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## **American Statistical Association to Present Course on Internal Decision Making in Early Drug Development**

**ALEXANDRIA VA (PRWEB) FEBRUARY 25, 2009** –The American Statistical Association (ASA) will present a half-day course titled “Evaluating Probability of Success for Internal Decision Making in Early Drug Development” on Thursday, April 2, 8 am to 12:30 pm at the Cerner Vision Center on Cerner Corporation’s World Headquarters Campus in Kansas City, Missouri. The course is being held in conjunction with the Symposium on “Innovations in Design, Analysis, and Dissemination: Frontiers in Biostatistical Methods.”

The course will discuss at length the statistical tools that enable quantification of the uncertainty associated with the results coming from learning stage studies. Early development (the "learning stage") is a crucial period of the drug development process, as decisions to continue or halt development of a compound must be made with incomplete information. Incorrect decisions have large opportunity costs (the lost sales of a halted good drug or the unfunded alternative good projects with funds wasted on a bad drug). These tools use the Bayesian approach to exploit the totality of accumulated data/knowledge in a formal way for internal decision-making in early drug development.

The course will be taught by the following individuals:

- Narinder Nangia, Ph.D., who has over 15 years experience as a statistician in the pharmaceutical industry, in both learning and confirming stages of drug development across several therapeutic areas including Pain, Inflammation, CNS, and Oncology.
- Martin King, Ph.D, who has more than 10 years experience as a statistician in the pharmaceutical industry, including both early- and late-stage clinical development (Phase 2-4) in the Antiviral, Oncology, and Dyslipidemia areas.
- Jane Qian, Ph.D. has over 13 years experience as a statistician in the pharmaceutical industry, including both early- and late-stage clinical development (Phase 1-4) in Cardiovascular and Metabolic, Oncology, Arthritis and Pain, Anti-infective and Antiviral, CNS, and Women's health areas.

The short course is open to KS/Western MO chapter members, ASA members, students and other non-members. Registration for both the short course and the Symposium will remain open through Friday, March 27. Pricing and online registration are available on the ASA web site at <https://www.amstat.org/education/learnstat/idad/index.cfm>.

The Symposium, which takes place on April 2-3, is sponsored by the Cerner Corporation, the Kansas-Western Missouri Chapter of the ASA, and the Department of Biostatistics at the University of Kansas Medical Center. Complete information about the Symposium is available on the ASA web site at <https://www.amstat.org/education/learnstat/idad/index.cfm>.

### **About the American Statistical Association**

The American Statistical Association (ASA), a scientific and educational society founded in Boston in 1839, is the second oldest continuously operating professional society in the United States. For more than 160 years, ASA has been providing its 18,000 members serving in academia, government, and industry and the public with up-to-date, useful information about statistics. The ASA has a proud tradition of service to statisticians, quantitative scientists, and users of statistics across a wealth of academic areas and applications. For additional information about the American Statistical Association, please visit the association’s web site at <http://www.amstat.org> or call 703.684.1221.

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