

Public Health/Health Administration Section, a Section of the Medical Library Association
Business Meeting 21 May 2002 1:00-2:30 p.m. Dallas, TX

Attendees

Jan Aleccia, Marie Ascher, Pat Auflick, Mamie Bell, Harvey Brenneise, Carolyn Bridgewater, Linda Butson, Marj Cahn, Kay Deeney, Kathel Dunn, Pauline Fulda, Karen Harker, Peg Hewitt, Betsy Humphreys, Mary Jackson, Laura Larsson, Kathleen McCloskey, Stephanie Normann, Will Olmstadt, Lola H. Purvis, Neil Rambo, Jocelyn Rankin, Nancy Schaefer, Helena M.VonVille, Matt Wilcox, and Sunny Worel.

Chair Matt Wilcox called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. and proceeded with old business.

OLD BUSINESS

Reports of Officers and Committees

Secretary-Treasurer, Peg Hewitt, distributed the minutes of the May 29, 2001, meeting. (See attached copy.) Harvey Brenneise moved, and Lola Purvis seconded a motion, that the minutes be accepted as distributed. There was no discussion, and the motion carried.

Ratification of Officers

Matt Wilcox announced that Marie Ascher was elected chair-elect and Kathryn Kerdolff Secretary-Treasurer of the section. Marie will serve as chair-elect for 2002-2003 and chair for 2003-2004. Kathy will serve from 2002-2004. Will Olmstadt moved to ratify the election as announced, and Kay McCloskey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Section Council Report

Matt Wilcox attended the Section Council meeting on Saturday, May 18, 2002 at 4:45 p.m., and gave an update.

- Two task forces have been appointed: (1) Expert Searching chaired by Ruth Holst, and (2) 21st Century Recruiting headed by Jean Shipman.
- A report on the benchmarking initiative was given.
- Members are urged to assist in maintaining accuracy of the MLA Directory by making any necessary corrections in personal data.
- Section programming discussions on general problems/issues in section programming will continue in Section Council on Wednesday. Marie Asher will provide more information in the new business portion of the meeting on PH/HA programming for MLA 2003.
- AHIP – There was much discussion of AHIP issues. There will be changes in the renewal process for members renewing at the same level. For example, copies of MLA CE certificates will not be required. Not as much documentation will be needed in the future.
- Carla Funk reported that changes will be made to MLANET. Recruiting tools will be written in English and Spanish. Medspeak, MLA's medical terminology brochure, will be translated in Spanish.

- Two programs on the “informationist” were offered at MLA this year.
- Three sections changed their names, and Corporate is now a full section.
- Tip sheets in English or Spanish are available to assist members who may be giving recruiting talks.
- Peg Hewitt is the PH/HA representative to the Section Council’s Committee on Section Programming. There is a move to limit the number of section programs at MLA 2003. Email Peg at Peg.Hewitt@Tufts.edu concerning section programming issues.
- Stephanie Normann explained that there is the opinion by some conference planners that section programming is weaker than the plenary sessions. Stephanie is of the opinion that section programming is what makes the conference worth attending. Peg explained that sections will receive 4 slots to use as they wish for MLA 2003. This is less time than was provided for previous MLA annual meetings; sections have had 4 slots for programming and 2 or 3 for business meetings.

There was much discussion among PH/HA members present supporting section programs at annual meetings. These programs are major reasons many members attend MLA, according to Annual Meeting evaluations.

Program Suggestions and Comments

- Put more CE on Wednesday to encourage members to attend through Wednesday. Presently many people leave on Tuesday.
- Without section programming, members have fewer opportunities to contribute to meeting content and thus get funding from their institutions to attend.
- Is there any evidence to put forth validating section programs?
- How are posters selected for annual meetings? One of the members present explained that two people chose posters for the 2002 meeting. Also, when a paper was not approved, the paper’s author was encouraged to submit a poster. For 2003, three people will evaluate poster ideas.
- Members liked the attempts this year to group similar themed posters together.
- Could posters be organized to support programming themes?
- Canvass first-time attendees to see what meeting content was important to them.
- Offer alternative programs during business meetings for first-time attendees.
- Business meetings were important to another member when she was new to MLA. They helped her to identify leaders of the organization.

Membership Chair, Harvey Brenneise, distributed the membership brochure. (See attached copy.)

Newsletter, Website, and Continuing Education Report

Will Olmstadt presented the report from Kristine Alpi. (See attached copy.) Web-based issues of the PH/HA News were published (Summer/Fall 2001, Winter 2001/02, and Spring 2002). The newsletter is now produced three times a year. Kathy Kerdolff was appointed Assistant Editor with the Winter 2001/02 issue. A new column has been added on CDC Information Resources.

The section's website averages 1400-2000 hits per month. The following archival issues need to be addressed: What reports should be loaded on our site, and which should link to MLANET? And, PH/HA officers should submit meeting minutes, bylaws and reports for posting on the website.

Continuing Education

The section will sponsor another electronic journal club on evidence-based public health. The proposed bibliography will be available on the web and announced to the PH/HA list after MLA. The club will begin in June and end in November. Those interested should contact Kristine Alpi by May 25th (kma2002@med.cornell.edu). The following question was asked: Must participants be MLA members?

The topic of offering a symposium was mentioned. Matt explained that symposia require much planning and need one or two year's lead-time.

Treasurer's Report

Peg Hewitt presented the Treasurer's report.

Client Relations Committee

Laura Larsson discussed the Grace and Harold Sewell Stipend. The stipend is to be used to help defray the costs of section members who are selected to attend the American Public Health Association annual meeting. Laura compiled guidelines to assist those selected in making decisions about meeting activities to attend and finding a mentor. Priority is given to applicants (librarians and others) who have had experience working with public health individuals. Those who participate are required to complete a two-page report of their experiences. First-time attendees receive \$750 and second-time attendees receive \$500. A call for applications will be made in early July.

Quilt Square

The MLA Section Council quilt now has 18 squares. The PH/HA Section needs to submit one.

Core Journal List

Matt Wilcox and Stephanie Normann described the progress on the List. Beta version 0.9 will be ready on Friday, May 24, 2002, after Matt completes some final details. Matt distributed a statement of purpose and history for the project, as well as an alphabetical list of all titles included on the 14 individual lists. The handout list is arranged alphabetically by title with the subject area and ranking specified. At the web site, the lists are arranged by subject. Almost 50 people participated in the project. A public comment period is the next phase. Instructions for comments will be posted at the site. All interested public health practitioners and academicians are asked to help by providing feedback. The project coordinators hope to have the first edition of the Core Public Health Journals Project ready for use this fall.

Finally, Matt provided some attendance figures for two section programs conducted at MLA. "AIDS in Africa and the impact of information" had 40 attendees. "Digital devices to go" roundtable had 50 attendees. He also mentioned a third program, "Diversity, demographics, and disparities in accessing and delivering health information and health care, parts I and II." Stephanie Normann was one of the presenters.

New Business

Incoming Chair, Will Olmstadt, thanked Matt for his work in program planning. The last program sponsored by the PH/HA Section will be Wednesday morning and is entitled "More to life than MLA: outreach to other professional associations." Matt Wilcox is moderator and Laura Larsson is a presenter. Stephanie Normann acknowledged the cooperation that existed across sections to provide the excellent programs at MLA 2002.

Will encouraged section members who would like to participate as Archivist, or on the Newsletter, Membership, and Continuing Education Committees to contact him after the meeting.

Kay McCloskey, the Public Health Liaison for the Mid-Continent Region, described her work with the National Library of Medicine on expanded MeSH coverage of public health literature. A graduate student is helping Kay on the project. An algorithm has been developed to identify appropriate subject headings. Some of the headings requested are American Public Health Association, Healthy People Programs, Geographic Information Systems, Public Health Informatics, Education, Public Health Professional, Students, Public Health, Social Marketing, Harm Reduction, Health Educators, Risk Reduction Behavior, and Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System. (See attached documentation). Stephanie Normann explained that one of the original goals when the section was formed was to foster support from NLM for public health topics.

Marie Ascher discussed programming for MLA 2003. Some topics suggested were geographic information systems, evidence based public health, health information for at-risk populations, implementation of HIPAA, public health informatics, and standards for reporting clinical data.

Marie mentioned that posters will be displayed for the entire meeting in 2003. Also, there will be "hot topics" sessions. These will be informal poolside talks with about 20 chairs reserved by any group.

Betsy Humphreys mentioned standards for submitting clinical-level data to assist in detection of emerging infections. She also mentioned other public health informatics initiatives at the national level, including White House involvement and new focuses for IAIMS grants.

There being no other new business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Attachments:

Minutes 29 May 2001 meeting

Membership brochure

Newsletter, website, and continuing education report

Core Public Health Journals Project – Purpose and History

Core Public Health Journal Project (version 0.9), Public Draft – All journals, alpha by title and category

Kay McCloskey's report

Compiled 27 May 2002, by
Pauline Fulda for
Peg Hewitt, Secretary-Treasurer