

## CHICAGO COLLABORATIVE

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Meeting: September 17, 2008**  
**American Medical Association**  
**Chicago, IL**

The second meeting of the new working group with the working title “Chicago Collaborative” was held at the American Medical Association in Chicago on September 17, 2008. Working group members expressed their thanks to the American Medical Association for hosting the second meeting of the working group.

**Attendees:** Irving Rockwood, Norman Frankel, Margaret Reich, Tom Richardson, Marty Frank, Catherine DeAngelis, Mary Ryan (recorder), Karen Butter, Betsy Solaro, Logan Ludwig, Michael Homan, Gail Yokote, Jean Shipman, Scott Plutchak, Pat Thibodeau (recorder).

**Group Name Confirmed:** The name of the new group was confirmed as the “Chicago Collaborative” reflecting the founding meeting location and the spirit of the new joint initiative focused on collaboration in addressing the grand challenges and opportunities of scholarly communication.

**Administrative Sponsorship & Operating Guidelines:** The Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries (AAHSL) has agreed to provide administrative sponsorship and support for the Chicago Collaborative including use of the AAHSL website for posting public documents about Collaborative activities such as executive summary meeting notes, operating guidelines and FAQs, lists of educational resources, and links to pertinent material. Duke University Medical Center Library and the University of California, Davis will support a wiki and monitored listserv respectively for internal communication of Collaborative representatives. The AAHSL website will represent the primary public presence of the Collaborative at this time.

Collaborative members reviewed and recommended changes to the drafts of two documents which were developed following the first planning meeting to explain the derivation of the new working group, its membership, guiding principles, and relationship to sponsoring organizations (Framework document) and to address common questions about the new group (FAQ document). Drafts of these documents were sent to the sponsoring organizations and once final drafts are approved they will be posted on the AAHSL website. These documents outline the broad vision and goals of the new group which emphasize collaboration and shared purpose, developing a shared understanding of scholarly scientific communication issues, creating effective strategies to address common understandings, and building a sustainable trust and dialog among Collaborative members. Strategies to meet the vision/goals include a Collaborative membership selected by organizations or associations rather than individual publisher, librarian, or

editor; sustainable, ongoing and open dialog among members regarding broad and high level scholarly scientific communication issues rather than more traditional buyer/seller roles; and, education of the Collaborative common constituencies on broad scientific communication issues (e.g., role of the scholarly journal, preservation of the scholarly record) rather than specific initiatives (e.g., NIH Public Access Mandate).

A draft press release was also reviewed by Collaborative representatives and an assignment made to create a final draft based on the revised Framework document for review and approval by the Collaborative. The final press release document will reside on the AAHSL website. An initial list of recipients for the press release was developed by attendees.

A brief discussion regarding new organizations or groups (e.g., other library organizations; other associations) not currently represented by the Collaborative suggested that further discussion about membership criteria would need to occur. Attendees suggested that the framing documents should emphasize science, technology, and medicine (STM) rather than health sciences exclusively to broaden the net of possible future members. Attendees suggested that diversity of efforts is a good thing and that attempting to address how the Collaborative relates to other ongoing initiatives would not be beneficial.

### **Discovering Common Ground as a Sustaining Strategy**

The kind of interaction between publishing/editing associations and librarians initiated by the Chicago Collaborative is new. There is no template or model to follow that will assure ongoing dialog that is both sustainable and worthwhile to all parties. A key piece of the sustainability issue, however, can be found in the common ground already discovered, including the interest in focusing on the big picture, the grand challenges of scientific communication rather than the daily issues. For example, what will scholarly publishing look like in 2025? Whose role is it to preserve content – NLM, British Library, large academic libraries or library systems? With digital preservation, are we preserving just the article or the context and experience within which it was published? How can the broader package of the “journal experience and context” including advertisements be preserved in addition to the digitized article? What will happen when the first migration of digital content occurs? As backfiles are digitized should there be an expectation that current functionality and features will follow for the older literature? These and other issues suggest a multitude of topics to sustain dialog, but also an opportunity to educate a wider audience of authors, librarians and editors about the larger issues of scholarly publishing.

Representatives discussed the use of the internal listserv to surface higher level issues associated with scholarly communication for in-person dialogues. The identification of substantive issues which focus on the STM faculty and students who are both content providers/generators and content consumers are of concern to STM publishers, editors, and librarians. Such issues include:

- Effective STM authorship

- Branding STM content
- International institutional partnerships and perspectives associated with STM research and teaching efforts
- Dynamic content containers (print, electronic, etc.)

### **Fostering Collaboration through Education**

An important role to be played by the Chicago Collaborative will be through education. Discussion included the need to educate authors and librarians about how value is added to the raw manuscript as it goes through the process of editing to make it more scientifically accurate and professional looking. There is an ongoing need to educate authors on issues of misconduct and plagiarism. Publishers need to be aware of the institutional constraints of libraries, including fiscal constraints and organizational structure.

Potential future educational activities to engage joint constituencies included the following:

- A scholarly publication toolkit could be designed by the Collaborative and offered on the website for institutions and their authors, particularly new authors
- Programs could be offered at MLA, AAHSL, and AAMC, including the spring meeting of the AAMC Council of Academic Societies
- Posters on scholarly communication issues and collaboration could be designed for key scientific meetings
- Commentaries or editorials could be prepared for society newsletters or association publications
- Online education and webcasts could also be designed to be launched from the Collaborative website.

### **Next Actions**

- Redraft and distribute press release, operating framework document, and FAQ
- Establish public presence on AAHSL website and post vetted Collaborative documents and educational links
- Continue to identify educational programs to be offered on the website
- Identify and sponsor educational programs for STM faculty, students, publishers, librarians and editors on the STM publishing process
- Establish the 2009 meeting schedule of the Chicago Collaborative for two face-to-face meetings.