1999 Annual Meeting Update
Communicating Science in the 21st Century: Research Integrity from Design to Dissemination and Beyond

Our annual meeting approaches, and I am full of anticipation for the varied learning experience and enjoyment of the atmosphere and each other's company we are about to share.

If you haven't registered already, please plan to join us in beautiful Montreal, 22-25 May, for good company and great sessions. The meeting will be kicked off by plenary speaker Miriam Schuchman. You may have heard her on NPR's Sunday Weekend Edition or as a reporter and commentator for the CBC. She will be speaking on the important topic of industry-sponsored research and the issue of openness and secrecy in science. Our plenary speaker on the last day of the program, Joe Nickell, a senior research associate at the Committee for Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal and a former Pinkerton detective and magician, will demonstrate the influence of the dissemination of pseudoscience.

Concurrent sessions will include the usual mix of topics of interest to journal editors, managing editors, publishers, production managers, and all those who work with the writing, editing, and publication of the results of scientific research. Session topics include research integrity and the media, what constitutes the best relationship between societies and journals, the challenges and opportunities of moving from print to the Internet, policies for handling author-editor-reviewer misconduct, and the ethics of ghostwriting, advertising sales, and mentorship in research.

Our Windows session, traditionally held on the last day of the meeting, is a behind-the-scenes tour of the Canadian Space Agency. After lunch at the agency, scientists at work there will discuss their experiments while we tour their laboratories.

The authorship retreat being held on the afternoon and evening of 24 May will be free to registrants of the annual meeting. Instead of 4 or 5 concurrent sessions that afternoon, there will be 2 technical workshops, one on online copyediting and the other on manuscript-tracking systems.

Montreal is a wonderful mixture of European charm and sophistication. It is easy and rewarding to explore on your own. But to help you get a flavor of what Montreal has to offer, we have planned a few walking tours in Old Montreal and a bus tour on Saturday, 22 May, to the famous Oratory on Mount Royal, the Botanical Garden, and the Olympic Stadium and Biodome.

I can't wait to see you all there! À la prochain!

Short Course for Manuscript Editors

On Saturday, 22 May, Montreal will be the site of the 1999 Short Course for Manuscript Editors. This year's program is planned with both newcomers and grizzled veterans in mind. Outstanding, experienced speakers will lead each class.

At 8:45 AM, we'll have “Coffee and Talk”, an informal networking get-together. The formal program begins at 9:15, and from 9:30 to noon the group will split up into workshops. Newcomers will take “Anatomy of a Manuscript”, in which 2 leaders will discuss how to write good titles and abstracts, how to determine what information goes in each of the 4 main sections of a scientific paper, why checking references is important, and how tables and figures complement written information. Veterans have a choice between “Grant Writing” and a class titled “Evidence-Based Medicine: What It Means and What It Means for Your Job”, which will focus on writing better abstracts for reports of evidence-based medicine.

After lunch together (for those who so choose), we will have a general session. Beginning at 2:00, all registrants may choose from 3 breakout sessions, each 1 hour long, which will be repeated at 3:00. Confirmed topics include “Ethical Issues in Editing”, “Statistics for Dummies”, and “Freelancing from Both Angles”. In the latter, one leader will discuss the abilities that she would like to see in a freelance whom she hires; the other leader will discuss what she, as a freelance, looks for in a boss or company that hires her. Afternoon sessions will end at 4:15.

Whether you're a novice in the manuscript-editing business or an old hand still interested in improving and enlarging your skills, we encourage you to sign up for the 1999 Short Course for Manuscript Editors. For more information, get in touch with Nancy Taylor at ntaylor@ghs.org.