

From the President

Scientific editing now demands being informed about a variety of topics beyond the science and medicine that attracted many of us to the profession. These topics include ethical issues, government regulation or interference, methods of accessing content, and a variety of business models. However, careful peer review and effective organization of information remain central to good editorial practices, as they long have.

Grasping those topics remains CSE's mission, which it fulfills in a variety of ways. Our annual meeting offers a rich assortment of concurrent sessions. Our short courses and retreats provide valuable information and offer chances for analysis and exchange. Our journal, *Science Editor*, is not only a vehicle to communicate with members but a laboratory for the future editors and journalists who work on it. Our self-published book, *Scientific Style and Format*, is the reference for all fields of science. The white paper "Promoting Integrity in Scientific Journal Publications" is a widely used, comprehensive, living document. Our Web site is used by many each

month. Our special projects—such as the global-theme journal issues and the pairing of sub-Saharan African journals with journals in the Northern Hemisphere—demand correspondingly special attention.

All those items reflect core functions of the Council, but we must make sure that our activities change with the needs of the editorial and research communities and other beneficiaries of scientific publishing so that CSE's mission can advance further. We need to be open to experimentation and change. The CSE membership needs to engage with the larger scientific community and collaborate with other organizations to improve scientific communication, so that society ultimately benefits.

The 2008 annual meeting included a new component: poster presentations of research. The science of editing should emerge from evidence-based research that CSE encourages, engages in, and disseminates to improve editorial and publishing practices. We plan to infuse research on editing and publishing into CSE's foundation.

Other changes are also imminent. CSE

will work on its strategic plan, so that our reach can broaden to all scientific fields and increasingly extend outside US borders. We need to approach CSE's future with the fortitude that matches the importance of our work.

CSE should be part of creating, evaluating, and disseminating editorial standards. Those outcomes do not "just happen"; they result from bold engagement. Our varied membership with its broad interests is uniquely positioned to provide this leadership.

I want to thank my predecessors and the other volunteers who have made CSE what it is today. I am especially indebted to Ana Marusic, who has been an inspiration through her vision, hard work, and strict adherence to principles basic to editors: to inform and educate accurately and candidly. It is an honor and a pleasure for me to serve CSE, which has given me so much since I joined in 1987. It is with high hopes that I work with you to further CSE's mission. Together we can make a meaningful difference.

Diane Scott-Lichter

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