

## From the President

What can be said about CSE's future after 50 years of excellent service to the community of editors in science? Answering that question may be particularly challenging for this president, who is affiliated with a small journal in a small scientific community. I often asked myself the question as vice president and then president elect, learning about CSE from the inside. I strongly believe that CSE members, by electing a president from a small journal outside the community of prestigious, influential journals, have set the direction of CSE for the coming years.

In the last half-century, CSE has built itself into a strong professional organization of editors, an expert source of education in scientific publishing, and an authority on responsible editorial practices. However, CSE is mostly North American: More than 90% of its members are in North America. I hope 2007 will be the year when CSE

starts becoming a truly global community.

CSE has shown its relevance for the international editorial community many times, most recently with the superb work of its Task Force on Science Journals, Poverty, and Human Development. In 2005, CSE appointed the group to engage science journals in addressing worldwide poverty and disease and establishing sustainable paths for human development. An important outcome is the global theme issue on poverty and human development (for more about this multijournal initiative, see page 141).

The second outcome of the task force's work is collaboration with AuthorAID, an initiative to mentor authors in the developing world in preparing manuscripts for local or international publication. AuthorAID is starting up, and the CSE board established the Task Force on AuthorAID to continue the earlier task force's

work on bridging the global publishing gap. The bridge must go both ways, and CSE's primary goal should now be to increase its global membership. Action has already started with CSE support for the National Institutes of Health-funded African Journals Partnership Project, which brought editors from Africa to the CSE annual meetings and gave them membership.

CSE must address another serious imbalance in its membership: the predominance of editors in biomedicine. Biomedical journals have pioneered in developing editorial standards and scientific-publishing policies, establishing a strong foundation for CSE's reputation and expertise. CSE's "White Paper on Promoting Integrity in Scientific Journal Publications" (2006) has helped to open the dialogue among disciplines; we now must actively ask journals in different fields to join CSE

and address specific editorial and publication practices so that CSE will become global scientifically as well as geographically.

CSE must meet many other challenges soon. One is related to CSE's life in virtual space: We must make CSE Web pages more interactive and useful for CSE's global membership, especially regarding CSE's unique educational activities. We must analyze the editorial process so as to base editorial policies on evidence. Finally, we must think about the editorial profession and CSE's role in promoting its recognition in the scientific community. If you think that CSE at age 50 is too old for those challenges, you are wrong: The editorial world is active, innovative, and challenging, and 50 is just young enough for new ideas and actions.

**Ana Marusic**

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