



**AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION
HOUSTON AREA CHAPTER
NEWSLETTER
March 5, 2012**



*****Tuesday, March 13, 2012*****

Is the Outcome-Adaptive Randomization Useful in Clinical Trials

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Professor

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Is it worth to apply outcome-adaptive randomization (AR) in clinical trials? Different views permeate the medical and statistical communities. Clinical trials are designed to maintain the type I error rate, achieve a specified power, and provide better treatment to patients. Generally speaking, equal randomization (ER) requires a smaller sample size and yields a smaller number of non-responders than AR by controlling type I and type II errors. Conversely, AR produces a higher overall response than ER by assigning more patients to the better treatment as the information accumulates in the trial. AR is preferred when the difference in efficacy between treatments is large or when limited patients are available outside the trial. Dynamic graphics and simulations will be presented to compare the relative merits of AR versus ER. Which is the better method for clinical trials? You be the judge!

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: ***Tuesday March 13, 2012*** at Duncan Hall, Rice University
5:30pm - Social Time with snacks & drinks: Room 1049
6:30pm - Featured Presentation (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.

Introducing the officers!

The officers for the 2011-2012 academic year are:

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

President Elect: Hao Liu (haol@bcm.edu)

Past President: Abbas Jinnah (abbas.jinnah@gmail.com)

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

Treasurer: Myrna Khan (myrnakhan@gmail.com)

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

ASA Chapter Representative: Nancy Glenn (glennnl@tsu.edu)

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 doing monthly meetings. **In the spring we return to Tuesdays.** Below are the official dates:

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Wednesday, November 9, 2011

After Christmas we return to Tuesdays:

Tuesday February 7, 2012 *note February meeting is the first Tuesday of the month*

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

Tuesday, April 10, 2012

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

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/>

Traveling Short course Saturday April 28, 2012 Applied Mixed Models: Registration Now Open!

Linda J. Young, PhD from the Department of Statistics at the University of Florida will be teaching a course on **Applied Mixed Models** on Saturday April 28, 2012. We are still looking for a location, most likely in the medical center. Registration is now open. Registration forms and Course flyers are attached and available at the following link:

<https://sites.google.com/site/houstonasa/home/2012-short-course-applied-mixed-models>

Interface of Computing Sciences and Statistics May 16-18

Rice University Statistics Department is hosting the Interface of Computing Sciences and Statistics at Rice University May 16-May 18, 2012. Trevor Hastie is giving the keynote address. For more information see: <http://www.interfacesymposia.org/Interface2012/Interface2012.html>

Dixon Award Seeking nominations!

Contact: [Michael Chernick](#)

For the past few years the Dixon Award has been presented to a statistician who has done outstanding work in statistical consulting. This year I am the chairman of the Committee. I do statistical consulting part time. From participating in this eGroup I have met a number of statisticians that do consulting part time or full time. I was horrified the other day to find that there have been no nominations sent in to the ASA for this award this year. In looking over the past years it seems that only 4 new candidates were nominated last year and 7 in 2010. It seems that the committee has chosen to consider candidates nominated in previous years in order to have a good competitive list to choose from. The deadline for nominations is March 15th. I would think that many of you could think of a good candidate and should have the time to put in to make a nomination. This is an important award and there are many deserving candidates. But they will not get recognized if we do not go to the trouble to nominate them. I encourage everyone to think about nominating someone and hope that several of you will do so. For those of us that do statistical consulting this is our award and it is only recently that the Dixon family made the effort to create one in Will Dixon's honor. Let's take it seriously and nominate deserving candidates in the numbers that they are nominated for the other awards that ASA conveys.

Michael Chernick
Director of Biostatistical Services
Lankenau Institute for Medical Research
