Parrish Receives CSE Award for Meritorious Achievement; Flanagin, Goodell, Potter Also Honored at Annual Meeting

Four who have contributed to science editing and CSE were recognized at the 2008 annual meeting. Debra M Parrish received the CSE Award for Meritorious Achievement. A Distinguished Service Award went to Annette Flanagin, and Certificates of Appreciation were given to Polyxeni M (Poly) Potter and Heather Goodell.

The CSE Award for Meritorious Achievement, the Council’s highest award, honors those who have made substantial contributions to the improvement of scientific communication. Parrish, of Parrish Law Offices, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was honored for her work on the CSE “White Paper on Promoting Integrity in Scientific Journal Publications” and for her other contributions to the Editorial Policy Committee. The recipient of a BSE in biomedical engineering from Duke University and a JD from Duke University School of Law, Parrish represents and counsels research institutions and others in science law (including that related to research misconduct), intellectual property, and health-care law. “She has given many hours of pro bono work on ethical and legal issues, both in official capacities for CSE and on the side of individual editors,” the Awards and Honors Committee stated. “She has really pushed editors to take the lead on issues of misconduct and scientific integrity.”

Because of mechanical problems with the airplane she was to take, Parrish could not attend the CSE annual meeting and deliver an acceptance address at the awards luncheon. She sent the following message:

It is with regret that I cannot be in Vancouver in person to visit with so many I have worked with over the years, but the curse of airline maintenance has frustrated me again. It is an honor to receive this award, but it is a greater honor to work with so many professionals who are committed to and appreciate the role that journals and journal editors have in shaping the ethical norms of the research community. Journals are much more than a conduit for the dissemination of knowledge—they are often the ethical reality check that is needed when professional pressures, conflicts of interest, or plain laziness lead researchers to take ethical shortcuts. Although research institutions have primary responsibility for investigating research integrity issues, in the research milieu, journals often are the least conflicted and often have the best vantage point in identifying ethical problems. I am grateful that the Council of Science Editors appreciates this important topic and, through the white paper, provided vision and support in meeting the needs of not only its members but the larger scientific community. I am grateful that CSE provided me the opportunity to participate in this dialog, and I look forward to the work ahead in helping editors and journals to appreciate their power to shape the research community’s ethical norms. Thank you again.

Parrish said she hopes to see CSE colleagues in 2009, when CSE holds its annual meeting in Pittsburgh.

Flanagin was recognized for initiating, developing, and carrying out the October 2007 global theme issue on science journals, poverty, and human development, in which 237 journals participated. (See www.councilscienceeditors.org/globalthemeissue.cfm.) Flanagin is managing deputy editor of JAMA (Journal of the American Medical Association) and director of editorial operations of JAMA and Archives Journals. In addition, she is coordinator of the International Congresses on Peer Review in Biomedical Publication. A CSE member since 1989, Flanagin was CSE president in 2002–2003. She also has held other leadership roles in the Council, including those of secretary and Education Committee chair.

Goodell, chair of the Editorial Policy Committee, was cited for “expanding the work of that committee, fielding queries from abroad, and promoting CSE as the ‘go-to’ organization for information on ethical issues in scientific publication”. Her activities as committee chair have also included working with the Program Committee to develop ethics clinics.
for CSE annual meetings. Goodell is director of scientific publishing at the American Heart Association National Center; her responsibilities in this role include oversight of the American Heart Association’s 11 journals and its other scientific publications. She has been a CSE member for 6 years.

Potter was honored for her work on Science Editor. A member of the editorial boards of Science Editor and its forerunner, CBE Views, Potter originated the idea of featuring images on the Science Editor cover and now serves as covers editor. She also has spoken at and reported on annual meetings of the Council, and she has contributed other content to Science Editor. Potter is managing senior editor, founding managing editor, and an associate editor of Emerging Infectious Diseases. Previously, she was chief of publications for the National Center for Infectious Diseases of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She has been a Council member since 1988.

Congratulations to all the award recipients! Their many contributions are greatly appreciated.