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Nominating Committee  
World Federation of Science Journalists  
4388 Rue Saint-Denis, Suite 200  
Montréal, Quebec, H2J 2L1  
Canada

Dear Colleagues,

It is an honor to recommend Debbie Ponchner as a candidate for the Federation board. Debbie is an outstanding journalist and editor, as a person, a consummate leader of and advocate for the Latin American community of science journalists, and a thoughtful and generous volunteer who has ably served the global community over the past decade. She will inclusively represent Latin American journalists' voices and needs while bringing to the table sound judgment, management skill, and a knowledge of the global community built through years of contributing and connecting.

I have had the privilege of getting to know Debbie since she joined the board of the Council for the Advancement of Science Writing (CASW) in 2016. Before that I knew her mainly through her extraordinary work as an editor at *Scientific American* and *La Nación*. In both those roles, Debbie was not simply an editor but an innovator and creator, launching a daily science section at a national newspaper (and winning numerous awards for her own contributions to the section), and then building from scratch a Spanish-language website offering content from a leading international science magazine to Latin American readers.

Debbie was a senior member of the team of journalists that won a cross-border reporting grant for the investigative project "Transgender in Latin America: Unfolded from Otherness," which launched InquireFirst's "[Historias sin Fronteras](#)" series and was a Fetisov Journalism Awards international finalist for outstanding investigative reporting. It was no surprise, then, that Annual Reviews asked Debbie to create *Knowable en español* in 2022. Through her work, countless readers across Latin America can now access high-quality coverage of global science relevant to them, even as readers around the world learn about the concerns of Latin Americans and the work of scientists in the region.

Debbie has made countless contributions to the regional and global professional community. On CASW's board, Debbie has helped craft our conference sessions each year as a member of the New Horizons Committee and has judged awards and fellowships. In board discussions, she keeps us mindful of our global connections and responsibilities and how we can all learn and thrive if we keep those connections strong. In Latin America, she gives generously of her time as a presenter and workshop speaker on science journalism and has served on the Gabo Prize jury.

Debbie has participated in several World Conferences, including WCSJ2017, for which she judged travel grant applications; WCSJ2019, where she was a winner of a travel grant competition for a story inspired by the Lausanne conference; and WCSJ2023, for which she

served on the original program committee. Finally, she was part of the Kavli Ethics Workshop group that met over two days in November 2021 in San Jerónimo, Antioquía, Colombia to lay the foundation for a regional survey of science journalists on the guiding principles of science journalism, an important Federation project that continues to date.

Debbie Ponchner, whose reporting talent was recognized more than 20 years ago with an MIT Knight Science Journalism Fellowship, has established her leadership of the regional and global science journalism community through brilliant reporting and editing, generous volunteer work, and important international service on boards and committees. Her innovative spirit, management skill, and thoughtful and collaborative approach to problem-solving make her well suited to a leadership role in the Federation during challenging times.

The Nominating Committee has requested letters from senior members of nominating associations. About me: I have been a member of the National Association of Science Writers since 1986. In my role as Executive Director of CASW (since 2013; I am retiring this month), I co-organized the 2017 World Conference with NASW Executive Director Tinsley Davis. CASW and NASW are partners in the annual ScienceWriters conference, and I have served as co-organizer of that conference since 2013. My most recent volunteer contribution to NASW has been as proofreader of the association magazine.

Sincerely,



Rosalind Reid