

## Science Editor Welcomes Simpson to Staff

Caroline M Simpson, scientific editor at the Canadian Forest Service's Atlantic Forestry Centre, has joined *Science Editor* as a publication manager. She joins current publication manager Leslie E Neistadt, replacing David E Nadziejka.

Bilingual in English and French, Simpson has a bachelor's degree in translation from the University of Ottawa. She also has taken many continuing-education courses in science editing and related fields. She is certified by the Board of Editors in the Life Sciences as an Editor in the Life Sciences.

Simpson, who is in New Brunswick, has been an editor for the Canadian Forest Service since 1988. She also does freelance copyediting for two online journals. A longtime member of the Council, she has been an annual-



Simpson

meeting reporter for *Science Editor*.

"I am thrilled to be joining the staff of *Science Editor*," Simpson says. "It promises to be an exciting and educational challenge."

Says Barbara Gastel, editor of *Science Editor*: "I'm delighted to welcome Caroline Simpson, and I'm grateful to Leslie Neistadt for recruiting her. I also thank David Nadziejka, whose superb editorial eye and fine ideas have brought much to our publication." 🔥

### CALL FOR RESEARCH!

#### Sixth International Congress on Peer Review and Biomedical Publication Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada 10–12 September 2009

**Deadline for Abstract Submission: 1 March 2009**

The Sixth International Congress on Peer Review and Biomedical Publication will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, on 10–12 September 2009. This congress, organized by *JAMA* and the *BMJ* Publishing Group, will feature 3 days of presentations of new and original research.

Our aim is to improve the quality and credibility of peer review as used by journals and funders and to advance the efficiency, effectiveness, and equitability of biomedical publication and of the dissemination of scientific information throughout the world. We urge scientists, editors, publishers, funders, informatics experts, and all others who are interested in the processes by which science is funded, reviewed, and published to get going on their research.

Suggested research topics include the following:

- Mechanisms of peer review and editorial decision making used by journals and

funders.

- Evaluations of the quality, validity, and practicality of peer review and editorial decision making.
- Biases, breakdowns, and other weaknesses.
- Quality assurance for reviewers and editors.
- Authorship, contributorship, and responsibility for published material.
- Conflicts of interest.
- Research misconduct.
- Peer review of grant proposals.
- Ethical issues and concerns for researchers, authors, editors, and reviewers.
- Editorial freedom and integrity.
- Editorial policies and responsibilities.
- Effects of funding and sponsorship on scientific publication.
- Economics of and new financial models for peer review and scientific publication.
- Online and Web-based peer review and publication.
- Open access and archiving.
- Prepublication posting and release of information.

- Evaluations of the quality of print and online scientific information.
- Quality and reliability of data presentation and scientific images.
- Quality and effects of new media in scientific publication (such as video, audio, and blogs).
- Effectiveness of standards designed to improve the quality of scientific publication.
- Improved tools and metrics for assessing the quality of peer-reviewed published content.
- Peer review, use, and quality of scientific-conference proceedings and gray literature.
- Changes in readership and use of peer-reviewed published content.
- Methods for improving the quality, efficiency, and equitable distribution of biomedical information.
- New technologies that affect the quality, integrity, dissemination, and access of biomedical information.
- The future of scientific publication.