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## **American Statistical Association Announces Second Webinar for Statisticians in Biopharmaceutical Industry**

***Registration currently open for the April 16 session, featuring Geert Verbeke of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium***

**ALEXANDRIA, VA, APRIL 2, 2007** – The American Statistical Association (ASA) will present the second in its series of five webinars on April 16 with a session entitled “**Linear Mixed Models.**” Geert Verbeke, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium, is the presenter. The sessions, sponsored by ASA’s Biopharmaceutical Section and open to both ASA members and nonmembers, are directed to statisticians working in the biopharmaceutical industry. The first webinar in March was viewed by more than 750 individuals at approximately 200 sites around the country.

“Participation in and feedback on the first session have been very positive, and the Biopharmaceutical Section is happy to be able to provide this training in one of the most cost-effective formats possible,” said Brian Wiens, section chair and Director, Biometrics and Gilead Colorado, Inc. “We are fortunate to have instructors who are internationally known experts in the field and award-winning presenters – and great teachers as well. I’m looking forward to forward to the upcoming sections.”

The April 16 session will run from 11:00 am to 1 pm. Verbeke first will present linear mixed models for continuous hierarchical data. The focus lies on the modeler’s perspective and on applications. Emphasis will be on model formulation, parameter estimation, and hypothesis testing, as well as on the distinction between the random-effects (hierarchical) model and the implied marginal model. Apart from classical model building strategies, many of which have been implemented in standard statistical software, a number of flexible extensions and additional tools for model diagnosis will be indicated. A number of illustrations and worked examples will be given based on the SAS procedure MIXED.

The topics, presenters, and dates of the remaining three sessions are as follows:

- May 9: ***GEE (Marginal Models)***  
Presenter: **Geert Molenberghs**, Universiteit Hasselt, Belgium
- June 7: ***Generalized Linear Mixed Models***  
Presenter: **Geert Verbeke**, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium
- June 26: ***Incomplete Data***  
Presenter: **Geert Molenberghs**, Universiteit Hasselt, Belgium

Registration will remain open until April 11. Complete information and online registration are available at <http://www.amstat.org/sections/sbiop/webinarseries.html>.

**About the American Statistical Association**

The American Statistical Association (ASA), a scientific and educational society founded in Boston in 1839, is the second oldest 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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