**JSM Media Advisory -- July 28, 2011**

**Thousands of Statisticians Descend on Miami Beach for Joint Statistical Meetings; Many Available for Interviews on Various Topics**

Statisticians from 52 countries will share research, views on topics including climate change, sports, statistical humor, gender issues, immigration, and forensic science

Statisticians from the U.S., Canada, and around the world are arriving in Miami Beach beginning today to attend the 2011 Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM), the world’s largest annual gathering of statisticians. The conference, which begins Saturday at the Miami Beach Convention

Of particular interest (and not already publicized):

**Statistical Humor: An Oxymoron? (Activity 182) Presenter: Harry James Norton, Carolinas Medical Center** Saul Bellow wrote in Herzog, "An utterly steady, reliable woman, responsible to the point of grimness, Daisy was a statistician for the Gallup Poll." Does Bellow's stereotype of statisticians ring true? Is the field without jokes, cartoons, statistical heroes or tales about statistics saving the day? Keeping undergraduate biology students and medical residents interested in statistics when the majority of the students are taking the class as a requirement can be challenging. I will present examples of jokes, stories, cartoons, poems, and one-liners about statistics, statisticians and teaching that I use in my classes to lighten the mood. I will pose Jeopardy style questions to the audience challenging them to identify quotes on the subject of statistics from famous people both real and fictional. Participants will learn why there is no Noble Prize for Mathematics and Statistics, discover who was the most evil mathematician of all time, and hear about the short story where a man uses his extraordinary knowledge of statistics to charm a woman into marriage.