Summer 2002 Section of the American Statistical Association

TEACHING OF STATISTICS IN THE HEALTH SCIENCES

ACTIVITIES PLANNED

From the TSHS Chair: Todd Nick

As chair of TSHS, I want to encourage all members, if at all possible, to participate in the upcoming meetings in New York City. We have a very exciting program this year in our section and I would like to especially thank Walter Ambrosius and Cyndi Long for putting it all together. Please plan to attend the TSHS sessions, roundtable discussions, and workshops this year. I'm sure these activities will move our section forward and stimulate even more discussion related to our section. Note that if you are planning to attend the August meetings and want the best rates, registration forms must be received in the registration office on or before the "early bird" deadline:**July 5, 2002**.See the website at http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2002/registration/default.htm for more information.

This year's section program encompasses a poster session on Monday at lunch time, roundtable discussions during lunch on Tuesday and Wednesday, a panel session on Monday starting at 2:00 p.m., an invited session on Tuesday starting at 2:00 p.m., and sessions starting at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday and 10:30 a.m. on Thursday. To see all of the abstracts, go to http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2002/onlineprogram/index.cfm and specify TSHS as the sponser (in the middle of the page). There are a few CE courses you may want to consider taking as well. Ralph O'Brien is giving a one day course on Sunday on Sample-Size Analysis in Study Planning. Thomas Lang is giving a 1/2-day course on Sunday as well from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. on Writing Effectively and Communicating with Non -Statisticians. Our section is co-sponsoring a new course this year so please plan to attend that as well. The presenters are Carolyn Apperson-Hansen and Scott Revolinski from The Cleveland Clinic Foundation. Their course is from 8:00 - 12:00 on Monday morning and its title is "A Journey into Regulatory Compliance: An Introduction to 21 CFR Part II." Again, see the online program for descriptions of these courses. Last but not least, don't forget to check out our website at http://www.bio.ri.ccf.org/ASA_TSHS/ .

TSHS MEMBERS MEETING AND MIXER
WEDNESDAY
5:30 - 7:00 P.M.
August 14, 2001

I look forward to seeing you in New York in August. If you have any suggestions on how our section can serve you better, please feel free to e-mail them to any of the section officers. Also, please bring your ideas to our very informal TSHS business meeting and mixer. It's on Wednesday, from 5:30-7:00 p.m., in the Lincoln Suite meeting room in the Hilton. ■

2002 JSM IN NEW YORK

From the 2002 Program Chair: Walter Ambrosius

In the Spring Newsletter I discussed a preview of the upcoming TSHS program at JSM. By now the dates and times of the events have been finalized so I would like to give you the schedule so that you can plan ahead. We have posters, papers, luncheons, and a mixer. I would like to thank the organizers and presenters of each of these sessions for their hard work.

On Monday from 12:00-1:50 p.m. there are five TSHS Contributed Posters. The TSHS posters are numbered 12-16 in the Program. They are:
12.Incorporating Material From the Web Into A Biostatistics Course by Andrea Berghold (University of Graz)
13.Improving the Quality of an Introductory Biostatistics Course for Physicians by Daniel Byrne, Patric Arbogast, Shiva Gautam, and Robert Dittus (Vanderbilt University Medical Center)
14.A Biostatistics Workbook for Medical Students by Linda Goldsmith (University of Louisville) and Elizabeth Goldsmith (Swarthmore College)
15.Teaching Practical Applications to Health Services Fellows by Margaret Peterson (Hospital for Special Surgery)
16.Incorporating Large and Historical Bibliographies into the Teaching of Applied Statistics and Epidemiology by Mark Fulcomer (Richard Stockton College and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ)), Adrienne Headley (UMDNJ), Marcia Sass (Restat Systems, Inc.), S. Kriska (Restat), Katherine Chung (UMDNJ), Jenny Clayton (Richard Stockton), Michelle LaRue (UMDNJ), and Michael Holton (Richard Stockton).

Also on Monday from 2:00-3:50 p.m. will be a Topic Contributed Panel organized by Todd Nick (University of Mississippi Medical Center). This session is entitled **Leading a Biostatistical Unit at an Academic Medical Center: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly** and features ASA Past-President W. Michael O'Fallon (Mayo Clinic). Ralph O'Brien (Cleveland Clinic Foundation) and Barbara Tilley (Medical University of South Carolina) as discussants.

On Tuesday from 12:30-1:50 p.m. we will have three roundtable luncheons. These luncheons were organized by Cynthia Long (Palmer Center for Chiropractic Research). The sessions are:
T-21. Teaching Entry-Level Statistics to Multidisciplinary Health Science Graduate Students by James Leeper (University of Alabama)
T-22. Teaching Statistical Decision-Making to Health Scientists by Robert Hirsch (The George Washington University)
T-23. The "Statistical Considerations" Section for Research Proposals by Ralph O'Brien (Cleveland Clinic Foundation)

Also on Tuesday from 2:00-3:50 p.m. is our Invited Paper Session entitled **"Teaching Outside of the Classroom."** The schedule is
2:05p.m. Windows of Teaching Opportunities: Mentoring and Thesis Advising in Biostatistics and Public Health by Anna Barón (University of Colorado Health Sciences Center)
2:35 p.m. "What Sample Size Do I Need?" ... Or ... A Biostatistical Consultant's Roles as an Educator by Reena Deutsch (University of California, San Diego)
3:05p.m. Statistical Training for Professionals: Lessons Learned in the Life Sciences by Donna Kowalski and Robert Dillard (Pharmacia)
3:35 p.m. Floor Discussion

On Wednesday from 8:30-10:20 a.m. we have a Topic Contributed Paper Session organized by Mark Martin (Bayer Diagnostics) entitled **"Teaching People to Reason with Numbers in Health Care Settings."** Talks include
An Integrated Model of Quantitative and Qualitative Methodologies by Rick Ittenbach (The Children's Hospital of Philadephia)
Designing and Disseminating Prognostic Models For Use In Routine Clinical Practice: Experience From the Framingham Heart Study by Lisa Sullivan and Ralph D'Agostino (Boston University)
Don't Tell Me About Your Seed! by Mike Colopy (GlaxoSmithKline)
Teaching Health Care Workers to Reason with Numbers: A Few Ideas by Mark Martin (Bayer Diagnostics)
Teaching Statistical Concepts with Common Sense in the Context of AP Statistics by Fred Djang (Bristol-Myers Squibb).

We then have another round of three roundtable luncheons (also organized by Cynthia Long) on Wednesday from 12:30-1:50 p.m. They are:
W-21. Explaining 'Bayesian' to Clinicians: What Should They Know? by Dalene Stangl (Duke University)
W-22. Teaching Statistics in a Biomedical Manufacturing Setting by Wayne Taylor (Taylor Enterprises, Inc.)
W-23. Teaching Statistical Methods to Biologists and Informaticists in the Genomic Sciences by Emmanuel Lazaridis (International Agency for Research on Cancer)

Don't forget the **TSHS Section Mixer** from 5:30-7:00 p.m. on Wednesday evening!

Finally, our Section has a Contributed Paper Session from 10:30 a.m.-12:20 p.m. on Thursday. Talks include
The Will Rogers Phenomenon: What Is It And How Did It Get Its Name? by Harry Norton (Carolinas Medical Center) and George Divine (Henry Ford Health System)
Simplifying Statistical Tables for Students in Elementary Courses by Dana Quade (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill)
Using the Consulting Experience to Enhance the Teaching of Statistics by Gloria Caldito (Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center-Shreveport)
A Family Practice Journal Club That Emphasizes Active Learning in Biostatistics and Epidemiology by Stephen Looney (University of Louisville School of Medicine)
A Proposed Clinical Research Curriculum for Chiropractors by Cynthia Long (Palmer Center for Chiropractic Research)
Experience of Using SAS Software in Teaching an Advanced Biostatistics Course for MPH Graduate Students from 1990 - 2000 by Tzu-Cheg Kao and David Cruess (Uniformed Services University).

Please make plans to attend as many of our activities as possible. Remember that there will be an award for the best invited paper, the best contributed paper, and the best poster. Ballots will be available at the sessions. ■

2003 JSM IN SAN FRANCISCO

From the 2003 Program Chair: Cyndy Long

As you can see from the other articles in this newsletter, our Section has a very exciting program set for this summer's New York meetings. I would like to continue this tradition as we head west for the 2003 JSM in San Francisco, to be held from August 3 – 7. This starts with having our one allotted invited session planned and submitted by July 19.

I am planning on a session around the topic of "How to Improve the Quality of Teaching Biostatistics to Health Care Professionals and Students…," perhaps focusing on "Adding Modern Statistical Methods in Teaching Biostatistics to…" Although this is something I am always striving for in my own teaching and consulting, I was intrigued at how many suggestions I received from Section members regarding ideas for roundtable luncheon topics for the 2002 JSM that fit in this general category. (Thanks again for all the responses to my e-mail request for ideas and volunteers!)

You can see that I have yet to even refine the topic for the invited session, but I will be putting together the session over the next month. Please feel free to e-mail me with your suggestions (Long_c@palmer.edu). And, although we are limited to only the one invited session, we have ample opportunity—and much more time—to organize topic contributed paper and panel sessions.

Also feel free to discuss ideas for contributed sessions with me during the upcoming meetings. I plan to attend most of the TSHS sessions and will definitely be at the Section's meeting and mixer on Wednesday night. See you in New York. ■

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Congratulations!

A BIG pat on the back for these deserving statisticians . . .

TSHS Chair – 2003: James Leeper, University of Alabama
TSHS Chair-Elect - 2003: Robert A. Oster, University of Alabama at Birmingham
TSHS Program Chair - 2003: Cyndy Long, Palmer Center for Chiropractic Research
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