

Short Courses: Come Early and Attend!

Diane Lang, Director CSE Short Courses

The 2007 CSE meeting—which will take place at the Hilton Austin Hotel, in Austin, Texas, on 18-22 May—marks the 50th anniversary meeting of CSE. Austin is a new and exciting venue for the CSE meeting, and what better way to make the most of your experience than to come a few days early and attend one of the short courses.

The CSE short courses, which are presented each year immediately before the annual meeting, provide a tremendous opportunity to learn about topics specific to one sector of scientific publishing. Four short courses will be offered this year. The 2-day Short Course for Journal Editors will take place on Friday and Saturday, 18-19 May. The Short Course on Publication Management, the Short Course for Manuscript Editors, and the Short Course on Statistics for Editors will all be held on Saturday, 19 May. Each course is led by experienced faculty and is updated each year to address current issues and problems. The courses include lectures, panel discussions, and breakout sessions. In addition, roundtable lunch sessions will allow faculty and course attendees to continue discussions or address ancillary issues.

Short Course for Journal Editors

The 2-day Short Course for Journal Editors is designed to provide prospective and new editors with a comprehensive survey of the roles and responsibilities of editors of scientific journals. The course coordinator is Iain E P Taylor, assistant editor-in-chief, National Research Council of Canada Research Journals. Topics to be covered include the publication process; authorship; the roles and responsibilities of editors; establishing a review process and the selection and nurture of reviewers; editorial decision-making; the ethical obligations of editors,

authors, and reviewers; obtaining and improving manuscripts; conflict and misbehavior among editors, authors, and reviewers; derivation and interpretation of the impact factor; journal office operations; journal production and finances; and electronic publication. There will be lectures and small-group sessions with ample opportunity for participants to put forward their questions and problems for consideration by the faculty and other participants.



Iain E P Taylor

Short Course on Publication Management

Patty Baskin, managing editor of *Neurology*, is serving as coordinator of the 1-day Short Course on Publication Management. The course will address such topics as managing change, managing communication and people, managing interactions with paper and online publishers and vendors, managing journal financial operations, and problem-solving. The course will include lectures and will allow ample time for discussion.



Patty Baskin

Short Course for Manuscript Editors

The 1-day Short Course for Manuscript Editors, led by Margaret Perkins, director of manuscript editing for the *New England Journal of Medicine*, will present current information on topics of interest to both experienced and novice manuscript editors. The course offers lectures and question-and-answer sessions to allow attendees to make the most of the day.

Topics to be covered are levels of editing, including suggestions and techniques for determining the most appropriate level of editing for a particular manuscript; statistics for manuscript editors; grammar and usage; freelance editing; ethical and legal issues; and formatting and editing tables and figures. Attendees are strongly encouraged to bring their own problems and questions for discussion.



Margaret Perkins

Short Course on Statistics for Editors

The 1-day Short Course on Statistics for Editors will be organized by Jessica Ancker, a writer and statistician. Topics will include basic descriptive statistics, confidence intervals, hypothesis-testing and *P* values, and measures of association, such as relative risks and odds ratios. Faculty will give demonstrations and provide examples from scientific publications and the lay press. Group exercises will allow attendees to practice interpreting, presenting, and editing statistical information.



Jessica Ancker