

# ASAP Newsletter



**The Philadelphia Chapter of the American Statistical Association**

**May 2008**

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

## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

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Dear ASA Chapter members,

I hope you are well and have enjoyed the emergence of spring. I apologize that I have even been slower than that as far as staying in touch. It was nice to see several of you at the January events we held: Professor Xiaoli Meng spoke on missing data and imputation issues, covering a very interesting case study on NLAAS, a national psychiatric epidemiologic study conducted to measure psychiatric disorders and mental health service usage in a nationally representative household sample of Asians and Latinos. Our annual midwinter gathering at the Sedgeley Club on Boathouse Row was nearly a sellout, as 60 attendees heard current ASA national President Tony Lachenbruch present on communications and development of professional statisticians. In my estimation it was as good as it gets as far as location, weather, food, drink, and friendships are concerned.

In early April, 12 of us served as special judges at the Delaware Science Fair. We looked for outstanding data analysis, interpretation, and/or design concepts in the posters. In

alphabetical order, I want to express my THANKS to Mark Bailey, Jessica Behrle, Monica Ciesielka, Dennis Cosmatos, Al Getson, Ken Goldberg, Paul Marsters, Kyle Matschke, John Oleynick, Michael Posner, and Mac Turner for their excellent service as judges. As always, the experience was fantastic. We were privileged to judge among already local winners in the 6th-8th grade, 9th-10th, and 11th-12th grade categories. We also discussed some ideas for improvements for next year, such as giving out commendations for others besides 1st place, and reclassifications of the categories. Having 12 of us helped tremendously to handle the 600 candidate posters, and we all were essentially done by 2 PM. Please be forewarned that I will be pleading again for you to join this wonderful experience, and serve your profession, as the April 2009 Fair approaches.

On June 10th, J. Richard Landis from the University of Pennsylvania will speak about his experiences the past decade at the Department of Biostatistics & Epidemiology (DBE), in the Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics. A formal title and abstract are pending. Registration is open at the ASA Philadelphia web site, and is limited to the first 65 attendees due to space constraints. A waiting list will be constructed if needed. The event will be held at the Wyeth Conference Center in Collegeville, with a 12:30 start for lunch, and the presentation beginning around 2:00 PM. The event, including lunch, is free, thanks to the sponsorship of Wyeth. Please consider this opportunity to network with fellow ASA Philadelphia members and enjoy a sure to be interesting presentation by Professor Landis.

Finally, we need candidates to come forward for 2008 - 2009 elections, which will be held in June. The term runs from 1 July 2008 through 30 June 2009. Positions up for election are President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Please consider this golden opportunity to serve your profession, develop yourself, and earn an appealing mark to update your resume or CV. Do not worry if you believe you have a lack of experience, as there are plenty of us staying around that can help guide you.

For all upcoming events and news, please be on the lookout for emails and visit our Chapter website for up to date details.

As this is likely my last president's column to you, it has been a pleasure to serve as President of this chapter. I will be one of those aforementioned hangers on, though, as I serve as Past President for the 2008 - 2009 term. Thanks to all of you who have participated in Chapter events over the past year or so. Comments or questions have been appreciated, and are always welcome, so please keep them going. I hope to see you again soon.

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Bill Pikounis, PhD  
Nonclinical Statistics, Centocor R & D

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>Tuesday, June 10</b>	<b>ASAP Spring Meeting, Collegeville, PA</b>
Sun-Thurs, August 3-7	Joint Statistical Meetings, Denver, CO
<b>September (Tentative)</b>	<b>ASAP Summer Short Course, TBA</b>

### ASAP SPRING MEETING

**Tuesday, June 10, 2008 – Wyeth Conference Center, Collegeville, PA**

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**Speaker:** J. Richard Landis, University of Pennsylvania

**Date:** Tuesday, June 10, 2008

**Time:** Lunch at 12:30 pm, presentation at 2:00 pm

**Location:** Wyeth Conference Center, Auditorium

500 Arcola Road, Collegeville, PA 19426 ([map](#))

**[FULL DETAILS AND REGISTRATION](#)**

### PENNSYLVANIA AREA STATISTICAL TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (PASTA) UPDATE

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PASTA met on February 7<sup>th</sup> at Marple Newtown High School, where Mark Bailey of the SAS Institute gave a talk on "Better Plots and Tables". The next PASTA meeting is planned for May 15<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 pm at Germantown Academy (340 Morris Road, Fort Washington, PA 19034). Lessons learned from the AP statistics course and exam and best practices (in teaching statistics) will be discussed. PASTA is always looking for speakers, so please contact Cynthia Gargano ([cynthia\\_gargano@merck.com](mailto:cynthia_gargano@merck.com)) if you would like to give a talk.

### CANDIDATES FOR ELECTIONS

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We need candidates to come forward for 2008 - 2009 elections, which will be held in June. The term runs from 1 July 2008 through 30 June 2009. Positions up for election are President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Please consider this golden opportunity to serve your profession, develop yourself, and earn an appealing mark to update your resume or CV. Do not worry if you believe you have a lack of experience, as there are plenty of us staying around that can help guide you. Self-nominations are perfectly acceptable. If you nominate someone else, please check with them first.

Please direct nomination names to our current secretary, Xiaolei Li, [xiaolei.2.li@gsk.com](mailto:xiaolei.2.li@gsk.com), or [secretary@amstatphilly.org](mailto:secretary@amstatphilly.org), by Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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### Biostatistics Opportunity

Our client, a local start-up specialty pharmaceutical company focused on novel urologic and female healthcare products, is seeking a Director of Biometrics and Data Management. (Candidates may be considered at Assistant or Senior Director level, depending on experience.)

Responsibilities: establish group; oversee biometrics, data management, and clinical programming functions (in-house or outsourced).

Requirements: graduate degree in statistics preferred; at least five years experience in biostatistics; ancillary experience in clinical programming and database management; management experience desired; in-depth knowledge of clinical trial methodology and FDA and ICH guidelines; proven ability to apply appropriate statistical methodology to clinical development; capability to be strategic and hands-on; ability to communicate clearly, both orally and in writing, with all levels of the organization and with outside vendors and regulatory agencies; track record of dealing effectively with the FDA.

Competitive compensation structure and comprehensive benefits package.

**Ellie Cantor, Ph.D., MBA**  
[ellie@ceoresources.com](mailto:ellie@ceoresources.com)  
215-209-3065 ext 26

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Covance - one of the world's largest and most comprehensive drug development services companies - has the people, global resources and problem-solving culture to respond to pharmaceutical and biotechnology clients' toughest drug development challenges.

Job Description: Biostatistician

- \* Responsible for development of Statistical Analysis Plans, to include statistical methodology, statistical programming procedures, definition of derived variables, data-handling rules and mockups.
- \* Responsible for Biostatistics' deliverables within assigned projects.
- \* Statistical analysis of clinical trial data and related decision making.

Education/Qualifications \* An MSc or PhD in a statistics subject, preferably with a strong medical statistics component. Alternative academic qualifications are assessed for comparability.

Experience \* Approximately 1-5 years' postgraduate experience in the application of statistics to clinical trials, observational studies, and/or data mining.

Please send your resume/CV to [Robert.Ossakow@Covance.com](mailto:Robert.Ossakow@Covance.com)

## TREASURER'S REPORT

BALANCE FORWARDED (12/17/07)

\$4623.14

**INCOME:**

	ASA Chapter Dues		
	October, 07	\$205.00	
	November, 07	\$178.00	
	December, 07	\$199.00	
	January, 07	\$283.00	
	<i>Subtotal</i>		\$865.00
	Other Revenue Sources		
	Mid-Winter Gathering		
	Registration Fees	\$885.00	
	Spring Newsletter Ads	\$25.00	
	Corporate Support: Wyeth,		
	Centocor	\$1,000.00	
	<i>Subtotal</i>		\$1,910.00

**TOTAL INCOME:**

\$2,775.00

**EXPENSES:**

	Mid-Winter Gathering		
	Sedgeley Club	\$625.00	
	Shackomaxon Catering	\$4,200.00	
	Drinks and Supplies	\$97.09	
	<i>Subtotal</i>		\$4,922.09

**TOTAL EXPENSES:**

\$4,922.09

BALANCE FORWARDED (03/27/08)

\$2,476.05

## ASAP CHAPTER OFFICERS

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