

ASAP Newsletter



The Philadelphia Chapter of the American Statistical Association

December 2008

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

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy holidays to all of our Chapter members and officers. It was nice meeting some of you at the Fall Workshop on Nov. 17th where Dr. Stan Young from NISS gave a thought-provoking discussion on missed opportunities to conduct proper analyses on observational studies and how this has led to erroneous policy and public health decisions costing Companies billions of dollars in revenue and unfairly denying active drugs to patients who need them. This highlights the importance of our contribution to such analyses and decision making so that practices like multiple comparisons and model over-fitting are eliminated.

In this most challenging financial and business environment I'm sure we are all daunted by the events that occur without apparent statistical or mathematical basis (e.g., stock freefalls, loss of Company confidence). But is it really a process devoid of prediction and estimation? For our traditional Winter Meeting at the Sedgley Boathouse in Philadelphia, we have secured a most interesting speaker, Prof. Bob Stine from the Wharton School, will discuss this topic. The date for this meeting will be Feb 6th 2009. More details will follow. Watch for information to be posted on www.amstatphilly.org.

One issue to be decided is the registration fee for this traditional gathering. In past years we have had one or two corporate sponsors make generous donations to offset the venue and catering costs. However, this year we have not yet received such support. We ask if each of you could approach your management and see if there is any way you could negotiate a Company donation to the Chapter. These donations can be made easily using a corporate card and will have direct impact on our ability to offer this important workshop at a reasonable price to all and to help keep all four workshops running in 2009.

Thankfully,

Dennis Cosmatos, Dr.P.H.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, January 22	PASTA Meeting
Friday, February 6	ASAP Mid-Winter Gathering
April 2	Delaware Valley Science Fair (www.dvsf.org)

ASAP MID-WINTER GATHERING **Friday, February 6, 2009 – The Sedgeley Club (Boathouse Row)**

Speaker: Bob Stine, PhD., from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania

Topic: *Measures of Volatility in Economic Markets*

Date: Friday, February 6, 2009

Time: 6:00 Drinks
7:00 Dinner
8:00 Speaker Presentation

Location: The Sedgeley Club (Boathouse Row)
15 Boathouse Row
Philadelphia, PA 19130-1002
[Map](#)

Registration: Details about registration will be posted on our website (www.amstatphilly.org) when they become available. Stay tuned.

PASTA MEETING

Speaker: **Daren Starnes, Master Teacher in Mathematics, The Lawrenceville School** - Master Teacher, co-author of the popular textbook *The Practice of Statistics*, and statistical guru.

Topic: *Making Sense of Statistical Inference*

Date: Thursday, January 22, 2009

Time: 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Location: Germantown Academy (Braun Study Hall)
340 Morris Road
Fort Washington, PA 19034

Driving Directions:
<http://www.germantownacademy.net/RelId/609589/ISvars/default/Directions.htm>

ADVERTISEMENTS

Sr. Director, Biometrics – Graceway Pharmaceuticals, LLC – Exton, PA

Web Site: www.gracewaypharma.com

Description:

The Senior Director of Biometrics serves three primary functions: to formulate a vision and strategic plan for Biometrics within Graceway that encompasses the short and long-term needs of the business; to ensure the integrity and validation of biostatistics and data management clinical development projects and studies within Graceway's existing and developing pipeline; and to serve as an advisor to the Product Development inter-disciplinary team which includes but is not limited to members from Clinical Development, Regulatory Affairs, Quality Assurance and Marketing.

- Strategically defines the parameters of the Biometrics function within Graceway by developing a mission statement and by establishing key objectives that align with Graceway's Product Development plan. The individual will interface with existing external consultants to assess the Biometrics needs internally and give statistical guidance and insight into clinical studies with products already in development and those in the pipeline to the senior management team. This will include interacting with the FDA and other regulatory agencies within North and South America.
- Lead an extensive program strategy including protocol design, analysis and implementation of Graceway's product pipeline while ensuring the integrity and validity of all data throughout the process.
- Perform and/or supervise SAS programming as needed.
- Selection and supervision of external CROs which are conducting statistical and data management analysis.

Knowledge

1. Detailed experience with protocol design, analysis and implementation of Biometrics plans.
2. Extensive knowledge of FDA statistical guidelines and trends. Experience with multiple therapeutic areas required; experience with dermatological products a plus.
3. Ability to relate complex statistical information in a simple, elementary format which is readily understood by all levels of the organization.

Skills

1. PhD with at least 10-15 years Pharmaceutical industry experience with high level program strategy and FDA interactions.
2. Ability to work in a close team environment and collaborate on multiple projects when necessary.

To apply: contact HR Director, carolyn.kronauer@gracewaypharma.com with resume and salary expectations, no agencies

OR apply directly at our website:

<http://jobs-gracewaypharma.icims.com/jobs/1149/job>

ADVERTISEMENTS

Associate Editor/Statistical Consultant - The American College of Physicians (ACP) - Philadelphia, PA

The American College of Physicians (ACP) would like to announce a part time opening (50%) for an Associate Editor/Statistical Consultant for *Annals of Internal Medicine*. This consultant will be responsible for critical review and evaluation of manuscripts with special attention being paid to study design, analysis of data and any component of the manuscript relevant to the validity of its conclusion. This position is a contract through June 2009 with the possibility for renewal and requires the consultant to work in our Philadelphia headquarters every Thursday. Candidates should possess a PhD.

Interested candidates can apply by sending their cover letter and curriculum vitae to:

Recruiting@acponline.org

NEWS

Book Announcement

We are pleased to announce the publication of a new textbook in Translational Medicine, co-edited by one of our ASAP officers, Dr. Dennis Cosmatos. The book entitled, “Translational Medicine – Strategies and Statistical Methods”, published by Taylor and Francis, CRC Press and offered for sale by the publisher at book displays in meetings or at amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com, was released and sent out to pre-orders on Dec. 18th. Dr. Cosmatos is looking forward to receiving questions and comments about this publication from fellow Chapter members.

TREASURER'S REPORT

BALANCE FORWARDED (03/27/08)

\$2476.05

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

Subtotal \$1,769.00

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

Subtotal \$3,572.24

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

Subtotal \$4,378.00

TOTAL EXPENSES:

\$4,378.00

BALANCE FORWARDED (03/27/08)

\$3,439.29

ASAP CHAPTER OFFICERS

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