

CSE Global Theme Issue on Poverty and Human Development a Success

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After more than 2 years of planning, on 22 October 2007, 237 journals in 37 countries published more than 750 articles on the topic of poverty and human development. The journals and their articles cover more than 112 countries. The goals of this initiative were to raise awareness, stimulate research, and publish and disseminate new research on the devastating problems associated with poverty and the interventions and solutions available to reduce poverty and improve human development throughout the world. This global theme issue far surpassed the numbers of participating journals and articles that were part of two previous theme issues coordinated by JAMA in the 1990s on the topics of global microbial threats and aging.

Although most journals that participated in the 2007 global theme issue were related to biology or health, other sciences were represented, such as general science, physics, nanotechnology, and social sciences. Lists of participating journals, citations to the articles, and representative countries are available on the CSE Web site (www.CouncilScienceEditors.org). According to Seth Beckerman, CSE Web-site editor, "the global theme issue attracted many visitors to the CSE Web site. Even though the global theme issue was not launched until 22 October, the page that lists all participating journals attracted 14% of page views for the entire month

and 7256 visitor sessions, so it was the second most popular page for the month after the CSE home page."

Thirty-two participating journals submitted articles to be considered for presentation in the Global Theme Issue on Poverty and Human Development symposium, sponsored by the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) Fogarty International Center (FIC) and National Library of Medicine (NLM) and CSE. Abstracts of the articles were reviewed by CSE reviewers (members not participating in the global theme issue) and NIH scientists. Seven articles reporting new research were selected from the submissions and were presented at the symposium at NIH on 22 October. New research reported in those articles examined interventions and projects to improve health and reduce inequities among the poor and addressed the following topics: childbirth safety, HIV/AIDS, malaria treatment, food insufficiency and sexual behavior, environmental and nutritional interventions to improve child survival, human resources and physician brain drain in developing countries, and altered immunity and influenza's effect on poor children. The symposium was Web cast live to make this a truly global event; the Webcast is archived and available at videocast.nih.gov/Summary.asp?File=14087.

Speakers at the symposium included FIC Director Roger Glass, CSE President Ana Marusic, and NLM Deputy Director Betsy Humphreys. Researchers with papers published in seven representative participating journals came from

West Africa, South Africa, Pakistan, the Netherlands, and the United States. The moderators of the research presentations were JAMA Editor-in-Chief Catherine DeAngelis and BMJ Editor-in-chief Fiona Godlee.

An embargoed press release was made available via EurekAlert! and by a number of journal publishers. Press coverage of the global theme issue included reports in the *Washington Post* online, National Public Radio, Voice of America, and SciDev.net.

Discussions have begun for consideration of another global theme issue, perhaps to be held in 2009.

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