

# ASAP Newsletter



The Philadelphia Chapter of the American Statistical Association

June 2010

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event
June 25	Election of ASAP Officers – Voting closes at 4 p.m.
TBD	ASAP summer meeting: Using R through Excel: A Spreadsheet Interface for Statistics, Data Analysis and Graphics

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## President's Corner

This is the last President's Corner I will be writing as I complete my second term as President of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Statistical Association. I would like to express my appreciation to all the other Chapter Officers and to the Chapter members for making this a great experience for me. I urge all Chapter members to consider dedicating some time to the running of the Chapter in any capacity they would like, and move up through the ranks as experience and confidence builds. It is a great experience giving a great sense of accomplishment.

I will not be disappearing from the Chapter activities as I will be moving over to the non-elected position of Chapter Representative to the Council of Chapters of the ASA. There I hope to encourage more active participation of the main ASA office with the larger and more active Chapters like Philadelphia, Washington, New Jersey, Boston, etc. The seminars we have held involving the ASA organized speakers have been a great success, both from the quality of the seminars and the member attendance. Our last such seminar was our May 6, 2010 spring short course on "Missing Data in Longitudinal Studies", presented by Mike Daniels at the University of Pennsylvania. It was well attended and received an over 95% "Excellent" approval response from the attendees on the seminar feedback form.

I also hope to get the Philadelphia Chapter more involved in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair that is the next step for winners of the Delaware Valley Science Fair and become more active in evaluation of the PA and National Statistics Poster Competition held for Grades K-6. I also want to progress the effort to create a presentation to be given by ASAP members to their area Junior and Senior High Schools on "Quantitative Thinking" to get students more comfortable with a statistical mindset and more active in critical evaluation of everything they hear and see. I think this will eventually make an important impact on even social decision-making.

Finally, please participate in the upcoming elections for our next set of Chapter Officers. The nominees are presented in the Newsletter and casting your vote is made easy by following directions you will receive via e-mail. We also need someone to assume the role of **Webmaster** for our website. Anyone with proper IT experience to help maintain and perhaps improve the ASAP website is asked to consider volunteering to serve in this position. It is key to our visibility, communication with ASAP members and our ability to advertise upcoming events and activities, like this voting activity. It also generates income for the Chapter by posting employment ads for a reasonable cost. So please, step forward and provide this critical function to our Chapter. Contact me or any of the other ASAP officers or newly elected officers, ASAP!

Dennis Cosmatos

## ASAP Late Summer Meeting – Stay Tuned!

Using R through Excel: A Spreadsheet Interface for Statistics, Data Analysis and Graphics taught by Rich Heiberger, Temple University. Details to follow.

# American Statistical Association, Philadelphia Chapter Officer Elections, 2010-2011 Session Candidate Statements

(Candidates are listed in alphabetical order within position.)

## Candidates for President:

**CHARLIE LISS** is currently Director, In-Line Vaccines at Merck Research Laboratories in Upper Gwynedd, PA. He marks 30 years as a consulting statistician in the pharmaceutical industry in 2010, the last 24 at Merck. He has contributed to studies in a multitude of therapeutic areas from AIDS to H. Zoster. He has been an author or co-author on over 40 publications including statistics education, clinical trial design and the results of clinical trials. Charlie holds a BS in Systems Planning and Management from Stevens Tech and an MS degree in Statistics from Virginia Tech.

I hope we can continue to provide the excellent educational offerings we have seen over the last two years. By partnering with other chapters, we have been successful in drawing nationally-renowned ASA lecturers to complement our great local speakers. In addition, I would like to focus the next year on developing the chapter as the “one-stop shop” for all statistical activities in the Philadelphia area. I believe we can greatly strengthen the ties between statisticians on both the institutional and personal levels. These multiple networking opportunities will be key to succeeding in these turbulent economic times.

## Candidates for Vice-President:

**MICHAEL DALLAS**, Ph.D., is a Director, Scientific Staff in Late Development Statistics at Merck & Co., Inc. He has worked in the pharmaceutical industry for 12+ years at Merck & Co., Inc. Michael has published his research in peer-reviewed statistical journals and/or presented his research at scientific meetings on subjects as diverse as survival analyses, safety monitoring, measures of overlap, and non-inferiority comparisons to an aggregate response. He has also served as a referee for several statistical journals. Michael has been a member of the American Statistical Association since 1994, and a member of the Philadelphia Chapter since 2006.

**ALEXANDRA HANLON**, Ph.D., is an Associate Research Professor in the University of Pennsylvania’s School of Nursing. She received a B.S. from Rochester Institute of Technology (1985) in mathematics and statistics, an M.S. from the University of California-Irvine (1991) in mathematical statistics, and a Ph.D. from Temple University (1998) in statistics. Early in her career, she gained experience in engineering in the aerospace industry as well as in teaching undergraduate calculus and statistics at UC Irvine and Arcadia University. After earning her M.S., she worked full-time as a biostatistician at the American College of Radiology (1991-1994), where her primary focus was on patterns of care in radiation oncology. During this period she also began her doctorate work at Temple University, with her primary research goal in the analysis of post-radiation therapy PSA level profiles. She completed her Ph.D. while working as a biostatistician at the Fox Chase Cancer Center (1994-present); her thesis topic

was hierarchical mixed effects modeling of PSA levels in men treated with radiation therapy for prostate cancer. At present, Dr. Hanlon actively serves on the NCI Symptom Management and Quality of Life Steering Committee, as well as several scientific editorial boards, and frequently makes presentations at conferences of professional associations to share on-going research and recent findings. She trains medical researchers in relevant statistical methodologies to enhance their research efforts; she is an active grant-writer and plays a prominent role in institutional grants; she facilitates promulgation of research findings by co-authoring over 200 publications that disseminate research findings, assuming responsibility for the statistical evidence and analyses in these publications. Dr. Hanlon has experience in pharmaceutical drug development within the Johnson and Johnson family of companies.

Dr. Hanlon has been the ASA Philadelphia Chapter's treasurer since 2005. She is now seeking election for Vice President, and hopes to work closely with other chapter officers to provide continued high-level educational offerings in statistical methodology; promote networking across academics and industry, as well as across ASA chapters; support local and regional recruitment and placement for statistics positions; as well as to promote awareness of the profession at the secondary and post-secondary level.

#### Candidates for **Treasurer**:

**DAVID RADLEY** is an Associate Director, Late Development Statistics at Merck & Co. in Upper Gwynedd, Pennsylvania. He was educated in the U.K., obtained an M.S. in Biometry from Reading University in 1986 and secured Chartered Statistician status from the Royal Statistical Society in 1993. He has worked in pharmaceutical development for 20+ years, first in the U.K and then since 1997 in the United States, when Rhone-Poulenc Rorer moved him to their headquarters in PA. At Merck since 2000, he has regularly presented his research at scientific meetings on subjects as diverse as multicenter trials, combination of endpoints, noninferiority studies, data monitoring committees and long-term vaccine effectiveness monitoring.

David has spent the last 2 years serving as chapter Secretary, bringing professionalism, responsiveness and an organized approach to the role. These skills, together with a good understanding of chapter workings, would be usefully applied in the Treasurer position.

**WEILIANG SHI** is a statistician at GlaxoSmithKline Oncology Medicines Development. I've been at GSK for about 2 years. Prior to GSK, I was a student at University of Wisconsin-Madison, where I got my PhD in statistics in 2008. I've been a long time ASA member. I enjoy various aspects of being a statistician, such as deriving complicated mathematical formulas, spending hours in front of the computer debugging in R, explaining to a client about linear regression and ANOVA, and sharing experiences and complaints with fellow statisticians. I look forward to becoming an ASAP officer and helping this organization continue its wonderful service to the members.

#### Candidates for **Secretary**:

**RALPH M. (MAC) TURNER**, Ph.D. is a Senior Statistical Analyst at Health Core in Wilmington, DE. He received his B.S. in Economics and Statistics from the Pennsylvania University in 1973 and earned his Ph.D. in Quantitative Psychology from Temple University in 1978. His dissertation was on the development of an approach for Multivariate Analysis of Variance

planned comparisons in order to avoid the ambiguities associated with MANOVA post-hoc comparisons. Early in his career, he gained experience by working with the Pennsylvania State Police to improve their Admissions Test so that it was psychometrically sound and did not discriminate against women and minorities. He trained executive officers in statistics and psychometric theory at the Pennsylvania State Police Academy and wrote a statistics manual for their use in continually improving the admission exam. Mac then spent 26 years on the faculty of the Department of Psychiatry at Temple University School of Medicine where he taught Psychiatric residents research design and statistical methods, as well as participated in on-going research grants on schizophrenia and anxiety disorders. He then spent 10 years teaching research design, introduction to statistics, and multivariate statistics at the University of the Sciences. Dr. Turner has published over 100 articles and has served as the Editor for three journals as well as served on numerous editorial boards. In 2008, Dr. Turner was awarded the first place prize for statistics mentoring at the Meeting of the Council for Statistics Undergraduate Education.

Dr. Turner has served as the ASA Philadelphia Chapter's Representative to the American Statistical Association Council of Chapter for the past three years. He has participated in outreach activities to local high school statistics teachers. He has helped to develop the chapter's educational meetings and has recruited several of our recent keynote speakers. Dr. Turner is now seeking election as secretary in order to aid the chapter officers in maintaining close ties to the ASA and to continue to develop superb educational offerings in new advances in statistical methods.

## **Voting Instructions**

Members of the Chapter will receive an e-mail with voting instructions and a link to the online ballot. **DEADLINE** to cast your votes for your next set of Officers is **4 p.m. Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup>**.

## **Job Opening**

### **VANGUARD**

#### **Senior Consultant, Client Insight**

#### **Location: Valley Forge, PA**

Vanguard, one of the world's largest investment management companies and a recognized employer of choice, seeks a senior consultant to support the Client Insight (CI) Group's strategy and synthesis function by:

- Acting as CI relationship manager to one or more business units.
- Analyzing key strategic issues identified by management within specific business lines.
- Synthesizing relevant strategic findings into actionable business recommendations.

Your **primary duties and responsibilities** will include:

- Leading cross-functional project teams and managing high-impact projects from beginning to end with minimal direction, including coordinating project plans and time lines, identifying deliverables, and assigning tasks appropriately.

- Leading and participating in project teams that are sponsored by senior management; answering key strategic questions of the largest scope and greatest complexity.
- Assembling data, performing financial and business analysis, and structuring arguments and end products; leveraging available resources and relationships to collect and assemble data in the absence of readily available information.
- Providing thought-leadership for the CI organization by proactively identifying areas for further research and inquiry; managing client relationships and anticipating needs; expertly responding to direct client inquiries regarding analytical findings.
- Aligning with one or several Vanguard lines of business around key strategic topics and questions in conjunction with CI management.
- Answering key strategic questions as identified by business leadership using all available elements of CI; elevating relevant business issues that arise during analysis and synthesizing findings based on that analysis.
- Preparing and presenting strategic analysis, findings, and recommendations to senior management.
- Developing and participating in the implementation of operational plans to achieve departmental objectives, including short- and long-range goals.
- Keeping abreast of industry, market, and company trends; partnering with CI leadership and business stakeholders to understand key concerns and opportunities within the line of business that is being served by the CI strategist; ensuring analysis and synthesis are tailored around topics relevant to the business.
- Managing and participating in special projects and other duties as assigned.

### **Qualifications**

Only U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents will be considered for this position. Employment is also contingent on a successful drug-screening result.

The ideal candidate should possess:

- Master's degree in Business Administration or an analytically intensive discipline (statistics, engineering, operations research, finance).
- Minimum of five years of business experience.
- Significant functional experience in strategy consulting and financial analysis or industry experience in financial services.
- Broad understanding of the investment management industry.
- Proven project management skills.
- Demonstrated ability to conduct rigorous business and financial analysis, learn new concepts quickly, and complete multiple and diverse assignments with the highest level of accuracy and quality.
- Strong knowledge of Microsoft applications, particularly Excel and PowerPoint.
- Ability to quickly master numerous external and internal database applications, such as Access or SAS.
- Exceptional organizational and interpersonal skills.
- Superior written and verbal communication skills, including strong presentation skills.

If interested, please apply online:

[https://careers.vanguard.com/psp/jobs/VGCAREERS/HRMS/c/HRS\\_HRAM.HRS\\_CE.GBL?&PAGE=HRS\\_CE\\_JOB\\_DTL&JobOpeningId=111446&from=philstat](https://careers.vanguard.com/psp/jobs/VGCAREERS/HRMS/c/HRS_HRAM.HRS_CE.GBL?&PAGE=HRS_CE_JOB_DTL&JobOpeningId=111446&from=philstat)

## Treasurer's Report

BALANCE FORWARDED (05/19/09):		\$3,496.07
	cash \$22	\$3,518.07

*INCOME:*

ASA Chapter Dues

April, 2009	
May, 2009	\$296.00
June, 2009	\$260.00
July, 2009	\$315.00
August, 2009	\$255.00
September, 2009	\$232.00
October, 2009	\$302.00
November, 2009	\$254.00
December, 2009	\$222.00
January, 2010	\$375.00
February, 2010	\$266.00
March, 2010	\$508.00
April, 2010	\$499.00

<i>Subtotal</i>		\$3,784.00
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Other Revenue Sources

Summer Course Registration	\$364.82
MWG	\$1,704.82
Spring Traveling Course	\$928.26
Newsletter Ads	\$250.00

<i>Subtotal</i>		\$3,247.90
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<i>TOTAL INCOME:</i>		\$7,031.90
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*EXPENSES:*

Summer Course Catering	\$567.69
MWG Speaker Expenses	\$92.96
Sedgeley Club Rental for MWG	\$675.00
MWG Catering	\$3,291.75
DVSF Awards	\$450.00
Spring Traveling Course fees to ASA	\$900.00
U Penn Conf Svs for Spring Meeting	\$1,347.35
Fees for Eventbrite/Paypal/Googlepay	\$159.75
Purehost and Server Cost	\$231.45
PA Poster competition	\$300.00

<i>Subtotal</i>		\$8,015.95
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<i>TOTAL EXPENSES:</i>	\$8,015.95
BALANCE FORWARDED (06/12/10):	\$2,534.02

## ASAP Officers, 2009 – 2010

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