2001 Annual Meeting: Serving the Readers of Scientific Publications

Ann Link, Chair
2001 Program Committee

The Council of Science Editors 2001 Program Committee cordially invites you to Washington DC from 5 to 8 May for next year’s annual meeting: Serving the Readers of Scientific Publications. We have an exciting new twist to this year’s program. The focus will be on the reader of scientific communications—a departure from the perspective of previous years.

What do readers want to read, and how should scientific communicators meet these wants? A diverse group of editors, managing editors, publishers, and writers will participate in this 3-day-long discussion on the best way to convey our message to the end users.

In keeping with the theme, the committee is planning sessions on the editor’s role in fostering cross-disciplinary science, writing for non-native speakers of English, making Web sites user-friendly, and exploring where readers want to do their reading. We hope to have a speaker on Biomed Central, just one of many exciting new products for readers of scientific literature.

The conference will be preceded by the popular short courses for journal editors, managing editors, manuscript editors, and Web editors. The second afternoon of the conference will feature a CSE authorship retreat for journal editors, manuscript editors, and other interested professionals. For those more involved with journal operations, the members of the committee are planning a topical workshop.

There are countless activities to enjoy in the DC area. You can visit or revisit some of Washington’s landmarks: the Washington Monument, the Smithsonian Institution museums, or the Lincoln Memorial. Or travel off the beaten path and visit the beautiful National Arboretum or the National Museum of Women in the Arts, or take in a show at one of the area’s many theaters. There really is something for everyone in DC, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Authorship Retreat to Accompany Annual Meeting

Drummond Rennie, Chair
Authorship Task Force

The Authorship Task Force was formed to deal with the rapid growth of authorship-related problems in research institutions and for journal editors. Under the leadership of Frank Davidoff, editor of Annals of Internal Medicine, and under the aegis of the Council, the Authorship Task Force held retreats in Berkeley in February 1998 and Montreal in May 1999. They were attended not just by editors, but also by a number of prominent scientists, university administrators, and other stakeholders in a wide variety of fields. The history, meaning, and social significance of authorship were fully explored, and recommendations for the future were framed. The task force has proved a powerful agent of change as journals try to develop means to link the two aspects of authorship—credit and accountability—more closely.

The task force, now under my chairmanship, is moving into the second stage, in which the object will be to educate and promote the implementation of systems to encourage responsible authorship, such as the disclosure of individual authors’ contributions to readers. At the CSE annual meeting in Washington DC in 2001, a third retreat will be held. During the 4-hour session I hope that we will hear short presentations detailing the experiences of editors of journals that have changed their policies. I also hope to get the opinions of authors, editors, scientists, officers of scientific societies, and administrators of research institutions concerning developments and where they think we should be heading.

We are interested in hearing from members of CSE and others who might be interested in giving presentations at this third retreat. Anyone who has relevant information to report is invited to write to me at rennie@itsa.ucsf.edu or to Margaret Reich at mreich@aps.faseb.org.