

CSE International Scholarship Program: The 2008 Recipients

Barbara Campaigne, Pam Erickson, and Ken Heideman

Kenneth Fernández Taylor (El Salvador) and Elsheikh Elsiddig Badr (Sudan), two of the CSE International Scholarship recipients for 2008, were able to join CSE members in Vancouver for the 2008 annual meeting and received a warm welcome there. Fernández Taylor and Badr attended the Short Course for Journal Editors and annual meeting sessions of their choice. They also shared their insights about how CSE can best support them and their journals at the session "EditorLink—International Scholar Editors Tell CSE How We Can Help". CSE congratulates these International Scholars and is grateful to them for sharing their experiences.

Generous contributions from sponsoring organizations and individual CSE members fund the CSE International Scholarship Program, which provides means for journal editors from developing nations to attend, contribute to, and benefit from CSE meetings. CSE expresses its sincere gratitude to the donors who made the 2008 CSE International Scholarship Program possible (see box).

In late 2007, 36 applicants submitted applications for the 2008 scholarships via CSE's Web site. Candidates were evaluated on the basis of responses to questions about their interest in attending the conference and their plans for applying what they would learn from the meeting. Volunteers from CSE's Education Committee reviewed the applications and selected the recipients.

The Education Committee awarded four International Scholarships, but two of the recipients were unable to travel to the annual meeting. The scholarships for those two recipients have been deferred to the 2009 meeting, and we hope to greet them next year in Pittsburgh.

Elsheikh Elsiddig Badr

Interviewed by Ken Heideman

I have the privilege this year of writing about Elsheikh Elsiddig Badr, deputy director general for human-resource development in the Ministry of Health in Sudan. He is the winner of two prestigious academic prizes and editor of several medical and public-health journals. Badr is also founder and editor-in-chief of the *Sudanese Journal of Public Health (SJPH)*, and it is the challenges associated with this journal, and Sudanese medical journals in general, about which he spoke at the EditorLink session of the CSE annual meeting. The journal is distributed primarily in Sudan but also to some other countries and through the World Health Organization. Badr made copies of the March 2008 issue of *SJPH* available, and in perusing it, I was impressed with the quality of the color and composition of the 112-page issue.

SJPH was established in January 2006 as a quarterly journal. It appears both in print and online. At present, there are about 100 submissions per year, and submission is manual. Badr explained that the rationale for the inception of the journal was that the public-health system in Sudan is undermined, there are few public-health journals in the region, and there is a need for a regular high-quality journal dealing with the subject.

SJPH is financed primarily through international subscriptions, some advertisements (I noted only one in the March 2008 issue), small grants for printing, and microinvestment. Badr identified the main challenges as getting the journal indexed internationally, building staff capacity, improving the Web site, enhancing manuscript quality, managing and supporting reviewers and authors, and attaining financial sustainability. He said that the primary needs for the journal

include technical support (procedures and systems are now mostly manual), training for staff (particularly in technical editing), and sound advice for further development of the journal's strategy. He also said that the full establishment and operation of the Sudanese Association of Medical Editors has high priority.

What struck me in learning more about Badr and *SJPH* is how all of us in journal publishing, no matter where we are in the world, face similar challenges and how critical it is for scientific-journal editors to regard themselves as part of something far bigger than their own particular journals. At the same time, it is international scholars like Badr who make it starkly clear that we do not operate on a level playing field. Those of us in the wealthier nations face challenges in sustaining and financing the journals we edit, to be sure, but we don't have the added burden of working in countries where there is political strife and endemic poverty. Having the former help the latter is the primary function of the EditorLink program.

As for Badr, he said he took away a number of valuable ideas. "One lesson I get . . . is that journals start small but can grow and achieve distinguished visibility if dedication and determination are there. Another good thing I learned is the new knowledge and skills that enabled me to reflect on my experience as an editor to see the gaps and plan to bridge them and about publishing services and their role in facilitating the sustainability and quality of journals." He added, "last but not least, I was really impressed by the friendly attitude of CSE committee people who have shown readiness to coach, help, and support; I will definitely capitalize on this to improve my journal and get it indexed soon!"

Kenneth Fernández Taylor

Interviewed by Barbara Campaigne

I was very pleased to interview Kenneth Fernández Taylor at the CSE annual meeting in Vancouver. Fernández Taylor is a very impressive and enthusiastic young physician who represents his country well. Fernández Taylor is a graduate of the School of Medicine of the Facultad de Ciencias de la Salud Dr Luis Edmundo Vásquez, Universidad Dr José Matías Delgado, El Salvador. In 2003, while still in medical school, he saw a need for a medical journal in his country, so he founded and became the director and editor-in-chief of the journal *Signos Vitales*, and he continues in these roles. To date, 13 issues of the journal have been published.

In 2004, Fernández Taylor served on the Editorial Board of *CIMEL*, the official journal of the Latin American Federation of Medical Students' Scientific Societies (FELSOCEM). In 2006, Fernández Taylor did his clinical internship at Hospital Nacional San Rafael, La Libertad, El Salvador, and completed clinical training in mind-body medicine in Harvard Medical School's Department of Continuing Education. Fernández Taylor founded another journal in 2007, *Terapia Endovascular-El Salvador*, and became its associate editor. He is an active member of the International Health Central American Institute (IHCAI) and the World Association of Medical Editors. He has written many scholarly publications for such a young professional and has published several articles in the El Salvador national press.

Fernández Taylor is the site principal investigator of a clinical study led by Harvard Medical School: The Physician in Training Sleep and Patient Safety Study: El Salvador, in which the investigators will quantify the relationships between sleep deprivation that physicians experience in training and the safety hazards that occur. The investigators hope to identify ways to implement scheduling and safety improvements in Salvadoran hospitals.

In addition to participating in the CSE annual meeting, Fernández Taylor presented a poster of the main results of his dissertation, "Diagnosis of the Patient Safety Culture at a Second-Level Teaching Hospital in El Salvador", at the International Forum on Quality and Safety in Health Care 2008 in Paris. Fernández Taylor also completed an executive course on global health diplomacy at the Graduate Institute in Geneva, Switzerland. Next year, he plans to work on a master's degree in public health in Europe.

On the basis of the experiences and training Fernández Taylor received while attending the CSE annual meeting, he hopes to train the associate editor of his journal, who will assume his role as editor-in-chief of *Signos Vitales*. Of note, Fernández Taylor has a strong family history in the publishing industry: several of his family members, including his father and grandparents, are actively involved in this field. Fernández Taylor upholds the family tradition, even as a busy physician. His enthusiasm for publishing is clear, as is his high energy level.

Future of the CSE International Scholarship Program

CSE will again offer the CSE International Scholarship in 2009. We appreciate all donations to the scholarship program, which may be made via CSE's Web site (www.CouncilScienceEditors.org). The Education Committee will continue to evaluate the program and strive to improve it and to enhance the participation of the scholarship winners, both at the annual meeting and in CSE.

The focus and efforts of the Education Committee's scholarship subcommittee make the scholarship program possible. CSE sincerely thanks those who served in this capacity in 2008: Rebecca Barr, Rebecca Benner, Barbara Campaigne, Pam Erickson, Suzanne Smith, Iain Taylor, and Nancy Wachter.

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