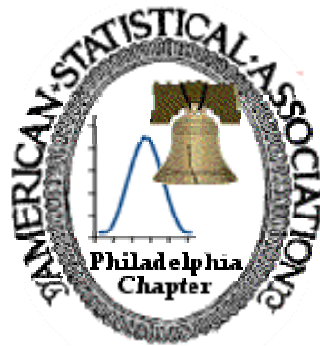


ASAP Newsletter



The Philadelphia Chapter of the American Statistical Association

March 2009

<http://www.amstatphilly.org/>

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The new year started off with a well attended and extremely entertaining mid-winter gathering (Feb 6, 2009) with a fine presentation by Prof Bob Stine from the Wharton School. This traditional gathering at the Sedgely boathouse is one not to be missed and was assisted by donations for beverages by every officer in the Chapter. Many thanks to everyone who helped this event happen and to all those who attended.

Two important upcoming events are the Spring Short Course (March 31) being held at Univ. of Penn Campus and judging of the Delaware Valley Science Fair (April 1). The short course is being sponsored by the ASA and the Philadelphia, Delaware and North NJ Chapters and will feature Terry Thereau discussing "Survival Analysis with Correlated or Repeated Endpoints". Versions of this seminar have been presented at various other locations and received numerous accolades for topics covered and presentation style of Dr. Thereau. Moreover, we offer this presentation at huge savings compared to costs at these other venues. Be sure to check the www.amstatphilly.org website to register.

Finally, we need as many volunteers as possible to serve as judges at the Delaware Valley Science Fair. We have a unique opportunity to provide guidance and feedback to tomorrows scientists on the proper use of statistics when we review these projects and then meet with the contestants in the afternoon. I also am introducing a survey we will conduct to see how often these fine experiments fall short on statistical analysis by tallying the number of presentations providing only descriptive statistics as compared to more formal inferential statistics (when appropriate). We will submit a report on these results to one of the statistical publications and everyone participating in collecting these data and judging for "Best Use of Statistics" award will be named as contributors. Please make every effort to attend this important function.

Thankfully,

Dennis Cosmatos, Dr.P.H.

HAVE YOU MOVED?

If you have, please update your records in your profile at the [national ASA website](#), and our periodic emails will reach you. Approximately 10% of our members have an invalid or no email address listed.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, March 31	ASAP Spring Course
Wednesday, April 1	Delaware Valley Science Fair (www.dvsf.org)
August 1-6	Joint Statistical Meetings

ASAP Spring Course

Tuesday, March 31, 2009 – University of Pennsylvania

Survival Analysis with Correlated or Repeated Endpoints

**Presented by: Terry M Therneau, Department of Health
Science Research, Mayo Clinic**

Sponsored by: The Philadelphia, Delaware, and Northern New Jersey Chapters of the American Statistical Association and an award from the American Statistical Association.

Date: March 31, 2009

Time: 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM

Location: The University of Pennsylvania, Houston Hall, 2nd Floor, in the Golkin Room.

Fee: \$60.00. **Full-time student with ID*:** \$30.00.

Register at: <http://asap2009springshortcourse.eventbrite.com/>

* Those taking classes on a part-time basis are not included. All students must show a valid ID when picking up their registration materials at the meeting. Those who preregistered as students, but who cannot show a valid ID will lose their seat at the meeting and forfeit their enrollment fee.

Schedule

8:30AM to 9:00AM	Registration : Coffee/muffins available
9:00AM to 12:00PM	Morning Session (tea/coffee available at 10:30AM)
12:00PM to 1:30PM	Lunch**
1:30PM to 5:00PM	Afternoon Session (snacks available at 3PM)

**Lunch on your own. Follow this link for information on local restaurants:

<http://www.ucityphila.org/cityguide/restaurants>

Directions

Follow this link for information on transportation to University City. See detailed map on Page 4 for the location of parking and meeting room.

http://www.ucityphila.org/getting_around

Presenter

Dr. Terry Therneau has worked as a programmer or statistician in the medical research field since 1976. Over the last years, he has had particular involvement in studies of liver disease, hematologic malignancies, and disease biomarkers. He has a long term interest in the Cox model, and is the author of the survival analysis suites found in Splus and R; all of the routines therein have arisen out of the analysis needs of particular studies. He is the coauthor, with Patricia Grambsch, of the book "Modeling Survival Data: Extending the Cox Model", which has found wide use among those who analyze medical studies for their daily bread.

Program

Abstract

The Cox model has become the standard for analysis of time-to-event data in the medical sciences. In this lecture we will look at the extension of the model to cases where the endpoints are correlated, either due to multiple endpoints per subject (such as repeated disease episodes) or interrelated subjects such as family studies. The two primary tools are the use of GEE like models and random effects models. The material for the first of these overlaps substantially with that in the book by Therneau and Grambsch, that for random effects overlaps somewhat but is largely new. In particular the software has made great strides in the last several years, allowing for a much wider range of models. The primary focus of the course will be a set of examples, many from the presenter's ongoing consulting experience, which highlight some of the potential as well as the challenges of such data. More time will be spent on the random effects models, since the standard multiple events approach is now fairly well understood.

Learning Outcomes

The target audience for the course would be the practicing biostatistician who is contemplating the addition of these methods to their working tool set. The medical examples would also be very informative for students. A working knowledge of survival analysis will be useful but not essential. The intended outcome of the course is practical knowledge about how the methods presented may be applied to the attendees own data and problems. The course is centered on actual data sets and analyses done by the presenter. Course notes contain explicit SAS and/or Splus/R code necessary to carry out the analysis (often both are shown, SAS does not yet support random effects Cox models, however). Methodology information fleshes out the examples, but is subordinate to them. The techniques that are presented have all been found to be useful.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Director of Biostatistics – The Almac Group - Yardley, PA

The Almac Group comprises five closely integrated divisions offering a broad range of services from R&D, translational genomic services, API manufacture, formulation development, clinical trial supply and technology (IVRS/EDC), to commercial-scale manufacture. Almac provides services to over 600 companies including all the world leaders in the pharmaceutical and biotech sectors. The company employs over 2,000 individuals and is headquartered in Craigavon, Northern Ireland. US operations are based in Pennsylvania, North Carolina and California. Almac Clinical Technologies is a division of the Almac Group that specializes in interactive technology and service solutions to increase the quality and efficiency of the clinical trial process. Our solutions include Interactive Voice and Web Response Systems (IXRS™) for patient randomization,; tracking and clinical supply management; iTrial EDC for electronic case report form data collection; electronic patient reported outcome data collection; and web drug reconciliation. Almac's technologies have been deployed in over 1300 clinical trials, incorporating over 1 million patients in over 80 countries and more than 50 languages.

Our Yardley, PA office north of Philadelphia is seeking a talented Director of Biostatistics to perform the following role:

Provide thought leadership to the biostatistics department of market leading specialty clinical technology and service provider focused on trial design optimization strategies related to randomization, drug management and array based diagnostics.

Leverage a comprehensive understanding of biostatistics with particular expertise in Phase I-IV trial design to help clients apply progressive technology solutions and flexible trial design concepts to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of clinical programs.

Liaise with sponsor personnel as well as internal and external subject matter experts to publish and speak in support of innovative and progressive applications of statistical theory.

Requirements include a Masters degree or equivalent in Statistics or Biostatistics; Ph.D. desired and three or more years experience in the application of statistical theory and methods to clinical trials and drug development (i.e. Phase I-IV). Outstanding communication and strong interpersonal skills are necessary.

Great opportunity to join growing clinical services provider for the pharmaceutical & biotech industry offering an attractive work environment and generous compensation/benefits. For full job description and immediate consideration please apply online at www.almacgroup.com and email resume to corporate recruiter at tony.roig@almacgroup.com.

TREASURER'S REPORT

BALANCE FORWARDED (03/27/08)

\$2,476.05

INCOME:

ASA Chapter Dues

February, 2008	\$185.00
March, 2008	\$174.00
April, 2008	\$253.00
May, 2008	\$220.00
June, 2008	\$207.00
July, 2008	\$171.00
August, 2008	\$128.00
September, 2008	\$177.00
October, 2008	\$254.00

<i>Subtotal</i>	\$1,769.00
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Other Revenue Sources

MWG Registration Fees (PayPal)	\$342.33
Summer Course 2008 Registration Fees	\$2,263.76
Fall Meeting 2008 Registration Fees	\$596.15
Newsletter Ads	\$370.00

<i>Subtotal</i>	\$3,572.24
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TOTAL INCOME:

\$5,341.24

EXPENSES:

Speakers Summer Short Course 2007	\$500.00
DVSF Prizes (3 at \$250 each)	\$750.00
MWG Speaker Expenses	\$91.11
Summer Course 2008 (Holiday Inn)	\$1,685.50
Supplies (meeting badges)	\$37.44
Website renewal	\$218.95
Fall Meeting (ACE Conference Center)	\$795.00

	PA Poster Competition 2009 Contribution	\$300.00	
	<i>Subtotal</i>		\$4,378.00
<i>TOTAL EXPENSES:</i>			\$4,378.00
BALANCE FORWARDED (12/19/08)			\$3,439.29

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