

## ESO Meeting Notes- February 6, 2006

### Old Business

#### 1. Faculty meeting highlights

- The Epi. series will be divided into a research track and an applied track next year.
- Dr. Goodman will oversee the research track and Dr. Gange will oversee the applied track.
- Students within the department of Epidemiology will be expected to take the research track.
- If you have any questions please email Brett Ange who attended the faculty meeting. [bange@jhsp.edu](mailto:bange@jhsp.edu)
- On a side note: this will affect TAing and more will be in demand!

#### 2. Other meeting highlights

- StatEpi will be merging with General Epi. The two Co-Directors of this track will be Dr. Jacobson and Dr. Newschaffer.
- Stella, as the doctoral student representative, is still coordinating a meeting with Dr. Goodman.
- There was a meeting with the masters' students and Fran will be posting the minutes. The meeting covered Comps questions, thesis timelines in the second year, and internships.

### Past events

1. **Korean & Karaoke**- This great get together occurred just prior to the start of third term. Many may have missed out because they were still on vacation. We will keep you posted on more fun events to come.

### Future Events

#### 1. Service event

Lindsay Jorgensen researched two options for volunteering for the Epi. Department. Sign-up sheets were sent around the meeting. Anyone who missed the meeting but would like to volunteer, please contact her at [ljorgens@jhsp.edu](mailto:ljorgens@jhsp.edu).

**Option 1:** Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm. Training for disaster preparedness in the Baltimore area. This would involve volunteer mobilization training. Training will occur at the Canton Branch Library.

**Option 2:** Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>. Volunteer to assist with the production of The Vagina Monologues.

The Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing presents The Vagina Monologues Production to raise awareness about violence against women. Saturday, Feb. 11 at 7 p.m.

### Epi Student Room

The plan is to re-organize the journals and make room for dissertations and masters' theses.

- These great resources will be put on the new shelves in epi student room.
- Volunteers are needed to move dissertations/theses on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm. Currently two are participating and five more are needed.
- To entice you, pizza will be provided.
- Please contact Renee at [rgindi@jhsp.edu](mailto:rgindi@jhsp.edu) if you are free that evening.

### Comps Review

#### 1. How to organize as students?

- a. Last year, three students organized the topics and meeting times. Two organizers can do it, but it is too much for one person. **Suggestion:** choose coordinators in the next week.
- b. To identify the best hours to meet each week, the organizers designed an online survey through Survey Monkey to email to all epi. students. As a result of the survey last year, topics were presented twice a week to meet all scheduling conflicts.
- c. At the first organization meeting, students signed up to present topics based on those covered in previous years. Students presented in groups of 2 or 3. The first presentation last year was March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

- d. Bottom line: organize first, suggest topics, tailor as you would like. Go to the file cabinet in the Epi Student room to access previous presentations to use as a model. Fran has the key to the file cabinet. More is gained if you do the presentations yourself.

**2. Exam related topics:**

- a. 2 days of exams. All students will take Part I. On the second day, Part II is track specific. After completing Part 1, a paper specific to your track will be provided. This is to be read that night in preparation for answering track-related questions on Part II.
- b. Other helpful advice: review history, focus less on biostats and ID epi. Focus on Epi series, particularly Epi 1 and 2. Last year's students also incorporated a journal club session in preparation for Part II. Starting "early" means attending the comps review sessions.
- c. Passing: 65% for masters and 75% for doctoral students. If you want to continue on to a PhD, it is better to meet the 75%. (Scores also looked at if you want to TA.)
- d. Test taking strategies: Prepare for writing in boxes in Pen.
- e. Lunch is provided both days.
- f. **We will all be on hand to assure first years that comps is not the end of the world.**

**Journal Club**

**1. Why attend?**

- a. This is an excellent way to prepare for Part II.
- b. You can learn strategies for reading journal articles with a critical eye.
- c. For those shy in public speaking, this is a great forum to gain some practice. This is particularly true for doctoral students who will have proposals, orals and school-wides.
- d. Expectations: read papers and come with questions and comments. Remember, faculty will fill the vacuum if students don't speak.
- e. A journal club paper was used in the exam two years back.

**2. Opinions about journal club?**

- a. Minimal background and feel uncomfortable participating with experienced faculty.
  - i. Remember this is a learning experience.
  - ii. You may be able to offer a fresh perspective.
  - iii. This is a great way to get direct feedback from faculty on critiquing articles. This is hard to get outside of journal club setting.

**3. Options to increase participation:**

- a. Partner up with Vivian to do an Epi. Methods paper for the General Epi Journal club at the end of Feb. Contact her at [ytowe@jhsph.edu](mailto:ytowe@jhsph.edu).
- b. Even if confused, focus on particular area within the paper and ask questions.
- c. There was a suggestion for an online schedule to better keep track of journal clubs.

**Future meetings (tentative)**

- 1. Tom Glass (hopefully?) will give a workshop on how to give a great talk or develop your career.
- 2. Another workshop: Summer internship guidance.
  - a. Regarding internship: contact Katherine at [kbowers@jhsph.edu](mailto:kbowers@jhsph.edu) if you are interested in a nutrition and cancer epi internship at NIH. This could lead to a master's thesis or pre-doctoral research grant.
- 3. Quickie workshop on how to TA (geared towards summer TAs)