Teaching Statistics in the Health Sciences
Motomi Mori, PhD, 2011 Chair
Number of Meetings – 2 (Executive Committee and Business Meetings)
Attendance at the Business Meeting – 40
Dates of Meetings – August 1, 2011
Number of Conference Calls – 0

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During 2011, the accomplishments of the Section included the following: (1) excellent and well attended sessions and round table discussions at the JSM in Miami Beach FL; (2) four section awards; (3) three outstanding issues of the TSHS newsletters; (4) updating the TSHS Officers’ Handbook; (5) updating the TSHS Charter in conjunction with the COS Charter Review; (5) co-sponsorship of the Cavell Brownie Scholars Diversity Workshop and Mentoring Program; (6) financial planning; (7) plan to move the TSHS web site to the ASA community site, and (8) representations at the ENAR meeting and efforts to increase teaching related sessions and workshops at the ENAR meeting.

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2011, the Section continued to promote and facilitate the exchange of ideas and resources relating to teaching of statistics in health sciences, through the newsletters, meetings and TSHS-sponsored activities at JSM. The Section sponsored 16 sessions including 8 sessions as the main sponsor (1 invited, 2 topic contributed, 1 contributed, and 4 round table discussion) as well as the annual TSHS business meeting/open mixer.

We were very excited to be able to give four awards this year. The Distinguished Achievement Award was received by Ed Gracely, Drexel University College of Medicine and School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, for his many years of service to the TSHS section as newsletter editor, his active participation in section activities, and serving as an institutional memory of the section to new TSHS officers. The Outstanding Teaching Award was received by Lisa Sullivan, Boston University School of Public Health, Department of Biostatistics, for her long dedicated career focusing on teaching of statistics in health sciences. The Young Investigator Award was received by Kendra Schmid, University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Public Health, Department of Biostatistics, and the Best Contributed Paper Award was received by Heather Bush, University of Kentucky College of Public Health, Department of Biostatistics, for her presentation “Higher-Order Assessments: Bridging the Gap between Expectations and Outcomes”.

The Executive Committee (EC) and Business Meetings were well attended. We had a productive EC Meeting and discussed the TSHS Officers’ Handbook, TSHS Charter Review, and the budget and financial plan for the next few years. At the Business Meeting, we awarded several door prizes (many of which were provided free by vendors at the Exhibit Hall), presented the Section awards and shared congratulations, and provided updates on Section activities.

CONCERNS AND CHALLENGES

Budget: Our expenses were higher than our revenue, although we had sufficient carry-over from previous years to cover the short-term deficit. At the EC meeting, we decided to reduce the number of Section awards and the amount of the cash awards. Other possibilities were discussed including
increasing the membership dues by a small amount (e.g., $1.00), offering CE courses to raise additional revenue, outreach and increasing the number of members, and moving the website to the ASA community site.

Charter Review and Update: The charter is currently being reviewed by the EC members, and the revision should be made and submitted to the COS by mid-November.

Webmaster: As we move the website to the ASA community site, we will need to identify a web master for the Section.

Contributed and Topic Contributed Papers and Posters: The Section needs to make continued efforts to increase the number of contributed and topic contributed papers and posters, and to also encourage the presenters to submit their papers to the JSM proceedings.