

Minutes from OPHA Epidemiology/Biostatistics section meeting, June 21, 2012

We need volunteers for many activities including section activities and representing the section on OPHA committees.

Attendees:

SECTION CO-CHAIR: Ken Rosenberg, Public Health Division; rosenbergkd@yahoo.com
SECTION CO-CHAIR: Jim Gaudino, Multnomah County Health Dept; jag8nw@comcast.net
Liz Adams, OHSU (Dept Public Health & Prev Med); adamse@ohsu.edu
Elena Andresen, OHSU (Dept Public Health & Prev Med); andresee@ohsu.edu
Kathryn Dickinson, OHSU (Dept of Ob/Gyn); dickinsk@ohsu.edu
Aisling Fernandez, OHSU MPH student; aislinggardner@yahoo.com
Austin Phillips, OHSU MPH student; philliau@ohsu.edu
Robin Richardson, OHSU MPH student; richrobi@ohsu.edu
Rusha Tapadar, OSU student; rusha.tapadar@gmail.com
Jonathan Snowden, OHSU (Dept of Ob/Gyn) postdoctoral fellow; snowden@ohsu.edu
Caitlyn Summers, OHSU (Dept of Ob/Gyn); summerca@ohsu.edu

1. Epi/Biostat section activities

1a. Mentoring

We started the mentoring program in February 2011. We have had 9 inquiries for a mixture of skill-building and career counseling. The program has created 6 mentorships with 5 different mentors.

1b. Epi-Biostat Listserve ("Email group")

Ken Rosenberg noted that anyone can join and post on the listserv. (For directions, go to http://www.oregonpublichealth.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=46.) Posting topics for discussion is encouraged.

1c. Epidemiologists' Forum

Elena Andresen presented "Neighborhood Quality: The St. Louis African American Health Cohort Study on May 16.

Seth O'Neal will present on "Chasing Tapeworms: The Epidemiology and Control of Taenia Solium (the Pork Tapeworm) in Oregon and Abroad" on September 5.

1d. Science Olympiad

The Science Olympiad is a national non-profit organization dedicated to improving kindergarten through 12th grade science education, increasing interest in science, and giving recognition for outstanding achievement in science education by students and teachers. Annie Raich (annie.raich@gmail.com) and Jim Gaudino (jag8nw@comcast.net) have been working on creating a Disease Detectives exam for middle and high school students and are looking for people to help next year to develop questions and administer the test. Elena Andresen may be able to help with question development.

1e. Epi/Biostat section membership

We now have 66 members. Kathleen Carlson is now sending emails to all new and renewing section members as they join or renew. The emails tell people what we do and how to get involved. She wants feedback about the emails she is sending (they were distributed at the meeting). She is looking for someone to help her contacting section members whose memberships expire.

1f. Epi/Biostat section leadership group

Currently the following people have volunteered to be the section leadership group: Ken Rosenberg, Jim Gaudino, Kathleen Carlson and Viktor Bovbjerg. Please contact any of us if you would like to join the leadership group.

2. Epi/Biostat representation on OPHA Board and committees

OPHA has a Board and committees that do the organization's work. A full listing can be found at http://www.oregonpublichealth.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=35. The Epi/Biostat section is supposed to have a representative on each committee.

2a. Policy Committee: Liz Adams has volunteered to be our representative on the Policy committee.

2b. Communications Committee: We need a section representative on the Communications committee.

2c. Development Committee: seeks new sources of funding for OPHA. We need a section representative on the Development committee.

2d. Membership Committee: Responsible for encouraging new membership and maintaining the current membership information and services. Ken Rosenberg is on the committee; others are welcome.

2e. Program Committee: Plans the program and arrangements for the Association's annual meeting. Members participate in year-round monthly conference calls. Some committee members will review abstracts for the OPHA annual meeting on July 11, 11am-2pm in Corvallis; contact Ken Rosenberg if you are interested in participating.

2f. Bylaws Committee: Reviews current Bylaws and identifies ones that need to be changed, deleted or added.

2g. Awards Committee: Accepts nominations and selects recipients for any award offered through or on behalf of the Association – mostly at the annual meeting.

2h. OPHA Board representative: Kathleen Carlson is our new representative.

3. New Initiatives

3a. Student and Young Professional Research Achievement Award. Aisling Fernandez presented a proposal for an OPHA Epidemiology and Biostatistics Student and Young Professional Achievement award. The award would be for advancing public health knowledge and/or practice. The award would be for up to \$500 to attend a public health conference and would be paid for by the section. The proposal was accepted for one year in hopes that it would be awarded at the October OPHA annual meeting.

3b. Other new ideas

Jim Gaudino talked about the Congress of Epidemiology (a consortium including the American Public Health Association and the American College of Epidemiology) that has had 3 international meetings (2001, 2006, 2011). He shared a policy paper about asbestosis prepared by the Congress' Joint Policy Committee.

RSVP to Ken Rosenberg (rosenbergkd@yahoo.com), Jim Gaudino (jag8nw@comcast.net), or Kathleen Carlson (carlskat@ohsu.edu) if you'd like learn more and take action on one of these ideas.