

# **BCASA NEWSLETTER**

## **Boston Chapter of the American Statistical Association**

*Serving*

Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont

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Volume 24, No. 4, March 2006

Homepage: <http://www.amstat.org/chapters/boston>

Newsletter: [bcasa\\_news@yahoo.com](mailto:bcasa_news@yahoo.com)

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### SCHEDULED EVENTS

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April 10	BCASA Evening Lecture	Boston, MA
April 22	New England Statistics Symposium	Worcester, MA
May 17	BCASA High School Statistics Day	Chestnut Hill, MA

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Event schedule at the chapter website: <http://www.amstat.org/chapters/boston/schedule.html>

Detailed announcements appear inside this newsletter. All events are announced in advance to members on our email list. We are currently planning events for the coming year. If you have suggestions please contact Program Chair Tom Lane.

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## **EVENING LECTURE**

### **Design and Analysis of Dose-Response Clinical Trials**

**Naitee Ting**

Pfizer Global Research and Development  
New London, CT

**James MacDougall**

Bristol-Myers Squibb Medical Imaging Group  
Billerica, MA

- Date:** Monday, April 10, 2006
- Time:** 6:30 PM: Light dinner  
7:00 PM: Lecture  
Mu Sigma Rho induction ceremony and BCASA election during the break
- Cost:** Dinner is \$8 for chapter members, \$10 for others. The talk is free.
- RSVP:** Required by noon on Wednesday, April 5, to Sue Perry at [sperry@rhoworld.com](mailto:sperry@rhoworld.com). Please note whether you will attend the dinner, or just the talk.
- Location:** Frontier Science  
900 Commonwealth Ave  
Boston, MA 02215

**Directions:** Frontier Science is at the intersection of Commonwealth Avenue and St. Paul Street. There is a Green Line (B) stop at this intersection. On-street parking is available on St. Paul and Commonwealth. A Boston University parking lot is across Commonwealth, on Buick Street, which is not free. Please enter the building on St. Paul and go to the second floor, where someone will let you in.

**Abstract:** In the process of drug discovery and drug development, understanding the dose response relationship is one of the most challenging tasks. It is also critical to identify the range of doses in early stages of clinical development so that Phase III trials can be designed to confirm the efficacy and safety of these doses. In the first half of the presentation, Naitee Ting will discuss various considerations in design of dose response studies. In the second half, Jim MacDougall will cover the analysis aspect of these studies.

For study design, the thought process should start way before a drug candidate enters Phase II. Scientists need to make best use of data obtained from pre-clinical experiments and early Phase I trials, to learn from other drugs of the same class, and to understand the PK and PD properties of the drug candidate. It is also important to consider the formulation, the potential market environment and other similar drugs that may compete with the candidate under study. After the dose response clinical data are collected, many statistical approaches are available to perform data analysis. The two main categories are modeling approaches and multiple comparison adjustments. The usefulness of each approach under various situations will be discussed.

**Biographies:** Naitee Ting is an Associate Director in the Biostatistics group of Pfizer Global Research and Development at New London, CT. Naitee received his Ph.D. in 1987 from Colorado State University (in Statistics). He has been with Pfizer since 1987. The book *Dose Selection in Drug Development*, edited by Naitee, will be published in Spring of 2006 by Springer.

James MacDougall is the Director of Biostatistics and Data Management for Bristol-Myers Squibb Medical Imaging Group in Billerica MA. He has been a clinical trials biostatistician for over 10 years. His interests include dose response design and analysis for clinical trials, multiple comparisons, and longitudinal data analysis. He received his PhD in Biostatistics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Important Note:** Between dinner and the start of the lecture, we will have a brief induction ceremony for students selected for membership in Mu Sigma Rho, followed by election of chapter officers for terms starting in 2007.

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## **20<sup>th</sup> NEW ENGLAND STATISTICS SYMPOSIUM**

**Date:** Saturday, April 22, 2006

**Time:** 9:30 AM - 7:30 PM

**Location:** Department of Mathematical Sciences  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
Worcester, MA

**Abstracts Due:** March 24, 2006

**Website:** <http://www.wpi.edu/News/Conf/NESS/>

# HIGH SCHOOL STATISTICS DAY

- Date:** Wednesday, May 17, 2006
- Time:** 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM
- Location:** Pine Manor College  
400 Heath Street  
Chestnut Hill, MA
- Purpose:** This event is for local students studying statistics, to encourage further study and careers in statistics.
- Keynote:** The keynote speaker will be Lisa Sullivan, a biostatistician who has won a number of teaching awards at Boston University. Given the opportunities and long-term prospects in biostatistics and related fields in the Boston area, Lisa will have a great deal to share with students.
- Details:** We hope to have about 100 students and perhaps 20 teachers. The students will be juniors and seniors completing either a regular or Advanced Placement Statistics course. Student teams will have the chance to do some hands-on analysis of data from the Framingham Heart study, to learn about career possibilities from practicing statisticians, to chat with college students and faculty, to meet one another and, of course, to eat. Teachers will have an opportunity to discuss best practices in statistics education and to take part in their students' activities. They will also have ample time to talk informally with one another and with the university faculty members.
- Contact:** If you would like to volunteer to take part, to bring a class, or to recommend a high school teacher, please contact one of the program organizers: Bob Goldman (robert.goldman@simmons.edu), Joan Weinstein (weinsteJ@pmc.edu), or Rob Carver (rcarver@stonehill.edu).

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Chapter Elections

At the April 10 BCASA evening lecture event, BCASA members will elect the President and Program Chair for two-year terms starting in January 2007. The President must be a full member of the ASA. So far Dominique Haughton was nominated and agreed to stand for election to the office of President, and Matthew Tom was nominated and agreed to stand for election to the office of Program Chair. Anyone who would like to nominate a candidate for either position is invited to contact Robert B. Smith by email (rsmithphd@comcast.net) or any officer listed at the end of this newsletter. Nominations will also be accepted at the event. Self-nominations are accepted.

### Spring Lectures on Forecasting and Data Mining

The chapter is planning two lectures on forecasting and data mining during May 2006. The speakers will be from SAS and the lectures will be held at the SAS offices in Boston. Further information will be emailed to members when available.

### Funds for Membership Socials

If you would like to host a membership social, ASA will reimburse up to \$100 for the cost of refreshments. In addition, your department can sponsor ASA membership for your students. Please refer to page 34 of the current *Amstat News*. You may also contact any BCASA officer or planning committee member for additional information.

### Annual Induction for Mu Sigma Rho

Mu Sigma Rho is the national honorary society for statistics. Its purpose is to encourage scholarly activity in statistics and to recognize outstanding achievement among students in statistics. This year's induction of new members will take place at the April 10 BCASA evening lecture event. For further information visit the website <http://www.math.smith.edu/~nhorton/msr.html>.

### **Awards Banquet**

At the well-attended 2006 Mosteller Statistician of the Year banquet held on February 23, 2006, Professor Carl Morris of Harvard University presented "Seeing Statistical Structure: Regression Toward the Mean". Stressed was that many statisticians find statistics to be exciting because its paradigms and models apply widely to diverse fields and even to everyday life. The theory and models of statistics and probability are very important to many fields, while new challenges and approaches developed to solve specific applications not uncommonly can be generalized for wider use and present challenges to widen statistical theory. His love of statistics began as a boy, with sports data and for optimal strategies in games of chance. Greater excitement began after discovering that statistics is a formal discipline, and with graduate training that ultimately allowed him to see statistics at work while holding positions in research and on faculties of statistics and also in many departments other than Statistics.

The talk illustrated the breadth and unification of statistics with regression toward the mean (RTTM) and hierarchical models. Hierarchical models explain RTTM. Encountering and dealing with RTTM in specific problems has spurred new hierarchical model developments, e.g. with unequal numbers of observations for different units considered together. The primary example recognized common statistical structures for medicine and sports, specifically in hospital profiling and for baseball player evaluation. Hospitals and players alike have success rate estimates, some units are better than others, and all estimates are subject to RTTM. The evening provided an opportunity to discuss the wide breadth of statistics with one of its key contributors who, lucky for us, happens to be local.

Dr. Morris has been voted as someone who exemplifies Mosteller as an inspirational teaching, a good research, and in providing service to the ASA National, the Chapter, and the statistics profession as a whole. Dr. Mosteller's biography can be found at <http://www.amstat.org/about/statisticians/index.cfm?fuseaction=biosinfo&BioID=10>. Dr. Carl N. Morris (Ph.D. Statistics, Stanford, 1966; B.S. Statistics, California Institute of Technology, 1960) is Professor in the Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Department of Statistics. Dr. Morris has been at Harvard since 1990, starting with a joint appointment in the Statistics and Health Care Policy (Harvard Medical School) departments, and has been full time Chair of the Department of Statistics (1994-2000) He served as editor of the Journal of the American Statistical Association (1983-1985), and as Executive Editor of Statistical Science (1989-1991). He is a Fellow of the ASA, IMS, and the RSS; an elected member of International Statistics Institute (<http://isi.cbs.nl/>); and a member of the Biometric Society.

### **ASA and BCASA Membership Drive Competition**

Chapters are the grassroots of the American Statistical Association. Please help ASA grow by participating in the *Chapter-Get-a-Member Challenge*. Every time our chapter recruits a new member, the ASA grows stronger, resulting in expanded resources; greater recognition, influence, and support of the statistical profession; more career opportunities; and the overall advancement of statistics. Currently ASA is providing incentives for member recruitment, and our chapter is in a competition with other chapters to recruit the most new members through June 30, 2006. It's easy to participate. Simply submit potential new member names online. For details visit <http://www.amstat.org/membership/cgm/>. The BCASA Planning Committee has decided to extend the challenge to its members. The BCASA member who recruits the most new members to the Association and the Chapter, by June 30, 2006, will receive complimentary ASA and BCASA membership renewals. Help our chapter win this competition and receive two membership renewals!

### **Newsletter News**

The BCASA Newsletter Production Committee and Planning Committee wish to express their gratitude to Shelley Hurwitz for serving as Managing Editor of the newsletter for over four years with dedicated service and leadership. Especially noteworthy was her implementation of the transition from paper newsletters that were mailed to members, to the current electronic format, which is emailed to members. This new format enhances the chapter's finances and improves communication with members. While continuing to serve the chapter as Vice President, Shelley is stepping down as Newsletter Managing Editor starting this coming academic year to allow another eager and hard-working chapter member to assume this leadership role. Starting with the September issue, Chapter Secretary Maureen P. Mayer will be your enthusiastic new Newsletter Managing Editor. Maureen would like to hear your newsletter ideas. Please send all news items, comments, and ideas to Maureen at [bcasa\\_news@yahoo.com](mailto:bcasa_news@yahoo.com).

### **ICSA Applied Statistics Symposium**

The International Chinese Statistical Association (ICSA) will sponsor an applied statistics symposium June 14-17, 2006 at the University of Connecticut. There will be a variety of invited and contributed sessions, keynote and plenary speeches, and full and half day courses. The website is [www.icsa.org](http://www.icsa.org).

### **BCASA Consulting Website**

The chapter has established an email list known as BCASA-Consultants. Anyone looking for a statistical consultant can request help by sending an email to the list. Statisticians wishing to provide consulting services are welcome to join the list to receive consulting requests. This can be a good resource for headhunters as well. List membership is currently around 100 and the posting rate has been around two per month. Visit [www.amstat.org/chapters/boston/consult.html](http://www.amstat.org/chapters/boston/consult.html) for more information.

## **TREASURER REPORT**

The treasurer transition was completed on Oct 15, 2005. A new account was opened on August 23, 2005. The initial balance was \$38,978.96 (\$10,000 was deposited on August 23, 2005 and \$28,978.96 was deposited on Oct 15, 2005).

### Event-Related Income/Expenses (since August 2005):

	Expenses
Short Course, 5/20/05	-\$5758.00*
Evening Lecture, 3/28/05	-\$ 95.80
	Net Gain
Evening Lecture, 9/19/05	\$ 26.00
Short Course, 10/22/05	-\$196.29
Short Course, 11/12/05	\$635.09
Evening Lecture, 12/15/05	-\$ 40.20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-\$5429.20</b>

### Other Income/Expenses (since August 2005)

	Income
Interest	\$ 96.55
Membership	\$1351.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1447.55</b>

	Expenses
Bank Fees	\$ 18.40
Planning Committee	\$ 433.30
Mu Sigma Rho	\$ 34.00
Isolated Statisticians	\$ 90.00
Speaker Gifts	\$ 995.75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1571.45</b>

### Assets (as of February 16, 2006)

Bank Account	\$13,329.31
CDs	\$20,096.55
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$33,425.86</b>

\* Carried forward from previous report. Net profit for this event was \$2002.

*Submitted by Rui Wang*

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## **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

**STATISTICAL PROGRAMMER/ANALYST:** Rho, Inc., a Contract Research Organization, is seeking a Statistical Programmer/Analyst to be located near Boston in its Newton, MA office. Strong SAS/Base knowledge is required, with an emphasis on data step programming in addition to a good understanding of the SAS macro language. Working with statisticians in a team-oriented environment, you must have facility in developing code independently, in programming SAS code from specs, and in modifying pre-existing SAS code. You will be expected to function with minimal supervision while interacting frequently with team members. Strong quantitative skills are required and a working knowledge of SAS/GRAPH and SAS/STAT is desired. Experience in the pharmaceutical/bio-statistical arena is strongly desired. Good communication skills and the ability to work with a team are crucial. Rho's high quality standards require strong quantitative skills as well as careful attention to accuracy and details. Bachelor's degree required, with a major or extensive course work in a quantitative field; MA preferred. SAS programming skills and either statistical training or relevant experience is strongly preferred. We encourage interested and talented people to visit [http://www.rhoworld.com/hr/#deptid\\_80](http://www.rhoworld.com/hr/#deptid_80) (Job Code: 00045) to apply.

**TECHNICAL MARKETING/ RESEARCH ASSISTANT:** Statistical Innovations Inc. ([www.statisticalinnovations.com](http://www.statisticalinnovations.com)) is seeking a motivated individual to serve as Technical Marketer/Research Assistant. We are looking for an organized individual with a strong analytical/technical background and good marketing and communication skills. Responsibilities include all marketing communications with clients and assistance on statistical modeling consulting projects. This is a great entry-level job for someone with an interest in data analysis and marketing. Prospective candidates should email Michael at [Michael@statisticalinnovations.com](mailto:Michael@statisticalinnovations.com). Include cover letter, resume and salary requirements.

**SAS PROGRAMMER/ANALYST:** At Channing Laboratories, several longitudinal cohort studies need a dedicated full time associate with strong SAS programming ability, data management experience, and/or work experience in a genetic/biologic research setting. This programmer/analyst in conjunction with researchers, lab managers, and statisticians will work managing genotype and laboratory data and will design and implement programs for analysis, statistical modeling, and quality control using SAS and other statistical packages or programming tools in a UNIX environment. Demonstrated ability in merging large datasets and performing complex analysis is necessary. Candidates with an understanding of genetic science and research will receive special consideration. Must be able to manage and prioritize multiple projects. Working knowledge of SQL, Oracle, MS Office, Stata, R and S-PLUS are preferred. Please fax resumes to Marisa Barr Rubin (617) 525-2578 or email to: [marisa.barr@channing.harvard.edu](mailto:marisa.barr@channing.harvard.edu)

**RESEARCH SCIENTIST TRACK POSITION:** The Department of Biostatistics at the Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, has an immediate vacancy for a Research Scientist in the Center for Biostatistics in AIDS Research (CBAR). The successful applicant will join a group of over 50 statisticians as a senior biostatistician with the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) and the Neurologic AIDS Research Consortium (NARC). Primary responsibilities include collaborating in Phase II and III multi-center clinical trials in HIV-related neurology. The position requires a PhD in Biostatistics or Statistics and demonstration of the ability to conduct collaborative and methodological research. The level within the track will be based on the applicant's qualifications. Prior experience in Clinical Trials is considered a plus for Research Associate level, and two or more years experience is required for Research Scientist level. We are an equal opportunity employer. Inquiries: Dr. Scott Evans; [evans@sdac.harvard.edu](mailto:evans@sdac.harvard.edu). To apply, send cover letter and CV: Jennifer Fitts, Academic Coordinator, CBAR, Harvard School of Public Health, 655 Huntington Avenue, FXB. 537, Boston, MA 02115, [jfitts@sdac.harvard.edu](mailto:jfitts@sdac.harvard.edu), Phone: 617-432-0548.

*The BCASA Newsletter is published four times during the academic year and is emailed to current BCASA members. Send comments or suggestions to any of the individuals listed below.*

**BCASA OFFICERS**

<i>President, 2005-06</i>	Scott Evans, Harvard School of Public Health
<i>Program Chair, 2005-06</i>	Tom Lane, The MathWorks
<i>Vice-President, 2006-07</i>	Shelley Hurwitz, Harvard Medical School
<i>Secretary, 2006-07</i>	Maureen P. Mayer, Raytheon Company
<i>Treasurer, 2006-07</i>	Rui Wang, Harvard School of Public Health
<i>Council of Chapters Representative, 2006-08</i>	Nicholas Horton, Smith College
<i>Past President, 2005-06</i>	Robert B. Smith, Cambridge-MIT Institute

**BCASA COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

<i>Education</i>	Kerstin Allen
<i>Membership</i>	Maureen P. Mayer
<i>Publications</i>	Shelley Hurwitz

**BCASA NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION COMMITTEE**

<i>Managing Editor</i>	Shelley Hurwitz
<i>Program Announcements</i>	Tom Lane
<i>Circulation Managers</i>	Maureen P. Mayer, Tom Lane, Rui Wang
<i>Copy Editor</i>	Stan Morse
<i>Advertising Editor</i>	Robert B. Smith