

CSE 2006: A Global Perspective You Shouldn't Miss

Devora Krischer
Program Committee Chair

The excitement is building, as all the elements of the 49th annual meeting fall into place. We have three world-class plenary speakers and plenary-caliber speakers at many of the sessions. This year's conference, to be held 19-23 May in Tampa, Florida, will challenge your assumptions and plant exciting new ideas in your mind. The conference theme is "Working Toward a Sustainable, Equitable World", and we're going to give you ideas on just how you can do that—as a journal editor and as an individual member of the human race. The problems may seem intractable, but you are going to meet some of the brightest minds on the planet, who are working, every day, to create innovative solutions to the many challenges faced by our least fortunate brothers and sisters in the developing world.

Gary H Toenniessen, director of food security for the Rockefeller Foundation, is one of the original architects of the Rockefeller Foundation Rice Biotechnology Research Program initiated in 1984. He has spearheaded the development of bioengineered Golden Rice, which contains essential beta-carotene in its edible endosperm. Preventable blindness caused by vitamin A deficiency afflicts 250,000 to 500,000 children every year—and more than half those children die within a year, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).¹ Toenniessen will update us on the latest developments in our plenary session on Monday, 22 May.

Our Tuesday plenary speaker, Frank Tugwell, has spent his professional life working toward the alleviation of poverty by providing renewable energy to rural populations around the globe. As president and chief executive officer of Winrock International, a private nonprofit development organization, he oversees worldwide projects for sustainable development and poverty alleviation. Winrock works to increase agricultural productivity and rural employment while protecting the environ-

ment. "We have long known that there is a relationship between energy services and malnutrition, illiteracy, and unhealthy living conditions", Tugwell has said. "Energy can, in fact, serve as a critical catalyst of development. Its role is often causal, rather than simply a result of growth."²

The legendary E O Wilson will open the meeting on Sunday, 21 May. A world-renowned expert on ants, Wilson and his coauthor won the Pulitzer Prize for their scholarly tome *The Ants*. Wilson won a second Pulitzer for his most recent book, *The Future of Life*. His wide-ranging intellect ventures freely across disciplines, and he is known as the father of sociobiology. These days, Wilson is a conservation activist and champion of biodiversity. His take on our conference theme will be memorable and enlightening.

Central to the meeting, on Monday afternoon, is a half-day retreat organized by the Task Force on Science Journals, Poverty, and Human Development. Chair Paul Bozuwa and the task force members have come up with some outstanding speakers and will be tackling the issues that confront journal editors. The speakers will also provide some practical suggestions for us to use in aiding our counterparts in the developing world. After a review of task force accomplishments, Ana Marusic will moderate a session on building research and publishing capacity. Speakers from both the developed and developing worlds will speak about AuthorAID, the African Journal Partnership, and the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP). After the break, Richard Horton will moderate a session on devoting pages to developing-world topics, with David Dickson, of *SciDev.Net*, discussing the interfaces among science, development, and technology and Annette Flanagan outlining her challenge to 100 science journals to publish simultaneous issues that address poverty and the alleviation of human suffering.

The last session of the retreat, moderated by Monica Bradford, will examine access

to information from Western and developing-world sources. Other annual-meeting sessions will address that topic from slightly different angles, including technology that will make scientific literature available globally, how you may be able to participate in an international publishing partnership, and views from the trenches presented by our scholarship recipients and Latin American editors—including the groundbreaking Salvador Declaration on Open Access: The Developing World Perspective, which was ratified in Brazil last September.

In another session that addresses the annual-meeting theme, organized by Elizabeth L Fleischer, visionaries Colin Humphreys and V S Arunachalam will talk about present and future technologic advances for alleviating poverty. The title of another session asks, "Is your journal worth the paper it's printed on?" Panelists will talk about paper—probably the natural resource most used by our journals—and how to find 100% recycled paper that will do the job just as well at the same or lower cost.

If your interests lie in more traditional CSE topics, we'll have plenty of those as well. Chair Diane Scott-Lichter and members of the Editorial Policy Committee are planning a half-day, hands-on Ethics Clinic to be held on Sunday afternoon. Three sessions will focus on journals and the Internet: widening your journal's Web horizons, capturing and using Web statistics, and how readers search, find, and use Web information. We'll update you on the latest technology, discuss how to create effective graphics and figures, and introduce you to some of the most influential women in science and publishing, who will share their stories.

Intrigued? We hope so. And we look forward to seeing you in Tampa!

References

1. Golden Rice. www.goldenrice.org/index.html. Accessed 22 November 2005.
2. Tugwell F. Village power speech. www.rsvp.nrel.gov/vpconference/vp2000/vp2000_conference/new_vision_frank_tugwell.pdf. Accessed 22 November 2005.