

Biological Futures

in a GLOBALIZED WORLD

Spring Quarter Colloquium Series

Gary Christian
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Monday, May 7, 2012
4:30 pm
Savery 408

The Ethics of Scientific Writing: How to Write and How Not to Write a Paper

Scientific writing for peer-reviewed journals is how scientists communicate their work to the world. It is important to tell a clear and compelling story, beginning with justification for the work, placing it in the context of prior work, and its significance in advancing the field, i.e., what problem is being addressed? Manuscripts are submitted to peer-review by experts, selected by the editor. Only a select number will be published, depending on novelty, significance to the field, demonstrated applicability, appropriateness for the journal, and so forth. Peer-review is for the benefit of the author as well as for the editor, and helps improve the quality and impact of the paper. Ethics in publication is of paramount importance, and has become more of an issue for editors in recent years, particularly with the advent of the electronic age.

Professor Christian will relay his experiences as an Editor-in-Chief for *Talanta* over some twenty years, providing guidance on how to structure and present a paper so the reviewers and readers will have a good understanding of the author's accomplishments, and pitfalls to avoid. He will give real-world examples of manuscripts that do not follow established and ethical guidelines, along with cases of outright scientific fraud in the chemical literature.

Gary Christian is Emeritus Professor of Chemistry at the University of Washington.

For more information on the Biological Futures in a Globalized World initiative, please visit <http://tiny.cc/biological-futures>