

European Association of Science Editors
Annual General Meeting
19 July 2008 – Barcelona, Spain

The President's Report 2007-2008

In 2007, the Council of the European Association of Science Editors met on 13 May in Barcelona (Spain) and on 18 November in Sliema (Malta).

The Sixth Annual General Meeting was held in Barcelona on 14 May 2007.

After a difficult few years membership is increasing again. The year 2007 concluded with 519 members. As of 15 July 2008, 555 people were paid-up members (340 individual members and 24 corporate members representing 215 individuals). 17 members (included in the individual membership figures) are sponsored by other members.

In the year 2007, four issues of the journal *European Science Editing* were published, with a total number of 120 pages. One chapter was added to the *Science Editor's Handbook*. 11 copies of the Handbook were sold to non-members in 2007.

The main EASE event in this period was the seminar on "Alternative ways of measuring impact factors" held in Barcelona on 14 May 2007. Although the quality of this seminar was good (as usual), this was not reflected in the number of participants: only some 25 people attended this seminar.

For 2008, Council abandoned the usual seminar in Barcelona; instead, it was decided to participate in the EuroScience Open Forum 2008 (ESOF2008), which will be held in Barcelona on 18-22 July 2008. A proposal for a one-day programme including a seminar, a practical session and a career opportunities session was approved by the ESOF organisation and will run on 19 July 2008.

In November EASE published an official "EASE statement on inappropriate use of impact factors" in *European Science Editing*. This statement was accompanied by an Editorial from the President, Arjan Polderman. Support for this statement is sought from sister societies and other organisations in the field of science publishing.

The EASE website was redesigned in the course of 2007. Council approved the following proposals:

- to extend the EASE website to include a members' only site with access by password, a page for job advertisements and a page for advertising the profiles of freelance people and trainers (free to members)
- to include in the EASE website links to other websites provided this link is reciprocal
- to make chapters of the *Science Editors' Handbook* available by sponsored open access; in return, sponsors on the EASE website would have a link back to their website
- to put the latest approved minutes of AGMs on the website, as well as the Articles of Association.

As mentioned earlier, EASE has been exploring the possibility of a large conference in 2009. A steering committee led by Professor Roderick Hunt wrote a proposal for EU funding of this

Tenth General Assembly and Conference. The proposal included the establishment of a register of European science editors which would identify as many science editors as possible currently active in Europe. The target group included managers of scientific databases who, like science editors, also face editorial issues of quality control and dissemination of data but who have little interaction with the editorial community. This proposal was submitted in May 2007 but was not successful.

A second application was submitted in March 2008 under a more appropriate EU funding scheme on Science in Society. Again, funding was denied. Simultaneously, the EASE proposal was submitted as part of a proposal of a consortium of organisations involved in science communication, operating under the acronym APERA (Academic Publishing in the European Research Area), but this submission was not successful either.

Meanwhile, Council decided that the 2009 Conference will be on the usual scale of 200-250 delegates. It will be held in Pisa (Italy) from 16-19 September 2009. The title will be "Integrity in Science Communication". The Programme Committee has made good progress and the first circular was sent out in May 2008. Several potential speakers have been invited and some have already accepted this invitation. The organisation of the Tenth General Assembly and Conference will be entrusted to Grupo Pacifico.

Little progress was made regarding training courses for authors and editors. This subject is still considered very important and will be taken up in the near future.

Council has focused its activities on better visibility of EASE. Council members and prominent EASE members have represented the Association at several conferences in the field of science communication, including:

- Scientific publishing in the European Research Area: access, dissemination and preservation in the digital age (Brussels, Belgium, 15-16 February 2007)
- Fifth World Conference of Science Journalists (Melbourne, Australia, 16-20 April 2007)
- SfEP Annual Conference (Brighton, UK, 3-5 September 2007; this gained 32 new members under EASE's group membership scheme for sister societies)
- First World Conference on Research Integrity (Lisbon, Portugal, 16-19 September 2007)
- UN Editors Group meeting (Paris, France, 20-21 September 2007)
- Mediating Science (Tallinn, Estonia, 29 April 2008)

In March 2008, EASE was invited to make a presentation to a delegation of 20 visiting academics and journal editors from China. Sheila Evered, Joan Marsh and Mike Jackson met this delegation in London and established a very fruitful exchange of experiences.

These conferences and meetings yielded useful contacts that are now being followed up to enhance the reputation of EASE.

Arjan Polderman
President