

## From the President

When I ran for vice president of CSE, I didn't realize that its 50th birthday and mine would occur in the same year. One such approaching milestone might have caused me some reflection, but having professional and personal anniversaries arrive together has led to true introspection. So much has changed! Yet at the core, everything remains the same. Facing the big Five Oh, I must wonder whether I have made a difference and whether my contributions will remain relevant. As members, we must ask the same questions about CSE, an organization we have worked hard to sustain.

I attended my first Council of Biology Editors meeting in the early 1980s when CBE was reflecting on its first 25 years and making plans to meet future needs. I remember sessions touting copyright transfer and SGML—and being unsure

why I should care. I worked for the American Chemical Society (ACS) then and was among the few attendees outside biomedical publishing. However, ACS developed an early computerized manuscript-tracking system, so we were sought as speakers. CBE meetings exposed me to all areas of editing and introduced me to time-tested standards of my profession while disclosing exciting challenges. For me, those early experiences typify the value of CSE—a value that remains.

Fast forward 25 years. I find much to be the same. The Internet has resulted in new ways to communicate science, but the core functions of our profession remain. Peer review occupies the center of our world, although methods and practices related to it are still scrutinized and tested. Translating scientific knowl-

edge to the public in hopes of informing and shaping global actions is critical. The vocabulary of science has become more arcane, making the need for skilled editors even greater. We've just published the 7th edition of *Scientific Style and Format* and are glad the book remains a valued resource for meeting those goals.

CSE's role as a convener of editors remains crucial. Recent cases of fraud, image manipulation, and undeclared conflicts of interest highlight the need for education and increased awareness of sound editorial policies. Our annual meetings and short courses foster the sharing of lessons learned and of best practices. In recent years, CSE has reached out to editors worldwide in hopes of sharing information and resources. Science is clearly global, and it is important that CSE respond to that fact. My immediate pre-

decessors, Richard Horton and Faith McLellan, have called on the members of CSE to do more than reflect the scientific world. Meeting speakers have challenged us to shape the role of science in the world.

I began by implying that looking forward was frightening. But the fright comes from recognizing the import of what we all do to sustain the quality of scientific communication. Over the lifetime of our organization, the relationship of science to society has become more complex, increasing the need for reliable scientific information. Clearly, the relevance of CSE is as great today as 50 years ago. Working together, we can ensure that CSE's next 50 years will be even better than the first 50.

**Monica Bradford**

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