**OPHA Epidemiology and Biostatistics Section**

**Section Meeting Notes**

**Friday, April 8th**

**Discussion**

**Epi/Biostats Section Budget**

* Reviewed the Epi/Biostats section budget, including what we have spent so far:
  + Provided for funds for healthy snacks at OPHA Legislative Days, which is an event to educate Oregon legislators about OPHA policy priorities
  + We use funds to provide snacks during section meetings (like this one); there will be another section meeting in Corvallis, which we will announce soon.
  + In the past, the section has dedicated funds for an early career award/ scholarship. The award/scholarship would pay for both OPHA conference attendance and attendance at the pre-conference workshop on data visualization. We will send out a nominations form/process in late August to early September.
  + If interested in additional budget details please contact section chair Sarah Hargand @ [sarah.hargand@state.or.us](mailto:sarah.hargand@state.or.us)

**OPHA Conference 2016**

* Briefly discussed the 2016 OPHA Conference:
  + The conference is being held in mid-October in Corvallis
  + Sarah Hargand and Steven Fiala are working with OPHA leadership to develop a pre-conference workshop on data visualization that would include hands-on training in data visualization best practices. Stay tuned for more information on how to register for the session.
  + We will have an Epi/Biostats Section meeting at the conference and will discuss the new chair and chair-elect roles. If you are interested in serving as the chair-elect (and thus future chair) this will be your opportunity to learn more and throw your hat in the ring.

**Epidemiology Forum**

* We are hoping to pull together a small steering committee to begin planning for the 2016 Epi Forums. This steering committee will have a kick-off meeting in May to review the list of Epi Forum topics, come up with additional topics, and solicit topic ideas from section members. The steering committee will then review topics of interest, identify speakers, and organize the Epi Forums. **If you are interested in participating in this steering committee or have any questions, please contact Steven Fiala @** [**steven.c.fiala@state.or.us**](mailto:steven.c.fiala@state.or.us)**.**
* Briefly described Epi Forum format, purpose, and past topics:
  + The Epidemiologists Forum is co-sponsored by the Epi/Biostats section of OPHA and the Oregon Public Health Division
  + Opportunity for epidemiologists from all Portland-area institutions to meet
  + Meetings usually consist of a 1-hour presentation and a 1-hour social gathering
  + Try to meet about 4-times per year
  + Goal is to provide an overview of a topic with a content matter expert and/or introduce epidemiologists who are new to Portland.
  + Presentations have been given by local researchers and visiting faculty.
  + Past topics have ranged from use of GIS for local health department planning to mathematical modeling of bioterrorism events to epidemiological studies of osteoporosis and gestational diabetes.
  + Usually take place at the PSOB unless another location makes sense.
  + The topics are a bit outdated, so would like to pull together a small steering committee to work on planning the Epi Forums throughout this year (solicit interest)

**Other networking opportunities**

* We briefly discussed other ideas for networking opportunities, which included a journal club and a speed dating concept. Sarah and I will touch base with those at the section meeting to solidify these ideas and get back to section members with an update.