Five Short Courses to Precede Annual Meeting

Diane Lang, Director
CSE Short Courses

The CSE short courses, which are presented each year immediately before the annual meeting, provide a tremendous opportunity to learn about topics peculiar to different aspects of scientific publishing. This year, CSE will offer five short courses. The 2-day short course for journal editors will take place on Friday and Saturday, 20-21 May. The short course on publication management (formerly the short course for managing editors), the short course for manuscript editors, and the short course on electronic publishing solutions will all be held on Saturday, 21 May. A brand-new course this year, the short course on statistics for editors, will also take place on Saturday, 21 May. Each course is led by experienced faculty and updated each year to address current issues and problems. Presentations include lectures, panel discussions, and breakout sessions. In addition, roundtable lunch sessions will allow faculty and course attendees to continue discussions or address ancillary issues.

Short Course on Statistics for Editors
New in 2005 will be a 1-day short course on statistics for editors. This course, which will be organized by Jessica Ancker, a writer and statistician, was developed in response to requests from CSE members and annual-meeting attendees. Topics will include basic descriptive statistics, confidence intervals, hypothesis-testing and P values, and measures of association, such as relative risks and odds ratios.

Short Course for Journal Editors
The 2-day short course for journal editors is designed to provide prospective and new editors with a comprehensive survey of the roles and responsibilities of editors of scientific journals. The course coordinator is Iain E P Taylor, assistant editor-in-chief, University of British Columbia, NRC Research Press. Topics to be covered include the publication process; authorship; the roles and responsibilities of editors; establishing a review process and the selection and nurture of reviewers; editorial decision-making; the ethical obligations of editors, authors, and reviewers; obtaining and improving manuscripts; conflict and misbehavior among editors, authors, and reviewers; journal office operations; journal production and finances; and electronic publication. There will be both lectures and small-group sessions with ample opportunity for participants to put forward their questions and problems for consideration by the faculty and other participants.

Short Course on Publication Management
Julie Steffen, associate journals manager and director of astronomy journals, University of Chicago Press, is serving as coordinator of the 1-day short course on publication management (formerly the short course for managing editors).

Short Course for Manuscript Editors
The 1-day short course for manuscript editors, led by Margaret Perkins, chief manuscript editor of medical journals at the University of Chicago Press, will present current information on topics of interest to both experienced and novice manuscript editors. The course offers lectures and question-and-answer sessions to allow attendees to make the most of the day. Topics to be covered are levels of editing, including suggestions and techniques for determining the most appropriate level of editing for a particular manuscript; statistics for manuscript editors; grammar and usage; freelance editing; and formatting and editing tables and figures. Attendees are strongly encouraged to bring their own problems and questions for discussion.

Short Course on Electronic Publishing Solutions
The 1-day short course on electronic publishing solutions is intended to help editors find their way through the electronic publishing jungle. The course coordinator
is Kevin E Pirkey, vice president of Odyssey Press, and he and his expert faculty will cover digital art and author-supplied files, electronic formats in publishing, content management and archiving, choosing the right electronic publishing model for your organization, the impact of supplemental data, excess electronic content and the importance of branding, expanding revenue streams through online content, and the dollars and cents of electronic publishing. The course will also include time for discussion and questions for the faculty.

Executive Refresher Program
The CSE executive refresher program allows short-course alumni to register for a single session in any of the current short courses for a nominal fee. Most sessions last 1 hour, and the courses have been organized so that it is possible to attend more than one session in a day. To take advantage of this opportunity, check the preliminary program for an executive refresher registration form and a list of short course sessions.

Short Course on Statistics to Debut

Jessica Ancker, Education Committee Chair

How can we identify garbled statistics in a scientific article? What does a P value really mean? When is it time to seek a statistical reviewer?

Those are some of the questions that short-course participants have asked at previous CSE meetings, and in response CSE is pleased to announce a new short course on statistics for editors. The course will be presented on 21 May, immediately before the 2005 annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia (20-24 May 2005).

The aim of this unique course will be to help participants read, understand, report, and edit basic statistical analyses—not to perform statistical analyses or to become statistical reviewers. This approach is expected to address the workplace concerns of editors and reviewers more directly than would an academic statistics course.

The course will begin with a section on basic descriptive statistics. In this portion only, participants will be invited to perform elementary calculations. The remainder of the course will consist of demonstrations that focus on concepts, rather than mathematics, and discussion about interpreting, rewording, and presenting the results.

Other topics will include confidence intervals, hypothesis-testing and P values, relative risks and odds ratios, randomized clinical trials, and specificity and sensitivity of diagnostic tests. Good and bad examples will be drawn from scientific journals and the lay press.

Jessica Ancker will direct the course. A former medical editor at the Cleveland Clinic, she earned her master’s degree in biostatistics from Columbia University and regularly teaches “statistics for nonstatisticians” courses and gives “statistics in the news” lectures at Columbia University’s Graduate School of Journalism. She is currently in the PhD program at Columbia’s School of Public Health, where she is studying communication and decision-making about complex health information.

Registration for the short course on statistics for editors, as well as for the other short courses, will open early in 2005. Check www.CouncilScienceEditors.org for up-to-date information.

Please plan to join us in Atlanta!
The 2005 Annual Meeting of the CSE will be held 20-24 May 2005 at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta 265 Peachtree Street NE Atlanta, Georgia

See the annual-meeting program preview article in next issue of Science Editor.