Teaching Statistics in the Health Sciences
Todd G. Nick

number of meetings - 2
dates of meetings - Wednesday, August 14, 2002
average attendance - 25
number of conference calls - 0

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2003, the Section continued the exchange of resources and ideas and promoted communication among the TSHS members. This was accomplished through many activities at the JSM in New York, the newsletter, the web site, and through emails to the members. Our section sponsored activities that involved more than 25 speakers (invited / contributed talks, poster presentations, or leader of roundtable luncheon) at JSM.

The section co-sponsored a CE course at JSM 2002 on an introduction on regulatory compliance by Carolyn Apperson-Hansen and Scott Revolinski. At the end of the year, our section supported two CE courses proposals on sample size determination for JSM 2003. One of those, by Ralph O'Brien, was accepted by the Advisory Committee on Continuing Education.

We had 9 officers at the executive committee meeting and had a great turnout at the business meeting, with over 40 members present at the business meeting. There was a lot of enthusiasm at the meeting and many members stepped forward to assist the section in the upcoming years. Dennis Dixon, from NIH, NIAID, and DAIDS made a special presentation to us on the shortage of biostatisticians and the need to recruit students into the field. Our awards for the Section's best presentations at JSM 2002 were also made at this time.

HIGHLIGHTS

At the JSM, we had a terrific year in sponsoring activities. This included 6 roundtable luncheons, an allotted invited session on teaching outside the classroom, one special contributed session featuring the challenges Mike O'Fallon faced in leading a unit, another special contributed session on teaching people to reason with numbers in health care settings, one contributed session, and 6 poster presentations. The business meeting had over 40 members present and was very lively.
Concerns:

We discussed the possibility of only sending our newsletter electronically since it is expensive to send out by mail. However, we felt that it is still important to receive a paper copy so we will continue to send out in regular mail. Although we've had more than a few presentations in the past couple of years, our section only had a few papers published in the proceedings. We feel it is important to have more of our presenters submit their papers to the proceedings so we tried using email to encourage them to do so.