



# **OREGON CHAPTER**

## ***American Statistical Association***

**Spring 2009 Meeting**

**May 28, 2009**

University of Portland, Portland, OR

**Agenda:**

1. Minutes and financial report (Meike Niederhausen)
2. Report on Science fair (Teri Utlaut)
3. Outreach to teachers (Dongseok Choi, Meike Niederhausen)
4. Nomination and election of new Secretary/Treasurer
5. From the floor

**Teaching Biostatistics and Training Biostatisticians in the Era of Translational Science**

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**Abstract**

The last several years has seen an increasing demand for individuals well-trained in the field of biostatistics. This demand has been fueled, at least in part, by an increased focus on translational research, which is a method for accelerating the adoption of basic scientific discoveries into clinical practice with the goal of improving population health. Translational research hypotheses are often quite complex, can employ innovative study designs, and possibly involve some of the newest and emerging statistical methods to effectively answer the questions posited. To make headway on such complex problems, biomedical researchers require skills in not only introductory, but also intermediate level biostatistics. Biostatisticians who collaborate on translational research must be able to properly contextualize and communicate their work, as well as be skilled at the appropriate sophisticated statistical methods. Biostatistics education programs at academic medical centers need to provide opportunities for a diverse set of potential trainees – not just biostatisticians, but also clinicians, basic scientists, social scientists, public health researchers and a variety of other health professionals. Graduate level health and life science education programs also need to adapt to accommodate the rapidly changing landscape of translational research. This might mean offering biostatistics and research design courses that are not always included in current programs. Implementing such training should foster the development of true “translational researchers”, whether they begin their careers in the lab conducting experiments, in the clinic seeing patients, or analyzing and interpreting research data. I will discuss some ideas we are exploring and implementing at OHSU on this topic.

## Treasurer's Report

Spring 2009

Account xxxx643-6	
Previous Balance	<b>\$4652.35</b>
2009 Winter Meeting	-\$16.00
Science Fair Awards	-\$450.00
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$4186.35</b>

- On April 8th, 2009, e-Postcard (Form 990-N) was filed to IRS for Tax-Exempt Organizations not required to file Form 990 or 990-EZ.
- Bank account has been transferred from Washington Mutual to Chase.

## Minutes of the Winter 2009 Meeting

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

1. Location: Fong Huong Palace, Beaverton, OR
2. Participants: 11
3. Business items:
  - a. Treasurer's report and minutes by Meike Niederhausen. The starting balance after the Fall 2008 meeting was \$4438.45, and the ending balance was \$4652.35.
  - b. Teri Utlaut gave a reminder about the Intel Northwest Science Expo, and sent around a sign-up sheet to encourage people to participate as judges. She said she would look into whether HP would be able to donate calculators this year.
  - c. Dongseok Choi led a discussion on whether to create free teacher memberships for the chapter. The final decision was to table this idea. It was however decided to continue to proceed in investigating how the chapter could improve its outreach to local statistics teachers. The following are some suggestions that were made:
    - i. Find out what the teachers would be interested in, such as:
      1. An email list or online tool (such as Google groups) to communicate with each other and us about teaching statistics
      2. Presentations on topics of particular interest to them
      3. Field trips
      4. Class visits
    - ii. In order to improve our communication with the teachers, investigate how they currently network with each other
    - iii. Ask members of other chapters what ideas they have for outreach to teachers
4. Presentation by Dr. Lan Xue from Oregon State University Department of Statistics on *Consistent variable selection in additive models*.

Submitted by Meike Niederhausen, Secretary/Treasurer 2008-9