Teaching Statistics in the Health Sciences
Marlene J. Egger, 2007 Chair
Number of Meetings – 2 (EC and Business meetings)
Dates of Meetings – July 30, 2007
Attendance at Business meeting – 40
Number of Conference Calls – 0

ACCOMPLISHMENTS
During 2007, the accomplishments of the Section included excellent, timely, and well-attended invited and contributed sessions and 7am roundtables at the JSM in Salt Lake City; three outstanding issues of the newsletter; transfer of the listserv function to ASA staff; documentation of review of the TSHS charter by COSGB; and the second TSHS Distinguished Service Award.

HIGHLIGHTS
In 2007, the Section continued to exchange ideas and stimulate creativity in the teaching of statistics in the health sciences, through the newsletter, meetings and TSHS-sponsored activities at the JSM. The Section sponsored 7 sessions: 1 contributed paper session, 1 invited panel session, and 5 breakfast roundtables as well as the annual TSHS business meeting and mixer. In addition we co-sponsored 4 invited sessions, 5 topic-contributed sessions, and 6 contributed paper sessions.

The TSHS Best Contributed Paper Award was received by Harry Norton, Carolinas Medical Center, for the paper, “Use of Interesting Examples from Medicine and Biology.”

The Executive Committee meeting and Business meeting were well-attended. The Section was pleased to present the second TSHS Distinguished Service Award to Ralph O’Brien, for his dedicated and continuing service to the Section.

CONTINUING AND RESOLVED CONCERNS
Mid-year, we welcomed back our ASA staffer, Monica Clark, after an extended illness. She continued to forward messages to people who could provide assistance throughout this time. Our best thoughts and wishes are with her!

The outgoing Chair recommends that at least two EC conference calls be held during the year in the future, starting in January. In addition, the guidelines for officers on the TSHS website are extremely helpful. Currently, an excellent place to find the updated list of officers is the Section newsletter.

The Young Investigator award was not given this year, due to a lack of entries. For 2008, the Past Chair’s email address has been added to the material on the website. The Best Invited Paper Award was not given this year, as the invited session was a panel, and the session organizer felt that it would be inappropriate to single out one of the panel members.
After much discussion with COS and ASA staff, we determined that Section email messages should be sent via our ASA staffer (Monica Clark) or the webmaster (Ryan Bell). This is because the listservs are not routinely updated, but moreover, because some ASA members have directed ASA not to give their email addresses to *anyone* except ASA staff, and that includes officers of subunits of ASA. Thus, to ensure that we reach all of our members, the best course of action is to have electronic communications forwarded to them by ASA staff. This is anticipated to resolve the concern that a small percentage of our members are not receiving emails containing the link to the newsletter.

COSGB reviewed our charter and offered the suggestion that only the Chair and COS Representative need be elected; all other offices could be appointed if the Section so chooses. This issue will be discussed in 2008.

The Section continues to need more contributed and topic contributed papers and posters at the JSM and elsewhere. It is also important to the Section that presenters submit their papers to the JSM proceedings. Section members who make presentations elsewhere are invited to send their papers to the JSM proceedings.