

# 2009 CSE Annual Meeting: “Show Me the Data—The Science of Editing and Publishing”

## Diane M Sullenberger, Chair 2009 Program Committee

The 2009 Council of Science Editors annual meeting is organized around the theme “Show Me the Data—The Science of Editing and Publishing” and will be held on 2–5 May 2009 at the Hilton Hotel and Towers in Pittsburgh, PA. The meeting will not only focus on how to improve and advance our skills as editors but examine the evidence base. What do the data show about the effectiveness of peer review, of managing conflicts of interest, of communicating science?

Elizabeth Loftus, author of *Eyewitness Testimony* and coauthor of *The Myth of Repressed Memory*, will give the keynote address on the importance of scientific research, the illusions of memory, and the consequences of false memory, especially when applied to societal problems, the judicial system, and legislation. Her research over the last 20 years has focused on human memory, eyewitness testimony, and courtroom procedure. Her work has been funded by the National Institute of Mental Health and the National Science Foundation. Loftus is Distinguished Professor at the University of California, Irvine, and she holds positions in the Department of Psychology and Social Behavior and the Department of Criminology, Law, and Society.

Marc Abrahams, editor and cofounder of the science humor magazine *Annals of Improbable Research*, will give a plenary address on the role of humor, whether intentional or not, in scientific communication. Abrahams is the father of the Ig Nobel Prize, designed to recognize scientific research articles that have a humorous or unexpected aspect. The *Journal of the American Medical Association* called him “the Puck of science”.

The dedicated members of the Program Committee are busy organizing other diverse, relevant, and lively sessions, such as the following:

- Why should editors conduct research on editing and publishing?
- How can such research be carried out; what tools and methods can be used?
- How effective are double-blind, single-blind, and open peer review?
- What tips and tricks do editors need to know to master Word 2007?
- What advantages and disadvantages do copyright transfer, an author license, and a Creative Commons license offer?
- How much of a problem is research misconduct, such as plagiarism, and what can be done to detect and mitigate it?
- What is the impact of managing personal-health information online?
- How do you relay to the media what is interesting about your research or journal?
- How do you manage effective publishing partnerships?
- How do you assess and deploy Web enhancements?
- How can researchers communicate effectively through figures?
- How can we make science interesting?

A workshop, separate from but concurrent with the annual meeting, will be held on definitions of *authorship*. The results of the workshop will be presented and discussed in a session on the last day of the annual meeting, so that attendees can provide input for CSE guidelines on this topic.

The informative and successful poster sessions initiated in 2008 will be expanded to include podium presentations of research. See the CSE Web site ([www.CouncilScienceEditors.org/events/annualmeeting09/abstract\\_form.cfm](http://www.CouncilScienceEditors.org/events/annualmeeting09/abstract_form.cfm)) for submission details. Abstracts for poster and podium presentations must be submitted by 1 February 2009.

The annual meeting will be preceded by the renowned CSE short courses for journal editors and manuscript editors and on publication management.

The Local Arrangements Subcommittee, chaired by Seth Beckerman, will provide insider tips on what to see and do in Pittsburgh, including the Andy Warhol Museum ([www.warhol.org](http://www.warhol.org)), the Carnegie Museum of Natural History with its newly renovated dinosaur hall ([www.carnegiemnh.org](http://www.carnegiemnh.org)), the Carnegie Museum of Art ([www.cmoa.org](http://www.cmoa.org)), the National Aviary ([www.aviary.org](http://www.aviary.org)), the Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium ([www.pittsburghzoo.org](http://www.pittsburghzoo.org)), the Frick Art and Historical Center ([www.frickart.org/home](http://www.frickart.org/home)), and the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens ([www.phipps.conservatory.org](http://www.phipps.conservatory.org)). A variety of optional activities are under consideration for the Saturday before the meeting and the Tuesday afternoon after the meeting.

The 2009 annual meeting promises to deliver thought-provoking and entertaining general sessions, concurrent sessions designed to educate and stimulate, ample time for networking, and intriguing Pittsburgh attractions. Please mark your calendars now.