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TEACHING STATISTICS

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first issue of *Teaching Statistics* of the new year. An especially warm welcome to our new subscribers, but that does not detract from the warmth of the welcome to those of you who have renewed existing subscriptions.

An important new feature starts in this issue, a series of articles on *Statistics in the News* championed by Eric Nordmoe, one of the Corresponding Members of the journal's Editorial Board. Eric has written the first article in the series himself, on *Mobiles and Cancer: A Case of Phony Connections?* This establishes the general style for the series – a look at statistical issues arising from a topic of current discussion in the media, always thinking about how this can be used as a mechanism to help in *teaching*. Eric has set out the sorts of parameters he has in mind in the Introduction to his article. Please read it, and please think whether you can contribute something of this general kind. I look forward to hearing from you!

The second article in this issue, by Harvey Goldstein, is an important contribution to the general debate about the statistics curriculum, not necessarily next

month or next year, but in the much more medium to long term. Peter Petocz and Eric Sowe air some somewhat similar thoughts in the introduction to their *Statistical Diversions*. Discussion of the curriculum can, I know, be somewhat sterile, but not when it is in the light of thoughtful and stimulating articles such as these.

Another especially interesting article is from David Finney. David discusses general notions of numeracy and the sorts of things students – and everybody – ought to (but all too often don't) know about as part of ordinary daily life. While it is not overtly about teaching as such, it talks about matters that really ought to be woven into the fabric of statistics teaching at *all* levels.

Which, presumably, is exactly what we're all concerned with, and concerned to do well. I hope you enjoy this issue of *Teaching Statistics*, and all those that are to follow.

Gerald Goodall
Editor