

EDITORIAL

AuthorAID

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In our efforts to make the *Journal* a global publication, we have discovered a world-wide “publishing gap” extending well beyond our own *Journal*. Health and science researchers closest to poverty and poor health in the developing world are the least likely to publish their work and ideas in the academic journals that influence policymakers.

To help remedy the problem, we have proposed AuthorAID, a global program of assistance by volunteer editor/scientist mentors who would work with developing world authors who have promising work to publish. Authors wishing help abound and we found that many senior scientists, near or at retirement, are eager to be mentors. We also uncovered a wealth of editing capacity in affluent countries, “author’s editors” who are paid to assist researchers submitting to competitive journals. Many of these skilled editors would like to help AuthorAID.

AuthorAID would operate from a website, where a small staff would match authors with promising work to volunteer editor/scientist mentors. Beyond these matches, the site would offer resources to a larger community of authors and editors, building a knowledge community.

We can now report, that at the annual meeting of the Council of Science Editors, in Atlanta, AuthorAID received the endorsement of the Council and became a project of the Task Force on Science Journals, Poverty, and Human Development, created by CSE President Richard Horton and chaired by Paul Bozuwa. We have received generous offers of help and participation from the Forum of African Medical Editors and World Association of Medical Editors, plus many individual editors from all over the world.

We are hopeful that a five year development proposal from JPHP, Inc. will now garner grant support and test the AuthorAID concept;

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eventually helping reduce poverty and improve population health
(SciDev.Net, posted 2 September 2005: [http://www.scidev.net/
opinions/](http://www.scidev.net/opinions/)).

THE EDITORS