Teaching Statistics in the Health Sciences
Robert A. Oster
Number of Meetings – 2
Dates of Meetings – August 11, 2004
Average Attendance – 25
Number of Conference Calls – 0

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During 2004, the accomplishments of the Section included the following: (1) excellent and well-attended sessions and roundtable luncheons at the JSM in Toronto; (2) an excellent CE course at the JSM in Toronto; (3) three excellent issues of the TSHS newsletter; (4) the updating of materials on the TSHS website, as well as a completely redesigned website; (5) the establishment of two listservs, one for section officers and the other for all section members; (6) a thorough review of the TSHS charter, which produced several proposed revisions in order to bring the charter up-to-date; (7) the establishment of the TSHS Distinguished Achievement Award; (8) the development of detailed guidelines for the responsibilities of the Chair-Elect, the Chair, and the Immediate Past Chair; and (9) the beginning of joint ventures with the Section on Statistical Education (Stat Ed).

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2004, the Section continued the exchange of resources and ideas and promoted communication among the TSHS members. This was accomplished through many TSHS-sponsored activities at the JSM in Toronto, the three issues of the TSHS newsletter, the TSHS website, several e-mails to Section members, and the two new listservs (one for section officer communication and one for communication among all section members).

At the JSM, the Section sponsored three sessions (one invited paper session with three presenters and one discussant, one contributed paper session with seven presenters, and one topic contributed panel with three panelists), two contributed posters, two roundtable luncheons, and the annual TSHS business meeting and mixer. The Section also sponsored a one-day CE course entitled “Writing Effectively: Communicating with Nonstatisticians”. Tom Lang and Ralph O’Brien were the instructors of this course.

Eight officers, along with the ASA staff liaison, attended the Executive Committee meeting. The turnout at the Business Meeting and Mixer was good, with approximately 40 members attending. There was a lot of enthusiasm at the meeting, as well as excellent participation in the meeting. Several members volunteered to assist the Section in upcoming years. Eight vendors and one section member provided a total of ten door prizes for attendees of the Business Meeting. The Section also presented an award for the best contributed paper at the Business Meeting.

The dinner meeting of members of the TSHS and Stat Ed Executive Committees was very successful. Many ideas were generated regarding joint ventures between the two sections. An article describing these ideas appeared in the TSHS newsletter and the Stat Ed newsletter.
CONCERNS

The Section needs more contributed papers in general, and topic contributed papers in particular, to be presented at future JSMs. It is also important to the Section that more of the JSM presenters submit their papers for publication in the JSM proceedings.

The all-electronic newsletter, which is placed on the website, has been a success; however, a small portion (less than 10%) of Section members are not receiving e-mails containing the link to the newsletter (plus the table of contents) since ASA does not have valid e-mail addresses for these members.