San Diego Chapter
By Aida Yazdanparast

The past three years have seen disruption to our daily lives, with many activities shifted to virtual events because of the COVID pandemic. Though it has been harder to connect, we continued to engage our members.

We remember our last in-person business meeting and seminar (January 28, 2020) at Pfizer, during which Linda Sun gave a talk titled “Two Innovative Designs for Confirmatory Oncology Trials.” COVID hit right after that and put a pause on planned activities, including Career Day.
The chapter continued to thrive, however. Although not able to meet in person, we converted Career Day to a smaller online event in November of 2022. Chito Hernandez gave an inspirational speech to graduate students in statistics and biostatistics departments from the University of California at San Diego about what their careers would be like post-graduation in the pharmaceutical industry, using his own experience as an example. Only 10 participants were allowed so each could turn on their camera and actively participate.

The chapter also managed to conduct several short courses between 2020 and 2022, which included both chapter short courses and traveling courses. In addition, the chapter hosted virtual events and seminars on a diverse range of topics. Notably, some of these events attracted more than 70 individuals from throughout the United States and Italy.

We also resumed our ‘summer’ chapter picnic in 2021. It was the first in person gathering for most of us since the beginning of 2020.
Chapter members gather for a picnic in the summer of 2021.

The virtual seminars hosted by the chapter from 2020-2023 include the following:

- **October 2020**: “Robust Design and Analysis of Clinical Trials with Non-Proportional Hazards: Methodology and Implementation in R,” led by Satrajit Roychoudhury of Pfizer and Keaven Anderson of Merck & Co.
- **May 2021**: “A Comprehensive and Practical Tutorial on Dose-Finding Trial Designs, mTPI, CRM, BOIN, or i3+3?,” led by Yuan Ji
- **Oct 2021**: “Adaptive 2-in-1 Design, Expansion Decision, and Extensions,” led by Cong Chen
- **March 2022**: “Biostatistics in Genomic Life Sciences Presented by Illumina, Inc.,” led by Kristen Meier, Johan Surtihadi, Darcy Vavrek, and Aida Yazdanparast
- **June 2022**: “Determining Classification Accuracy Goals of Diagnostic Tests Based on Risk Stratification,” led by Gene Pennello
- **March 2023**: “A Case Study of Collaboration with Biostatistician to Impact Business Strategies,” led by Phil Yeung

The chapter’s next traveling course, “Charting Your Course for Leadership Success” by Leslie McClure, will be in person and is scheduled for October.