

AAAS Launches Electronic Journal Amid New Publications Push

On Monday, 24 September, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) announced the launch of the nation's first peer-reviewed on-line scientific journal, *Current Clinical Trials*, to be edited by former *Annals of Internal Medicine* editor Edward Huth, M.D. (see related story in this issue of *Science*).

Not to be lost amid the hoopla over the journal's promise to greatly speed up dissemination of key clinical trial results, says AAAS Publications director Patricia Morgan, is the signal she hopes it will send about AAAS's invigorated push for new publishing ventures. Morgan spearheaded the development of the new journal with technical partner OCLC, Online Computer Library Center, Inc., of Dublin, Ohio.

"I hope this is a very visible sign of our interest in diversifying, and not necessarily in the traditional ways," says Morgan, who was managing editor of *Science* for 6 years before taking charge of AAAS Publications in 1990. "This should establish AAAS as an organization that is willing to take risks, to test new ideas."

Morgan says she expects *Current Clinical Trials* to be the flagship in a new fleet of electronic journals published by AAAS, although she declined to offer details. Meanwhile, modems aren't the only avenues for new efforts she and her staff are exploring.

Single-author books on topics of broad scientific interest will be at the heart of a new acquisition program at AAAS



AAAS
PRESS

on four editors so far for new series in the areas of science education, and science and technology policy.

The policy editors are Susan Cozzens and Joseph Morone, both of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and the education editors are Gerald Kulm of Texas A&M, and Wendy Saul of the University of Maryland at Baltimore. Eventually Morgan hopes to publish about 20 single-author volumes each year. More traditional fodder for the AAAS Press, she says, has been and will continue to be the proceedings of symposia from AAAS's annual meeting and reprints of papers on important research topics published in *Science*.

"But we would also like to acquire symposia [proceedings] from other organizations," says Morgan, "as well as expand our reprint volumes to [include] papers other than those published

in *Science*."

Morgan says the new ventures further the goals of the Association by "broadening the [range of] members who are served and spreading the risk of revenue shortfalls over a greater

"This should establish AAAS as an organization that is willing to take risks."

—PATRICIA MORGAN

number of products." Currently *Science* is the single largest source of revenue for AAAS.

But Morgan is quick to point out that, as far as *Current Clinical Trials* is concerned, "the true test of this medium is not financial, but intellectual and cultural." Will scientists grant peer-reviewed electronic publishing the prestige now given to print journals?

"I'll know [the journal] has succeeded," says Morgan, "the day a postdoctoral student is offered a tenure-track position at a good university on the basis of a research track record that was primarily established in electronic form."

"If we're very lucky," she adds, with characteristic ambition, "that will be in about 2 years." ♦

Authors! Authors!

AAAS Publications director Patricia Morgan and *Current Clinical Trials* editor Edward Huth are calling for submissions from medical researchers to the new journal. For more information, contact Morgan at AAAS Publications, 1333 H St., NW, Washington, DC 20005.

In addition, Morgan is also seeking new publishing ideas from AAAS members and other readers of *Science* for single-author books, electronic journals, or print periodicals. She is most interested in ideas that "take advantage of areas of strength for AAAS—science education, environment and global change, science and technology policy, and modern biology—and in proposals for journals in areas that are not well served at present."

The AAAS Press is home to "books written for a broader audience [of scientists] than those that are the bread and butter of specialist publishers," says Morgan. "We think AAAS has a unique perspective on the value of encouraging interdisciplinary communication."

Morgan is aided in her efforts to develop and promote new products by marketing manager Celia McEnaney, who joined AAAS Publications in 1990 with extensive experience in direct marketing and bookstore sales.

Along with a specialized marketing plan, Morgan promises potential authors "attention to [their] manuscript on an intellectual level as fine as the finest university press" and "a publication schedule equal to that of a commercial house"—generally 4 to 6 months after a manuscript's acceptance. ♦

AAAS Elections

Ballots for the election of AAAS president-elect, members of the Board of Directors and Committee on Nominations, and section officers are in the mail. All active AAAS members (as of 13 September) should receive a ballot. Members enrolled in a second or third section will receive separately mailed ballots for each section.

Please vote promptly; ballots postmarked after 15 November will not be counted. If you do not receive a ballot, or if you get an incorrect ballot, please write to Linda McDaniel, AAAS Executive Office, 1333 H St., NW, Washington, DC 20005.

Members also are invited to nominate candidates (including themselves) for president-elect and the Board for election in the fall of 1992 (for terms beginning in February 1993). See the 28 June issue of *Science* for a list of this year's candidates, and the contents pages of any recent issue of *Science* for current Board members. Nominations, with candidates' curriculum vitae, should be sent no later than 1 November to Gretchen Seiler, AAAS Executive Office, 1333 H St., NW, Washington, DC 20005. ♦

1992 AAAS Council Meeting

The next meeting of the AAAS Council will take place during the Annual Meeting at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago on 10 February 1992.

Individuals or organizations wishing to present proposals or resolutions to the Council for possible inclusion in the meeting agenda must send them in

written form to AAAS Executive Officer Richard Nicholson by 8 November 1991.

Items should be consistent with AAAS's objectives and be appropriate for consideration by the Council. Resolutions should be in the traditional format, beginning with "whereas" statements of fact and concluding with "therefore be it resolved."

The Committee on Council Affairs will hold its open hearing on submitted items at 2:30 p.m. on 9 February, also at the Hyatt Regency. Late proposals or resolutions delivered to the executive officer in advance of the 9 February meeting will be considered provided they deal with urgent matters and are accompanied by a written expla-

nation of why they were not submitted by the November 1991 deadline.

Summaries of the Council Meeting agenda will be available during the Annual Meeting at both the AAAS information desk and the AAAS meetings office at the Hyatt Regency. A copy of the full agenda will be available for inspection as well. ♦

Report on Malaria in Africa Now Available

Little wonder that in Africa, where nearly 90 percent of all malaria deaths occur, a grim resignation hangs over most efforts to control the spread of the debilitating disease. Breaking through the gloom into pragmatic action is one aim of a new set of recommendations now available from the AAAS Sub-Saharan Africa Program's project on malaria and development in Africa, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

"The virulence of the malaria-carrying mosquito and parasite in Africa is unmatched anywhere in the world," says AAAS project manager Brad Michaels, noting that 80 to 85 percent of the world's malaria cases occur on that continent. "Malaria is so prevalent, and takes up so much of the countries' health resources, that in many communities it's seen as just a part of life."

The AAAS recommendations, however, strike a strong note of hope. Two factors set the report apart, says Michaels. One, the report emphasizes the primary importance of building the capacity of African experts and institutions to deal with malaria over the long term. And two, the research behind the proposals comes from a broad range of behavioral, social, and environmental sciences—a "cross-sectoral" strategy not typically employed in the fight against the disease.

The report caps 15 months of work by some two dozen scientists and health specialists who met in a final intensive workshop in Mombasa, Kenya, this May. Significantly, says Michaels, all but seven of the participants were African; they included A. M. A. Imevbore of Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria; Ebenezer Laing of the University of Ghana; and Fisseha Meskal of the National Research Institute of Health in Ethiopia.

"The workshop demonstrated that there is a broad base of expertise already in Africa that can be tapped," says Michaels. Such a base is important if antimalaria efforts are ever to be "locally sustainable."

What's more, says Michaels, "patterns of transmission can vary greatly, even between neighboring villages. Strategies must be tailored to the smallest manageable area" and that takes local knowledge and community cooperation best elicited by Africans themselves.

Other recommendations contained in the report concern worrisome links between malaria and the economic development of Africa.

For example, resource development projects range from major irrigation efforts to new dams or reservoirs built to provide local communities with water—all of which can create new havens

for mosquito breeding.

Stronger health components of Environmental Impact Statements are required, according to the report, possibly even a separate "Malaria Impact Statement" that could accompany any proposal for new development.

The report also highlights several cross-sectoral grassroots projects currently under way in places like Ghana and Ethiopia. "Some of the leaders [of these projects] were participants in the workshop," says Michaels. They're evidence, he says, that "an effective cross-sectoral approach is not just a philosophical musing, but something already in practice."

Such efforts "need to be strengthened," says Michaels. "We believe that's the next step."

For a copy of the report, write to the AAAS Sub-Saharan Africa Program, 1333 H St., NW, Washington, DC 20005. ♦

