Minutes from OPHA Epidemiology/Biostatistics section meeting, Jan 26, 2012

We need volunteers for many activities including section activities and representing the section on OPHA committees. Please read through minutes to see what interests you. Summary of volunteer opportunities is at the end of the minutes.

**Attendees:**

SECTION CO-CHAIR: Ken Rosenberg, Public Health Division; rosenbergkd@yahoo.com

SECTION CO-CHAIR: Jim Gaudino, Multnomah County Health Dept; jag8@comcast.net

Liz Adams, OHSU; adamse@ohsu.edu

Adiba Ali, OHSU MPH student; adiba.m.ali@gmail.com

Elena Andresen, OHSU; andresee@ohsu.edu

Ashley Borin, Multnomah County Health Dept; ashley.borin@multco.us

Viktor Bovbjerg, Oregon State University; viktor.bovbjerg@oregonstate.edu

Kathleen Carlson, OHSU and VA; carlskat@ohsu.edu

Amy Case; caseamyp@gmail.com

Aisling Fernandez, OHSU MPH student; aislinggardner@yahoo.com

Isolde Knaap; isolde.l.knaap@state.or.us

Jim Ledbetter; jledbettercol@mac.com

Sunny Lee, Clackamas County Health Dept; slee@clackamas.us

Melissa Moyer, OHSU MPH student; melimo@gmail.com

Nancy Siegel; nancy.a.siegel@gmail.com

Sarah Tran, Multnomah County Health Dept; sarah.tran@multco.us

Tom Weiser, Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board; tweiser@npaihb.org

Dagan Wright, dagan.a.wright@state.or.us

[A photo of attendees is on the OPHA Facebook page.]

**1. Epi/Biostat section activities**

1a. Mentoring

In 2010, at the request of a county health department epidemiologist, we started the mentoring program in February 2011. The program was developed by Ken Rosenberg, Jim Gaudino, Sarah Tran, Viktor Bovbjerg, Hope Harkdaker, Don Austin and Darcy Vavrek. 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. Listserve

The listserve (Email Group: <http://www.oregonpublichealth.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=46>) has had many postings and can be used for discussions.

1c. Epidemiologists’ Forum

The Epidemiologists’ Forum is intended to allow epidemiologists from different organizations to meet. It is currently a joint project of the Epi/Biostat section of OPHA, the State Public Health Division, and OHSU. It has been running for over 10 years. Ken Rosenberg has been the coordinator since 2006. We have 3-4 presentations per year. We talked about ways to increase the frequency of the Epi Forum sessions (and section meetings). We are looking for members to find speakers (often new junior professors) and to do the logistics (calling speaker, writing up flyers, posting flyers, making reservations at a restaurant, etc). Future sessions can be at OHSU, Portland State Office Building, Kaiser Center for Health Research, PSU or OSU. There was a suggestion to make these fun and casual in a restaurant to facilitate conversation. Contact Ken to help make these forums happen.

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. The Science Olympiad hosts an exam for middle school students; you can help by coming to the tournament (Saturday, April 21st in Monmouth, OR - near Salem) and helping administer the test. It’s fun to interact with these brave and creative kids.  If you would like to help, email Annie Raich ([annie.raich@gmail.com](http://us.mc394.mail.yahoo.com/mc/compose?to=annie.raich@gmail.com)) or Jim Gaudino ([jag8nw@comcast.net](http://us.mc394.mail.yahoo.com/mc/compose?to=jag8nw@comcast.net)). To find out more information, look on the following websites: <http://oregonscienceolympiad.com/> and <http://www.soinc.org/>.

1e. Public Health workforce survey

This is an example of work done by the section in the past. OPHA and the Public Health Division both wanted to know more about the public health workforce. Jim Gaudino and Brenna Loeb (an OHSU student) did a study of Oregon public health workers. It helped OPHA understand its constituency.

**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>.

Like all sections, the Epi/Biostat section is supposed to have a representative on each committee. Our highest priority is to find people to represent us on the Policy and Communications committees.

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2a. Policy Committee: Develops and coordinates OPHA policies for state and local legislation.

2b. Communications Committee: Responsible for developing appropriate internal and external Association communications as directed by the Board. Mostly working on the OPHA Newsletter and social media.

2c. Development Committee: Identifies and pursues philanthropic opportunities that build OPHA's capacity to achieve its mission and goals.  The Committee's activities include securing sponsorship support for the annual conference, pursuing grant opportunities that align with our strategic plan, and developing an individual donor base.

2d. Membership Committee: Responsible for encouraging new membership and maintaining the current membership information and services. Members will talk to expired members, new members, and renewing members.

2e. Program Committee: Plans the program and arrangements for the Association's annual meeting. Members participate in year-round monthly conference calls. Additional members may participate in reviewing abstracts for the annual meeting.

2f. Bylaws Committee: Reviews current Bylaws and identifies ones that need to be changed, deleted or added. This is a very small time commitment (mostly a few hours in September to see whether OPHA bylaws need to be revised).

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: Ken Rosenberg has been the section’s Board representative but is eager to step down. Kathleen Carlson is considering the position, but please step up if you're interested.

**3. New Initiatives**

3a. An annual student award might be presented at the OPHA annual meeting in Corvallis. If you are interested in working on this project, contact Kathleen Carlson

3b. Fundraising (for student award and other outreach efforts). This will initially support the annual student award. Kathleen Carlson will work with the student award committee to determine how best to fundraise for this purpose.

3c. Staff a table at the annual October OPHA meeting. We have table space at the annual meeting that we traditionally do not staff. If anyone is interested in staffing an Epi/Biostats section table this year, please let us know.

3d. Other networking opportunities including quarterly section meetings. We are discussing whether the section would like to have more frequent networking opportunities, including more Epi Forums or other dinner/social events.

3e. Other new ideas

1) Student/Recent-Graduate Committee

2) Check out "OHSU Effect," the new radio program Saturday mornings at 8am on KXL 101.1 FM. You can also listen online. We could do a program about epidemiology and biostatstics!

3) Connect with Oregon Program Evaluator's Network?

4) Create student sessions of oral presentations at the OPHA annual meeting?

We decided to have another Epi/Biostat section meeting in 3-4 months – probably at Old Wives’ Tale again.

**What do you want to sign up to do?**

**\*Epi Forum**

**\*Policy committee**

**\*Communications committee**

**\*Development Committee**

**\*Communications committee**

**\*Membership committee**

**\*Program Committee**

**\*Bylaws committee**

**\*Awards committee**

**\*OPHA Board representative**

**\*New Initiatives**

RSVP to Ken Rosenberg, Jim Gaudino or Kathleen Carlson if you'd like learn more and take action on one of these ideas.