

# TEACHING OF STATISTICS

## IN THE HEALTH SCIENCES

SECTION OF THE AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

June 1996

### From the TSHS Chair: Linda S. Chan

#### Overview

It is really exciting to see that the demand of our professional services in the health sciences is continually spiraling upward. It is also exciting to see that advances in technology are giving us many challenges to change the way we teach and the way we serve. I am asking each one of you to innovatively think how we can make use of these opportunities to teach statistics effectively in the health sciences. I welcome your inputs and ideas. Let us work together to turn them into effective programs. Please e-mail your thoughts to me at: lschan@hsc.usc.edu or call me at 213-226-6744 or FAX them to me at 213-226-6195.

In addition to putting an exciting program together for you at the Annual Meeting (see page 2 for details), there are two things that I would like to accomplish this year. The first is a homepage for our Section on the Web (see draft on page 3) and the second is to organize a continuing education course for the next Annual Meetings. If you have ideas or can help with them, please let me know. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Annual Meeting in Chicago.

#### A Teleconference Meeting of the Officers

On April 24, 1996 the Executive Committee had a teleconference which worked out very well. The agenda included report and discussion of the following: 1996 program, section awards, budget, newsletter, Council of Sections matters, Committee to Nominate Fellows, Committee on Nominations, Homepage on WWW, Continuing Education Course, business meeting schedule in Chicago, and open discussions.

For the budget, the Committee approved expenses for 1) awards to invited and contributed papers participants, 2) traveling and/or reimbursement for invited speakers, 3) newsletters, 4) meeting expenses, 5) continuing education course, and 6) mailing cost for soliciting program inputs.

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The Committee approved the pursuit of a continuing education course. Todd Nick and Ralph O'Brien will work together to get this going. We are targeting the course to be given in the 1997 Annual Meeting.

#### Committee to Nominate Fellows

Annually, the Committee identifies members of Section who would be suitable nominees for the honor of Fellow of the American Statistical Association. The Committee consists of three members and assists in locating a sponsor for each, and assures that the necessary documentation is prepared and transmitted to the ASA Committee on Fellows. This year, we need both volunteers to serve on this Committee and nominations. We need active member participation in this activity. Please call Linda Chan at 213-226-6744 or e-mail her at lschan@hsc.usc.edu.

# TSHS SESSIONS AT ASA ANNUAL MEETINGS CHICAGO, AUGUST 4-8, 1996

by Deborah Dawson

Two invited paper sessions, as well as a special contributed paper session, are being sponsored by the Section on the Teaching of Statistics in the Health Sciences at the 1996 Joint Statistical Meetings in Chicago.

- The invited session entitled, "Managed Care and Data Management" is being organized by Dr. William Harlan, Associate Director for Disease Prevention at the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Harlan will address the issues and expectations associated with changes in the medical care system and their implication for health care research and biostatistics. Other speakers include Dr. Roz Lasker of the NY Academy of Sciences, who will discuss the informational interface between public health and managed care. Dr. Garland Land of the Missouri Department of Health, who will focus on the development of useful outcomes and surrogate assessments, and Dr. Richard Landis of Penn State University, who will address analytical considerations in making comparisons across groups and systems.
- The special contributed paper session is being organized by Dr. Tonya Smoot of the University of Alabama at Birmingham. It is entitled: "Teaching Statistics to Health Professionals: Bridging the Gap Between Practice and Theory". Presenters include Dr. Smoot, Dr. Craig Turnbull of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Dr. Carolyn Boyle of Mississippi State University, Dr. Karan Singh of the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and Dr. Margaret Peterson of the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York. These talks address such aspects of teaching health practitioners as teaching in academic medical centers, the special needs of weekend graduate students in off-campus programs, problem based learning approaches, and education of the educator.
- The second invited session is a panel discussion being organized by Dr. Alan Davis of Oklahoma University Health Sciences Center. This session will examine "The Role of Statisticians in Grant Proposal and Review", emphasizing the health science arena. Participants include Dr. Paula Roberson of the Arkansas Cancer Research Center, Dr. Barbara Tilley of Henry Ford Hospital, Dr. Pippa Simpson of Wayne State University, Dr. Vicki Hertzberg of Emory University, and Dr. Gary Cutter of AMC Cancer Research Center in Denver.

## Paper Awards

Voting by attendees at the invited and special contributed paper sessions will determine the recipients of TSHS's Paper Awards this year. Plan to attend and vote!

## Joint Proceedings of the Annual Meeting

Presenters at these TSHS sessions are eligible to publish their papers in the Joint Proceedings with the Statistical Education and Consulting Sections.

**Session No. 62:** Monday, August 5, 8:30 a.m. - 10:20 a.m. **TEACHING STATISTICS TO HEALTH PROFESSIONS: BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN PRACTICE AND THEORY** - Special Contributed Papers organized by TONYA SMOOT, University of Alabama, Birmingham.

**Session No. 121:** Monday, August 5, 2:00 p.m. - 3:50 p.m. **THE ROLE OF STATISTICIANS IN GRANT PROPOSAL AND REVIEW** - Invited Panel organized by ALAN DAVIS, University of Oklahoma.

**Session No. 300:** Wednesday, August 7, 2:00 p.m. - 3:50 p.m. **MANAGED CARE AND DATA MANAGEMENT** - Invited Papers organized by WILLIAM HARLAN, NIH.

## WWW Homepage and Note

Below is the draft of a WWW Homepage for the TSHS Section, providing basic information to WWW browsers. Suggestions for menu options to elaborate on our Section and for a logo are especially solicited. It could also serve as an electronic medium for the Newsletter distribution to our members. Please send your comments and suggestions to a TSHS officer.

A  
SECTION  
OF THE

(logo here)

AMERICAN  
STATISTICAL  
ASSOCIATION

# TEACHING OF STATISTICS IN THE HEALTH SCIENCES

The TSHS Section is devoted to excellence in teaching statistical methods and in consulting within the health sciences. Specifically, this ASA Section fosters the following objectives:

1. Participate in the Annual Meetings by organizing invited and contributed paper sessions, roundtable discussion luncheons, and continuing education programs;
2. Organize and publish proceedings from the Annual Meetings (jointly with the Statistical Education and Statistical Consulting Sections);
3. Publish articles in the Amstat News and in the Teaching of Statistics in the Health Sciences Newsletter;
4. Develop computerized repository/exchange of educational resources;
5. Represent the interests of health sciences in initiatives of other Sections and ASA entities.



Officer's Reports



Newsletters



ASA Annual Programs



Joining ASA Sections & Chapters

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## 1997 ANNUAL MEETING: CALL FOR IDEAS

by Todd G. Nick, 1997 Program Chair

The theme of the 1997 Meetings is "Shaping Statistics for Success in the 21st Century". Jon Kettenring, 1997 President of ASA, hopes to bring more technology into the Meetings (p.6 of March Amstat News).

Echoing this theme, how should our teaching in the health sciences be changing as we enter the 21st Century? What material should we add, drop, or modify? How should we teach research design and statistics to ever-busier health professionals working under ever-tighter budgets? How do we exploit the rapid advancements in information technology?

Specifically, I need your help with the following for the 1997 Meetings

- Suggestions for invited session topics, as well as presenters.
- Active participation in meeting the challenges set forth by the program theme.
- Ideas for interesting roundtable luncheon discussions.
- Suggestions for a presenter, even if it is yourself, for ASA's new invited poster session that hopes to impact the future direction of statistics.

The final deadline for receipt of invited paper sessions is July 1, 1996 so please write soon or call: The University of Mississippi Medical Center, 601-984-6313, [tnick@fiona.umsmed.edu](mailto:tnick@fiona.umsmed.edu).

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