



**AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION
HOUSTON AREA CHAPTER
NEWSLETTER
October 10, 2012**



*****Wednesday, October 17, 2012*****

The Mammography Wars

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U.T. M. D. Anderson Cancer Center

In 1997 I served as co-chair of an NIH Consensus Development Panel on Breast Cancer Screening for Women Ages 40-49. The panel actually developed a consensus, but not everyone outside of the panel agreed ... to say the least! In the ensuing 15 years there has been no other medical intervention or procedure quite as controversial as screening mammography. During the political debates regarding healthcare reform the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force was actually charged with being an Obama death squad because of its recommendations on screening mammography. And speaking of death, along the way some have suggested that my own death would a positive development for women's health. I'll summarize some highlights of the controversies from my perspective in the trenches. I'll describe the screening trials, statistical modeling, epidemiology studies to assess the extent of overdiagnosis for example, and I've delve superficially into the politics of breast cancer.

HACASA meetings are open to the public! Please pass on copies of this announcement to colleagues and friends and post on appropriate bulletin boards.

WHEN and WHERE: ***Wednesday October 18, 2012*** at Duncan Hall, Rice University
5:30pm - Social Time and with snacks & drinks: Room 1049
6:30pm - Panel Discussion (Room 1049)



Duncan Hall (also known as the Computational Engineering Building) is on the northeast side of the Rice University Campus. For parking information and directions please refer to the Rice parking websites, the following have been found helpful:

<http://cohesion.rice.edu/campuservices/parktrans/parking/visitors.cfm>
<http://www.rice.edu/maps/maps.html>

Thank you to **Rice University** and the **Department of Statistics at Rice University** for their generous support of HACASA by allowing us the use of their facilities for our gatherings, **and sponsoring FREE PARKING. See Hadley Wickham for a voucher at the meeting.**

To help us cover cost of our weekly snacks, we are asking for small donations (\$5 or more). Also, please RSVP so we can bring enough snacks and drinks. Please RSVP to Margaret Kuzynski at HoustonASA@gmail.com.

Introducing the officers!

The officers for the 2012-2013 academic year are:

President: Hao Liu (haol@bcm.edu)

President Elect: Becky Slack (RSSlack@mdanderson.org)

Past President: Jose-Miguel Yamal (Jose-Miguel.Yamal@uth.tmc.edu)

Secretary: Michael Swartz (Michael.D.Swartz@uth.tmc.edu)

Treasurer: Margaret Kuczynski (margaret.kuczynski@gmail.com)

Science Fair Coordinator: Erin Hodgess (HodgessE@uhd.edu)

ASA Chapter Representative: Becky Slack (RSSlack@mdanderson.org)

Reminder!

Membership dues: Students: \$1, and non-students: \$8.

Welcome New Members!

Please take a moment at this month's meeting to welcome new members!



Mark Your Calendars!

This year we are still meeting every month. In the Fall Semester (September through December) we will meet on the 2nd or 3rd **Wednesday** of each month, depending on the month. In the Spring (January through May), we return to the 2nd or 3rd **Tuesday** of the month, depending on the month. The official dates and locations are below (all rooms are located in Duncan Hall on Rice University Campus):

Wednesday, September 12, 2012 (DH1049)

Wednesday, October 17, 2012 (DH1049) 3rd Wednesday of October

Wednesday, November 14, 2012 (DH 3092)

Wednesday, December 12, 2012 (DH 3092) Holiday Potluck

Tuesday, January 15, 2013 (room TBA) 3rd Tuesday of January

Tuesday, February 12, 2013 (room TBA)

Tuesday, March 12, 2013 (room TBA)

Tuesday, April 9, 2013 (room TBA)

Tuesday, May 14, 2013 (room TBA) (Science Fair Winners)

Let us know what you think!

Send comments to Michael Swartz at HoustonASA@gmail.com with the subject COMMENTS. Or Send comments / additions / corrections concerning the HACASA newsletter to Michael Swartz at Michael.D.Swartz@uth.tmc.edu

Announcements

New Website is launched!

Our new website is launched! Please visit it for more information and announcements:

<http://sites.google.com/site/houstonasa/>

for comments and suggestions regarding content, please contact our website coordinator/maintainer: Margaret Kuczynski (margaret.kuczynski@gmail.com)