

TEACHING OF STATISTICS IN THE HEALTH SCIENCES

ACTIVITIES PLANNED

From the TSHS Chair: James Leeper

I hope you are looking forward to San Francisco as much as I am. As always, we have a very exciting program this year in our section and I encourage you to participate. Ralph O'Brien from the Cleveland Clinic and John Castelloe from SAS Institute are offering a continuing education course on sample size analysis in study planning. This is a full-day course on Tuesday, August 5. We are co-sponsoring an invited panel to discuss using statistical software to teach concepts on Monday morning, August 4, from 8:30 – 10:20. Our section's invited paper session deals with including modern statistical methods in teaching health care professionals (Tuesday afternoon at 2:00) and we are co-sponsoring another invited session on using the history of statistics to improve teaching (Thursday morning at 10:30). There are seven other contributed paper sessions and posters that our section is either sponsoring or co-sponsoring. I would like to thank Cyndy Long for putting it all together. Please plan to attend these sessions and the workshop. Program details and abstracts are available on the ASA website at <http://www.amstat.org>. I am sure there are many other sessions sponsored by other sections that will be of interest to you as well.

Our business meeting/mixer will be Wednesday, August 6 from 5:30 – 7:00 pm in Carmel II in Nikko San Francisco Hotel. This is very informal and a good variety of food and drink will be available. Please bring your ideas and suggestions to make our Section even better. One thing I would like us to consider is offering more Section awards, especially to students, as a number of other Sections currently do.

Program plans for 2004 are already being made, so come with those ideas also. Next year's program chair, Brent Shelton (bshelton@uab.edu) will be most appreciative. A Continuing Education Program Proposal Guide is available online at www.amstat.org/education.

I would like to give a special thanks to Todd Nick, the past chair, and Robert Oster, the chair-elect, for their help this past year while I was overseas on sabbatical. ■

2003 JSM IN SAN FRANCISCO

From the 2003 Program Chair: Cyndy Long



TSHS MEMBERS MEETING AND MIXER WEDNESDAY 5:30 - 7:00 P.M. August 6, 2003

Our Section is sponsoring 1 invited session, 2 contributed paper sessions, 2 contributed posters, a CE course and, of course, the annual TSHS members meeting and mixer. We will be giving best paper awards again this year. We are also co-sponsoring several invited and topic contributed sessions that you may find interesting. Below see all of these activities listed along with the day, time and hotel location. You can see the details of the sessions at the online program on the ASA website.

Here are the TSHS sponsored activities:

Monday, August 4

8:30 – 10:20 am, *Renissance Park -Sienna I & II*

Contributed Papers (Session # 87):

Issues and Opportunities in the Teaching of Statistics in the Health and Behavioral Sciences

9:00 – 10:50 am, *Renissance Park - Atrium*

Contributed Posters

Poster # 11

Tuesday, August 5

9:00 am – 5:00 pm, *Nikko—Nikko Ballroom I*

Continuing Education (CE2003_22C):

Sample Size Analysis in Study Planning

2:00 – 3:50 pm, *Renissance Park—Aragon*

Invited Papers (Session # 276):

Including Modern Statistical Methods in Teaching Biostatistics to Health Care Professionals

Wednesday, August 6

12:00 – 1:50 pm, *Reniassance Park - Atrium*
Contributed Posters

Poster # 22

2:00 – 3:50 pm, *Hilton—Sutter Room A/B*

Contributed Papers (Session # 417):

Innovative Uses of Statistical Designs and Methods in the Health Sciences

5:30 – 7:00 pm, *Nikko—Carmel Room II*

TSHS Section Business Meeting and Mixer

Here are the TSHS co-sponsored activities:

Sunday, August 3

2:00 – 3:50 pm, *Hilton—Union Square 23 & 24*

Topic Contributed Panel (Session # 15):

Using Resampling to Teach Statistics**Monday, August 4**

8:30 - 10:20 am, *Hilton—Union Square 15 & 16*

Invited Panel (Session # 74):

Innovative Ideas for Using Statistical Software to Teach Concepts

2:00 - 3:50 pm, *Hilton—Franciscan Room D*

Topic Contributed Papers (Session # 161):

Working with Clients: Beyond the Statistics**Wednesday, August 6**

8:30 - 10:20 am, *Hilton—Union Square 1 & 2*

Topic Contributed Papers (Session # 317):

Data-Based Improvement of Statistical Practice**Thursday, August 7**

10:30 am - 12:20 pm, *Hilton—Continental Ballroom 6*

Invited Papers (Session # 457):

Using the History of Statistics to Improve the Teaching of Statistics**2004 JSM IN TORONTO****From the 2004 Program Chair:
Brent Shelton**

Greetings from the land of Dixie! For the past several days I have been perusing the programs sponsored by the Section at the August ASA meetings for the past three years. Wow! These are tough standards to meet, although clearly worthy of emulation. I hope to be able to continue building on the successes of the past several years as we move from San Francisco in 2003 to Toronto in 2004. The first order of business in putting together as successful a program as possible for 2004 is to work out the details for our invited session for 2004. The deadline for submission is July 18.

In response to Dr. Robert Mason's "President's Corner" article entitled "Statistics Education For Everyone – Why Not?" appearing in the June 2003 edition of the *Amstat News*, I am interested in having the invited session organized around the central theme of "Ways to Increase the Number of US Resident Students who Obtain PhD's in Statistics and Biostatistics". This topic appears to be a timely one given the

recent creation of the Division of Research and Graduate Education Programs as an important component of the ASA organizational structure. This topic was one of three topics listed in Dr. Mason's article that this new Division may very well be responsible for in the future. Having served with three other faculty on the Graduate Studies Committee in Biostatistics at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, this is a question that our committee has pondered and continues to ponder as we focus our efforts and strategies on recruiting the best and brightest into our field.

If there are any suggestions for speakers for the invited session topic or suggestions for topics in any of the other formats (contributed talks, posters, panel discussions, and roundtable luncheons), please by all means drop me an email (bshelton@uab.edu). I look forward to working with folks who are genuinely trying to discover as well as improve upon methods that will ensure effective teaching both within and outside of the classroom environment.

I especially look forward to meeting with you in San Francisco and hope to hear from all of you either during the TSHS sessions or at the mixer that has been scheduled. Best to all.

**From the Book Review Column
Editor**

Robert Oster, PhD

University of Alabama at Birmingham

**Summer 2003 Update and Highlight of Book
Reviews from Recent
Issues of JASA****Update on Book Reviews**

A full-length book review does not appear in this issue of the newsletter. However, a review of a recently published book will appear in the fall issue. I continue to receive some suggestions for books that section members would like to see reviewed in this column. Keep those suggestions coming! If you would like to write a book review or know of another section member who is interested in writing a book review, please contact me. Your participation in writing book reviews is encouraged! Section members have indicated to me that they are appreciative of these reviews. Guidelines for book reviews appeared in the July 2001 and Fall 2001 issues of the TSHS newsletter. All book reviews, suggestions of books for review, and suggestions for book reviewers should be sent directly to me via e-mail at oster@uab.edu or via fax at 205-975-7453.

In a prior column, I mentioned that if you are considering adopting a book for a course, do not have a copy of that book in your possession, and are willing to write a book review for this newsletter and send a copy of the review to the book publisher, I may be able to have the publisher send you a complimentary copy of the book with no strings attached (other than writing the book review). I have received a complimentary copy of a recently published book (from the publisher) to review for this newsletter, so this process does work; the publisher is truly eager to have this book reviewed.

This month, I am highlighting book reviews appearing in recent issues of *Biometrics*. In the Spring 2002 issue of this newsletter, I highlighted book reviews appearing in the 2000

and 2001 issues of *Biometrics* (up through December 2001). For this issue of the newsletter, the issues of *Biometrics* that I examine begin with the March 2002 issue and conclude with the June 2003 issue. In future issues of this newsletter, I will continue to highlight book reviews appearing in recent issues of statistical journals.

Highlight of Book Reviews from Recent Issues of *Biometrics*

This month, I am highlighting 12 detailed book reviews (and therefore, 12 books) that may be of interest to TSHS members. These book reviews examine books that could be used for teaching, consulting, and/or training purposes. Note that I am not necessarily recommending that section members adopt these books for classroom or personal use; the decision on book adoption is left up to individual members. I have added some of my own comments after listing the specific book reviews.

1. *Applied Multivariate Data Analysis (2nd ed.)*, by B.S. Everitt and G. Dunn, Arnold, 2001, reviewed by G. Arnold, March 2002, pp. 255-256.

2. *Analysis of Multivariate Survival Data*, by P. Hougaard, Springer, 2000, reviewed by S.K. Sahu, March 2002, p. 259.

3. *Statistical Aspects of the Design and Analysis of Clinical Trials*, by B.S. Everitt and A. Pickles, Imperial College Press, 2001, reviewed by S.C. Todd, June 2002, pp. 472-473.

4. *Medical Biostatistics*, by A. Indrayan and S.B. Sarmukaddam, Marcel Dekker, 2001, reviewed by F.D.J. Dunstan, June 2002, pp. 475-476.

5. *Regression Modeling Strategies with Applications to Linear Models, Logistic Regression and Survival Analysis*, by F.E. Harrell, Springer, 2001, reviewed by R.M. Loynes, June 2002, p. 477.

6. *Analysis of Messy Data, Vol. III: Analysis of Covariance*, by G.A. Milliken and D.E. Johnson, Chapman and Hall / CRC, 2002, reviewed by G.M. Clarke, December 2002, pp. 1041-1042.

7. *Analysis of Failure and Survival Data*, by P.J. Smith, Chapman and Hall / CRC, 2002, reviewed by A.C. Kimber, December 2002, pp. 1042-1043.

8. *Observational Studies (2nd ed.)*, by P.R. Rosenbaum, Springer, 2002, reviewed by X.-H. Zhou, December 2002, p. 1044.

9. *Statistical Methods in Diagnostic Medicine*, by X.-H. Zhou, N.A. Obuchowski, and D.K. McClish, Wiley, 2002, reviewed by S.M. Rudolfer, March 2003, pp. 203-204.

10. *Statistical Methods for the Analysis of Repeated Measurements*, by C. S. Davies, Springer, 2002, reviewed by R.W. Payne, March 2003, pp. 205-206.

11. *Statistical Consulting*, by J. Cabrera and A. McDougall, Springer, 2002, reviewed by A. Cowling, June 2003, pp. 456-457.

12. *Data Monitoring Committees in Clinical Trials: A Practical Perspective*, by S.S. Ellenberg, T.R. Fleming, and D.L. Demets, Wiley, 2002, reviewed by B. Freidlin, June 2003, pp. 457-458.

I believe that each of these books appears to be oriented toward those whom TSHS members teach, train, or consult with. In the table below, I have stated what the intended audience is for each book and my perception of the tone of the corresponding book review.

<u>Book</u>	<u>Intended Audience & Tone of Review</u>
# 1	Applied statistics students, applied researchers; Somewhat Positive
# 2	Biostatistics graduate students, practicing statisticians; Somewhat Positive
# 3	Medical statisticians, medical researchers with a reasonable working knowledge of statistics; Mixed (neither positive nor negative)
# 4	Clinicians, laboratory scientists, epidemiologists, public health specialists; Negative
# 5	Data analysts, statistical methodologists, Masters or Ph.D. level graduates well versed in ordinary multiple regression; Mostly Negative
# 6	Applied statisticians; Somewhat Positive
# 7	Biostatisticians; Mostly Positive for practitioners new to survival analysis, Somewhat Positive for more experienced practitioners of survival analysis
# 8	Applied statisticians; Mostly Positive
# 9	Clinicians and statisticians interested in diagnostic studies, statisticians and graduate students interested in conducting research in diagnostic medicine; Somewhat Negative
# 10	Practicing statisticians with a fairly strong mathematical background; Mostly Positive
# 11	Statisticians, graduate statistics students; Positive
# 12	Clinicians, trial administrators, bioethicists, patient advocates; Mostly Positive

I hope that this table is helpful to you.

I am interested in hearing any experiences, positive or negative, that you may have had with any of the above books or with any books that have been highlighted in prior issues of this newsletter. I would like to summarize any such experiences in my column in future issues of this newsletter. ■

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Congratulations!

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

TSHS Chair-Elect 2004: Walter Ambrosius, Wake Forest Univ. School of Medicine
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 TSHS Council of Sections Rep. 2004-2006: Lynn Ackerson, Kaiser Permanente Medical Group
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