

2026 NIC-ASA Spring Symposium & Volunteer Event

The NIC-ASA is delighted to invite you to its inaugural Spring Symposium, a half-day in-person event themed “Statistical Practice in the Age of AI: Innovation and Risk.” This symposium will feature insightful presentations from speakers in industry and academia, highlighting how artificial intelligence is shaping statistical practice across the pharmaceutical, clinical operations, and academic research.

Following the symposium, attendees are warmly invited to participate in an optional volunteer activity at Bernie’s Book Bank in support of children in need.

Date: May 15, 2026

Location: Bernie’s Book Bank, 917 N Shore Dr, Lake Bluff, IL 60044

Time:

Symposium: 9am-12pm

Lunch: 12-1 pm.

Volunteer activity: 1-3pm

Featured Speakers

- Yinan Zheng, AbbVie

Topic: *Agentic AI in Pharma Statistics: Automating Workflows from Data to Clinical Insights*

Abstract: This talk explores the paradigm shift from passive AI "copilots" to Autonomous AI Agents that seamlessly connect multi-step workflows in biopharmaceutical statistics. The talk will demonstrate a fully compliant, End-to-End Trial Design Agent that autonomously extracts literature parameters, executes dynamic sample size calculations, and projects actionable trial timelines. By automating these processes, attendees will see how Agentic AI empowers statisticians to transition from manual data wrangling to focusing on strategic clinical trial design.

- Charlie Chen, Astellas

Topic: *The Way We Work as Statisticians Has Changed: AI in Clinical Operations*

Abstract: In this talk, we will have an overview of agentic AI applications in clinical operation (help site selection, exploratory data analysis, and etc.). We will also show examples how AI was utilized in our real projects like patient heatmaps and site exclusion list creation.

- Bowei Xi, Purdue University

Topic: *AI Vulnerabilities and Uncertainties*

Abstract: Although AI is developing rapidly, AI's vulnerability under adversarial attacks remains an extraordinarily difficult problem. This talk will first discuss the

root cause of adversarial examples through studying the deep neural network's (DNN) classification boundary. We show there are a lot more adversarial examples given one clean sample, all within a small neighborhood of the clean sample. We then define DNN uncertainty regions and show the transferability of adversarial examples is not universal. We introduce a deep ensemble with high accuracy over the adversarial examples. The talk also provides an overview of the adversarial attacks against LLMs, including the privacy attacks, jailbreak attacks, fine tuning based attacks, and backdoor attacks.

Following the symposium, attendees are encouraged to stay for a volunteer activity that will help bring more books to children in need. **Volunteers who are unable to attend the symposium are still welcome to participate, though registration is required.**

Registration Fee: \$25

Registration Link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2026-nic-asa-spring-symposium-volunteer-event-tickets-1987349300255?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=ebdsshcopyurl>

Please register no later than 5/12.