continue to run this column or a similar one; she wants to see “everyone else’s questions”. She also thanks everyone who has generously responded over the last 10 years. In the meantime, *Science Editor* thanks Mundy herself for her work on Solution Corner. 🙏

Editor’s Note: In coming months, the *Science Editor* office will produce Solution Corner. Readers interested in editing the column thereafter should contact Barbara Gastel at b-gastel@tamu.edu.

Topics of Solution Corner Columns in *CBE Views* (1996-1999) and *Science Editor*

Compiled by Jamie De Gregory

| Year | Vol(No) | Page(s) | Title | Topic |
|------|---------|----------|---|--|
| 1996 | 19(1) | 166-7 | Prepublication Release of Information | Effect of Internet posting on later publication elsewhere |
| | 19(2) | 35 | Redundant Publication | Preparing multiple papers on same study with different readerships in mind |
| | 19(3) | 56 | Best Style for Submissions | Effect of paper's editorial style on acceptance |
| | 19(4) | 93 | Lack of Attribution | Correcting omission of attribution in description of research |
| | 19(6) | 159 | A Question of Originality | Ensuring that author providing permission for reproduction is originator of work |
| 1997 | 20(1) | 24-5 | The Borrowed Image | Dealing with person who wants to use photos of another's public presentation as evidence to support his own research |
| | 20(2) | 64-5 | A Question of Believability | Dealing with author group's internal disputes about publication |
| | 20(3) | 106 | A Question of Interpretation | Withdrawing permission to reproduce figure |
| | 20(4) | 146-7 | Use of a Photograph of You—Is it Legal? | Dealing with inclusion of your photograph in publication that did not first seek your permission |
| | 20(5) | 167-8 | A Question of Credit | Receiving proper authorship credit for freelance article with client coauthors |
| | 20(6) | 199-200 | Lead-Author Responsibility | Delaying publication of presentation abstract pending resolution of authorship dispute |
| 1998 | 21(2) | 69-71 | A Question of Motivation | Motivating editors after downsizing; measuring job performance |
| | 21(3) | 94-5 | A Question of Territory | Responsibility for scientific content—journal vs author |
| | 21(4) | 124-5 | A Question of Time | Reasonable publication schedule for journal article |
| | 21(5) | 169-71 | Worthwhile Duplicate Publication? | Publishing similar articles from same series |
| | 21(6) | 211-4 | A Question of Reimbursement | Recharge system for editorial services |
| 1999 | 22(2) | 53-4 | A Question of Consent | Responsibility to seek institutional review board approval |
| | 22(3) | 88-9 | A Question of Reviewer Confidentiality | Access of new editor who has published in journal to information on identity of peer reviewers |
| | 22(4) | 127-8 | A Question of Courtesy | Inclusion in book review of material from personal interactions between author and book reviewer |
| | 22(5) | 166-7 | A Question of Terminology | Labeling demographic groups |
| | 22(6) | 205, 207 | A Question of Protocol | Soliciting critical appraisals of book manuscripts before submission to publisher |
| 2000 | 23(1) | 21-2 | A Question of Patient Consent | Submitting manuscript without signed consent of potentially identifiable patients from group treatment session |
| | 23(2) | 57-8 | A Practical Question | Contradictory peer-reviewer recommendations |

Mundy continued

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|------|-------|--------|--------------------------------------|--|
| | 23(3) | 97-9 | A Question of Participation | Removal of author who is no longer involved in project |
| | 23(4) | 135-6 | A Question of the Reader | Performing readership survey for international journal |
| | 23(5) | 168-9 | A Question of Internal Validity | Timing involvement of editor in paper that needs statistical and writing help; deciding on extent of editorial assistance |
| | 23(6) | 205-7 | A Question of Impact | Resources about relevance and use of impact factors in selecting journal to publish in |
| 2001 | 24(1) | 10-1 | A Question of External Validity | Comments related to two <i>Science Editor</i> articles, on reasons for rejection of manuscripts and on authorship vs anonymity |
| | 24(2) | 57-8 | A Question of Review | Author dispute regarding book review |
| | 24(3) | 100 | A Question of Ownership | Erratum for missing institutional listing for article in National Library of Medicine's PubMed database |
| | 24(4) | 131-2 | A Question of Testing | Materials to develop copyediting and proofreading tests |
| | 24(5) | 167-8 | A Question of Study Population | Addressing questions about study that arise during publication process but after author's death |
| | 24(6) | 203-4 | A Question of Conflict of Interest | Appropriate actions when peer reviewer discovers possible conflict of interest |
| 2002 | 25(1) | 25-6 | A Question of Response Rate | Acceptable response rates to survey for publication in medical journal |
| | 25(2) | 58-9 | A Question of Missing Acknowledgment | Acknowledging assistance on illustration; possible need for copyright permission |
| | 25(3) | 99 | A Question of Permission | Permission to reprint article when copyright holder is not clear |
| | 25(4) | 135-6 | A Question of Transfer | Trying to use illustrations from author who has removed himself from project |
| | 25(5) | 166-7 | A Question of Coordination | Handling copyright transfer on behalf of authors at for-profit corporation |
| 2003 | 26(1) | 23-4 | A Question of Institutional Review | Author-editor disagreement about need for institutional review board approval |
| | 26(2) | 60-1 | A Question of Font | When mathematical symbols and Greek letters are not included in fonts used for online submission |
| | 26(3) | 101-2 | A Question of Time Management | Balancing numerous commitments without losing new client |
| | 26(4) | 135-6 | A Question of Teaching Punctuation | Learning correct use of hyphens, en dashes, em dashes, and other tricky punctuation |
| | 26(5) | 169-70 | A Question of Science Writing | Reporting on new medical treatments with accuracy and fairness |
| 2004 | 27(1) | 29-30 | A Question of Data Security | Data security concerns and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) regulations |
| | 27(2) | 57-8 | A Question of Electronic Add-ons | Supplementary Web content for journal |
| | 27(4) | 130-2 | A Question of Design | Redesigning publications |
| | 27(5) | 167-8 | A Question of Replication | Options when published data cannot be replicated |
| 2005 | 28(1) | 27 | A Question of Dialect | Usage of <i>quantitate</i> , <i>quantify</i> , and <i>measure</i> |
| | 28(3) | 101 | A Question of Volume | Productivity rates of manuscript editors; charges for manuscript editing |

JAMIE DE GREGORY compiled this table while a *Science Editor* intern.