Minutes from OPHA Epidemiology/Biostatistics section meeting, May 23, 2013
Old Wives Tale Restaurant, Portland, OR

Attendees:
CO-CHAIR: Kathleen Carlson (injury epidemiologist, VA & OHSU), carlskat@ohsu.edu
CO-CHAIR: Viktor Bovbjerg (epidemiologist, OSU), viktor.bovbjerg@oregonstate.edu
SECRETARY: Ken Rosenberg (MCH epidemiologist, Public Health Division),
rosenbergkd@yahoo.com
Tahroma Alligood (OHSU), tahroma@yahoo.com
Abdul-Razak Amadu, lylzak@yahoo.com
Jamaica Robinson, jamaica.r.robinson@gmail.com; robinsjr@umich.edu
Nancy Siegel, nancy.a.siegel@gmail.com
Kristen Wils, kj\_wils@yahoo.com

1. OPHA Board activities

1a. Current activities and updates
Kathleen Carlson is the Epi/Biostat section's representative to the OPHA Board
of Directors. She reported that the OPHA President-elect recently resigned and
the Board is selecting a replacement. Candidates are Tahroma Alligood, Brian
Johnson and Tosha Zaback. The Board is also seeking a replacement for a
Director-at-large position and is accepting nominations to fill this post.
Please contact OPHA (or Kathleen) with suggestions

2. OPHA Epi/Biostat section activities at the OPHA annual meeting (October 14-15
in Corvallis)

2a. Section meeting goals
The Epi/Biostat section will hold a section meeting during the OPHA annual
meeting in Corvallis. We hope to solicit ideas and goals for what the membership
would like to see and do with the Epi/Biostat section over the coming year(s).

2b. Section networking dinner
An informal proposal to hold a section dinner social event in conjunction with
the OPHA annual meeting was well received. We decided to organize an Epi/Biostat
section dinner on Monday evening, October 14 at the OPHA annual meeting.
Probably start at 6:30pm to give people a chance to attend poster session and/or
book discussion group. Viktor volunteered to organize a local Corvallis group to
plan the event.

3. Other Epi/Biostat section activities

3a. Mentoring
We have had 7 inquiries this year. Mostly they have been people seeking help in
job hunting.

3b. Epi/Biostat Listserve ("Email group")
110 people are on the (yahoo-based) listserve. Several people have been having a
problem receiving the posts – perhaps because of employers blocking yahoo
access. If you have not been receiving messages (including several about this
meeting in May) then send your email address to Ken Rosenberg and he will send
you an "invitation." You can sign up with more than one email address to
minimize the risk of your employer blocking your access.

3c. Epidemiologists' Forum: we have had 2 speakers this year:
• January 16, 2013: Janne Boone-Heinonen, "Are Large Babies at Increased Risk of
Adult Obesity and Chronic Disease?" This presentation led to the development of
its own spinoff, the Oregon Life Course Network.
• March 5, 2013: Katrina Goddard on genetic epidemiology, "Universal Lynch
Syndrome Screening."
Many Epi Forum presentations are by epidemiologists who want to share their work
and network with other epidemiologists. If you are interested in presenting or
have a suggestion for a presenter, contact Ken Rosenberg.

3d. Science Olympiad
The 2013 Oregon Science Olympiad took place in Monmouth at Western Oregon
University on April 13. The CDC, to foster skills in science and engineering
among middle and high school students, sponsors Science Olympiads in each state.
Winners move to the national competition. Historically, the Epi/Biostat section
has developed and supervised the "Disease Detectives" (epidemiology) event. The
event theme changes every two years; this year's theme was "Environmental
Quality." Tahroma Alligood volunteered to supervise this year and created the
skills test with OHSU and Veterans Administration colleagues. 24 teams of two
students each competed. Next year's theme will also be "Environmental Quality,"
and, to produce an even better event, the Epi/Biostat section seeks additional
volunteers for the competition next April. Tahroma consolidated the student
feedback to share with the group. For more information on the event, see
[www.oregonscienceolympiad.com](http://www.oregonscienceolympiad.com/). To volunteer, contact Tahroma Alligood.

3f. Epi/Biostat section membership
We currently have 83 paid section members (up from 80 members in February 2013
and 66 members in June 2012). The section co-chairs have been sending a welcome
email to new members and a thank you email to renewing members. These contain
information on upcoming section or OPHA events and contact information for
section leaders.

3g. Epi/Biostat section leadership group
Proposed processes for section leadership selection will be included in draft
operating procedure documents to be distributed for review this summer, and
adopted at the annual meeting.

4. Other Business

4a. Member recruitment: OHSU and OSU folks will explore getting a few minutes to
talk about OPHA during orientation and/or in the fall during one of the core
courses for new MPH students at OHSU and OSU. (Any volunteers to do the same at
PSU?) We will also reach out to the Oregon Epidemiologists conference planning
group and the Western Regional Epidemiologists Network (WREN) group about
cross-listing our respective organizations on promotional materials.

4b. Student and Early Professional Achievement Award (Kathleen Carlson/Elena
Andresen)
The section plans on sponsoring another Early Professional Achievement Award for
2013. Look for details in the coming months. For more information, contact
Kathleen Carlson.

4c. Epi/Biostats Section Operating Procedures (Viktor)
The OPHA operating guidelines state that sections will have formal operating
procedures. During summer 2013, draft operating procedures for the section will
be developed and circulated to the section membership for review and comment.
The revised version of the procedures will be presented to the membership at the
annual meeting for adoption. A central aspect of these initial procedures will
be methods for modifying the procedures and for assuring ongoing section
leadership.

4d. Section financial report:
Our section currently has $1700 in its account. There have been no expenses
incurred since our February meeting.

For more information, contact Kathleen Carlson, Viktor Bovbjerg or Ken
Rosenberg.