

**American Statistical Association (ASA)
Teaching Statistics in the Health Sciences (TSHS) Section
Minutes of the Annual Business Committee Meeting
July 30, 2007 at the Venice Room of the Grand America Hotel**

The Section mixer started at 5:30 PM with about 25 attendees enjoying conversation and the fine hors d'oeuvres, wine and beverages. **Marlene Egger, Section Chair**, presided over the business meeting and reported matters taken up at the Executive Committee meeting earlier.

She introduced **Jodi Lapidus as the Program Chair** for the 2008 JSM. Jodi announced that we have moved from luncheon roundtables to breakfast roundtables this year and that we had 5 breakfast roundtables at this year's JSM:

- *Teaching Community Collaborators to Understand Health Research Methods and Results*
- *Ideas for Improving Appreciation and Understanding of Cluster Sampling*
- *Interpreting Statistical Results from Medical Literature in the Classroom*
- *Biostatistics Curriculum for NIH Training Grants*
- *Balancing Training and Research: Statistics in the Health Sciences.*

The breakfast roundtables are better attended than the luncheons because they cost only \$12 compared to \$40 for the luncheons. For the 2008 JSM, Jodi said we have been allocated an invited session by the Program Planning Committee and that she has two tentative topics for this session. She announced that our section will be giving out a Young Investigator award for next year's JSM and that criteria for the award are posted on our website.

Publications Officer Bob Oster mentioned that he will put an article in the AMSTAT News announcing our award winners this year. He mentioned that he oversees what goes on our website and has the responsibility of updating it. He solicited materials to be posted on our website which is being maintained by **Rui Wang, our webmaster**. On behalf of **Ed Gracely, our newsletter editor**, he said that the Section Newsletter comes out 3 times a year and he invited contributions to the newsletter. On behalf of **Dan Byrne, our Book Review editor**, he invited suggestions for a book to be reviewed in the newsletter.

Cyndy Long announced that the **Distinguished Achievement award** which is given out by the TSHS section every two years will be awarded this year to **Ralph O'Brien** for service to the section and the statistics profession. (See picture, above). She said that in the past ten years, Ralph had held several positions in the TSHS section, presented papers at section sessions, taught a very popular continuing education course and rendered other invaluable services to our section. Bob Oster mentioned that he nominated Ralph for the award because he led the section by example and because he was an inspiration to him with the leadership positions he held and the advice he provided him whenever he needed it.

Ralph accepted the award with gratitude and remarked that he was surprised when he was told about it since he thought that it was a one-time award for Stephen Looney who got the award in 2005. A plaque and \$1,000 came with the award. Ralph also announced that he will be going back to academia and has accepted an appointment at the Case Western University effective September 1, 2007.

Marlene thanked the outgoing section officers (Gloria Caldito, Patrick Tarwater and Cyndy Long) for their services to the section. She announced that she has made reservations for dinner at the Lemon Grass Thai Restaurant after the meeting and invited those interested to join.

Meeting adjourned at around 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Gloria Caldito, Ph.D. TSHS Secretary-Treasurer 2006-2007