

## **Methods Seminar Series – IV**

**SMOKING, STEPHEN JAY GOULD,  
and CONVERTIBLES:**

### **Statistical Graphics for Data Presentation and Analysis**

**Friday, January 25, 2002  
8:00 - 9:30 AM**

**Thomas E. Love, Ph. D.**

**Director, Biostatistics and Evaluation Unit**

**Center for Health Care Research & Policy**

**Case Western Reserve University-MetroHealth Medical Center**

**Web: [www.chrp.org](http://www.chrp.org)**

**E-mail: [tel3@po.cwru.edu](mailto:tel3@po.cwru.edu)**

"Although we often hear that data speak for themselves, their voices can be soft and sly." Making decisions based on evidence requires the appropriate display of that evidence. Yet many researchers view "fancy" statistical graphics as an approach with some vague promise, but little clear utility for the direct analysis of data. What can we use graphs for, besides generating "oohs" and "aahs" from onlookers? This presentation will attempt to illustrate some successes and failures, identify a few general principles, and motivate researchers to take a greater interest in the display of their data. The discussion will draw on the work of Howard Wainer, Edward Tufte, William Cleveland, Frank Harrell, and others. The talk is the fourth in the Center for Health Care Research & Policy's Methods Seminar Series, designed for interested physicians and researchers to help each other learn more about analytical methods.