

ASAP Newsletter



The Philadelphia Chapter of the American Statistical Association

March 2010

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Location
April 6 - 8	Delaware Valley Science Fair	Greater Philadelphia Expo Center at Oaks
April 27	Univ. of Penn. Conference on Statistical Issues in Clinical Trials	University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine
May 6	ASAP short course: Missing Data in Longitudinal Studies	University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing
June 4	Nominations due for Officers	

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University of Pennsylvania Annual Conference on Statistical Issues in Clinical Trials

ASAP short course: Missing Data in Longitudinal Studies

Call for Nominations

ASAP Chapter Officers

President's Corner

As spring is starting to set in on the Delaware Valley, our thoughts turn to – the Spring ASAP seminar, of course! See the details for the upcoming Seminar on May 6th and schedule this into your calendars right away. It is a great opportunity to attend an ASA-sponsored seminar with a notable speaker for a fraction of the price of other venues and in a nearby location.

Those who attended the Winter Gathering can tell all what a great affair it was. Incredible food, stimulating discussion and the warmest feelings of professional camaraderie one can experience. We hope to carry this to all our seminars, with an open dialogue setting and full level of participation, not the typical stiff presentation. We aim to structure these seminars to allow all participants to share experiences, knowledge and feelings, relevant to the topic being discussed, to help others relate to issues many of us have.

Also, this is a late reminder asking for help in judging the Delaware Valley Science Fair, on April 7th at the Oaks Expo Center. We hope to impact on this activity by stressing the importance of appropriate statistical inference in scientific research. If we can impact students at this age, it will have a significant effect when these bright youngsters develop into scientific colleagues whom we will be working with in academic, industry and government research settings. We need all the volunteers we can get to help carefully review each submitted project. The more people who volunteer, the better job we can do. The fewer people, well ... Register to be a judge by completing the information on their website <http://www.drexel.edu/dvsf/judging.htm>.

Finally, ASAP officer elections are coming up in June, so let us know if you are interested in helping this fine organization continue its longstanding traditions. Please contact me or any of the other ASAP officers to discuss any position you would like to pursue. Several current officers are willing to run for a different or the same position, but there are several elected positions that will be open and anyone can submit their candidacy for any position.

As this is my second term as President, I will be ending my tenure at that level, as has been the ASAP tradition. I have learned a lot and grown to really cherish this organization and all the people that support it, maintain it and help it grow. Our profession is small, often quiet, and rarely imposing on other professions. Yet, those of us in the field who have practiced for a number of years see how our discipline helps make correct data-based decisions, the ultimate goal for many, many activities. So, perhaps we should aim to grow, develop a "LOUDER" voice, and become more obvious in a room filled with specialists from numerous other disciplines by convincing them that we can advantageously collaborate with them. This organization can help all of us and our entire profession to reach those goals.

Dennis Cosmatos

University of Pennsylvania Annual Conference on Statistical Issues in Clinical Trials: From Bench to Bedside to Community

April 27, 2010

STATISTICAL ISSUES IN COMPARATIVE EFFECTIVENESS RESEARCH (CER)

The 2010 Conference will bring together leading scientists who will make presentations and lead open discussions on state-of-the-art and developing methods. The Conference will also include two panel discussions: one to set the stage and the second to synthesize and challenge presentations, as well as to propose future directions. Participants from academic institutions, industry and governmental agencies with an interest in contributing to these discussions are encouraged to register.

The Conference is funded by NIH/NCI (R13-CA132565) and co-sponsored by The American Statistical Association and the Society for Clinical Trials.

Organizers: Jonas H Ellenberg, Susan S. Ellenberg & Sandy Schwartz: University of Pennsylvania

Faculty

Sandy Schwartz (U of Pennsylvania)
Sally Morton (RTI)

Panel Discussion I

Steve Goodman (Johns Hopkins)
Jesse Berlin (Johnson & Johnson)
Don Berry (MD Anderson)
Miguel Hernan (Harvard)
Robert Temple (FDA)

Panel Discussion II

Topic

Scope of the Problem

Infusion of Statistical Science in CER

Scope of the Problem: Caroline Clancy (AHRQ),
Barbara McNeil (Harvard), Sean Tunis (CMTP)

Randomized Controlled Clinical Trials in CER

Meta Analysis and Systematic Reviews in CER

Why Bayesian approaches for CER?

Observational analyses of existing data

A regulator's view of CER

Synthesis & Future Direction: Tom Fleming (U of Washington), Bryan Luce (United Biosource), Jay Siegel(J&J), Brian Strom (U of Pennsylvania)

Venue, Housing, Registration, Fee: The Conference will be held at the Biomedical Research Building Auditorium on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. Registration is limited to 200 participants. Deadline is April 12, 2010, or when the conference sells out.

Conference fee (includes breakfast, lunch, breaks): \$180 Industry, \$110 Academic & Government.

For Information visit the Conference website

<http://www.cceb.med.upenn.edu/biostat/conferences/ClinTrials10/>

or contact Donna Zikowitz at zikowitz@mail.med.upenn.edu or (215) 573-2728

**Missing Data in Longitudinal Studies:
Strategies for Bayesian Modeling and Sensitivity Analysis**
(ASA Council of Chapters Traveling Course)

Presented by: Mike Daniels, Dept. of Statistics, University of Florida

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Sponsors: The Philadelphia Chapter of the American Statistical Association and an award from the American Statistical Association.

Abstract: This course provides a survey of modern model-based approaches to handling dropout in longitudinal studies, and illustrates the use of newly-developed methods for sensitivity analysis and incorporation of prior information. The emphasis is on Bayesian approaches but the models and methods discussed can be implemented in non-Bayesian settings as well. The course will be roughly divided into two parts:

- Part 1 will focus on formal classification of dropout and missing data mechanisms, describe classes of models that can be used to adjust for biases caused by dropout, and the logistics of model fitting;
- Part 2 will deal with specification and fitting of models to handle non-ignorable (informative) dropout, with emphasis on the role of sensitivity analysis and informative prior distributions for encoding key assumptions.

Integrated into the course will be three case studies that illustrate many of the concepts introduced during the course. We will build on each case study to illustrate progressively more complex analyses (e.g. progressing from analysis under MAR, to analysis under MNAR, to use of informative priors and sensitivity analyses). Code for model fitting using WinBUGS software (and the R-to-WinBUGS interface) can be found on the instructor's webpage.

The course is based on the text "Missing Data in Longitudinal Studies: Strategies for Bayesian Modeling and Sensitivity Analysis" by Daniels and Hogan (2008) published by Chapman & Hall/CRC Press.

Location: Room 216, University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, Claire M. Fagin Hall, 418 Curie Blvd, Philadelphia PA 19104 (Map and parking information will be available on the registration website).

Schedule: (food/drink included in registration fee)

8:00AM to 8:30AM Breakfast: Coffee/juice/muffins available

8:30AM to 11:30AM Morning Session (beverages available)

11:30AM to 12:30PM Box Lunch (select choice during registration)

12:30PM to 4:30PM Afternoon Session (beverages available)

Registration: \$50 (\$30 for full-time students)

<http://asap2010springcourse.eventbrite.com/>

Registration is limited to 50 people.

Nominations For ASAP Officers

Nominations are requested at this time for the 2010 - 2011 ASAP elections, which will be held in June. The term runs from 1 July 2010 through 30 June 2011. Positions up for election are President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Please consider these golden opportunities to serve your profession, develop yourself, and earn an appealing mark to update your resume or CV. Self-nominations are perfectly acceptable. If you nominate someone else, please check with them first. Please direct nomination names and the post desired to our current secretary, David Radley, david_radley@merck.com, by Friday, June 4, 2010.

ASAP Officers, 2009 – 2010

President

Dennis Cosmatos
Parexel International, Inc.
1415 Washington Lane
Rydal, Pa. 19046
(215) 885-8021 voice
Dennis.Cosmatos@parexel.com

Secretary

David Radley
Merck and Company, Inc.
UG1CD38
P.O. Box 1000
North Wales, Pa. 19454-1099
(267) 305-7436 voice
(267) 305-6538 fax
david_radley@merck.com

Newsletter Editor

Anne Meibohm
Statistical Consultant
3005 Edmonds Rd.
Lafayette Hill, PA 19444
(610) 828-3754 voice
armeibohm@gmail.com

Educational Outreach

Cindy Gargano
Merck and Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 4
West Point, PA 19486-0004
(267) 305-7758 voice
(267) 305-6412 fax
cynthia_gargano@merck.com

Chapter Representative

R. Mac Turner
218 Kline Hall
University of the Sciences in Philadelphia
600 South 43rd St.
Philadelphia, Pa. 19104
(215) 740-7812 voice
r.turner@usp.edu

Vice President

Charlie Liss
Merck and Company, Inc.
UG1D38
P.O. Box 1000
North Wales, Pa. 19454-1099
(267) 305-7538 voice
(267) 305-6538 fax
charles_liss@merck.com

Treasurer

Alexandra Hanlon
University of Pennsylvania
School of Nursing
418 Curie Boulevard, Room 479
Philadelphia, PA 19104-4217
(215) 898-4581 office
alhanlon@nursing.upenn.edu

Webmaster

Yanqiong Zhang
Sanofi-Aventis
9 Great Valley Parkway
Malvern, PA 19355
(610) 889-6701 voice
(610) 889-6904 fax
yanqiong.zhang@sanofi-aventis.com

Past President

Bill Pikounis
Centocor R & D, Inc.
200 Great Valley Parkway
MailStop C-4-1
Malvern, Pa. 19355
(610) 240-8498 voice
(610) 651-6717 fax
pastpresident@amstatphilly.org

Vice Chair, District 3, Council of Chapters

Delray J. Schultz
Millersville University
7 Lark Lane
Lancaster, PA 17603 , United States
Phone: (717) 872-3535
delray.schultz@millersville.edu