

Council Clarifies Responsibilities of Authors

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At its 26 May 2006 meeting, Council approved a new definition for authorship in AGU publications. In recommending the change, the Publications Committee noted that it would provide researchers, particularly junior ones, with clearer guidance on what is expected of individuals who are named as authors. The revised statement, which is reproduced below, addresses questions that had come to the committee and recognizes recent expressions of concern about scientific integrity.

“To protect the integrity of authorship, only individuals who have significantly contributed to the research and preparation of the article should be listed as authors. All of these coauthors share responsibility for submitted articles. While not all coauthors may be familiar with all aspects of the research presented in their article, each should have in place an appropriate process for reviewing the accuracy of the reported results. A deceased person who met the criteria described here may be designated as an author. The corresponding author accepts the responsibility of having included as authors all persons who meet these criteria for authorship and none who do not. Other

contributors who do not meet the authorship criteria should be appropriately acknowledged in the article. The corresponding author also attests that all living coauthors have seen the final version of the article, agree with the major conclusions, and have agreed to its submission for publication.”

Also at the May meeting, the Committee on International Participation proposed a Union award “to recognize an individual scientist or a small team for making an outstanding contribution to furthering the Earth and space sciences and using our science for the benefit of society in less favored nations.” In doing so, the committee noted that AGU has been seeking ways to honor such individuals, many of whom often work under very difficult conditions, with limited resources, or against extraordinary challenges. Council authorized the establishment of the award with the understanding that its name will be approved by the Executive Committee. Opportunities for members to nominate appropriate candidates will be announced in *Eos*.

Council reaffirmed for two years the position statement entitled “The Importance of Archiving and Availability of Geophysical Data.” It is expected that in those two years, a panel of members will prepare for Council

consideration one or more statements to be used for advocacy and/or for guiding the community on practices related to data. Because of the breadth of this issue, the panel is expected to include members throughout the world and possibly have representation from other societies. The position statement entitled “The Role of U.S. Government in Supporting Earth and Space Science Research” was reaffirmed for four years. These statements and all others adopted by AGU can be found at www.agu.org/sci_soc/policy/sci_pol.html

The Seismology Section request to establish a section award for young scientists was approved. The award will be named for recent Bowie Medalist Keiiti Aki.

In addition, there were a number of administrative actions such as acceptance of the report of the independent auditor; acceptance of the tellers report on the election of officers for the 2006–2008 term and authorization to destroy the ballots; and approval of changes to the Hydrology Section bylaws.

Council meetings are open to the membership. The next meeting will be held in conjunction with the Fall Meeting in San Francisco, Calif.