

Statfax

Spring 2022 Newsletter

Northeastern Illinois Chapter of the American Statistical Association

President's Report



Welcome back to the Northeastern Illinois Chapter of American Statistical Association (NIC-ASA) newsletter. After a one-year hiatus, there will be two newsletters this year – a Spring Newsletter and a Fall Newsletter. This Spring Newsletter looks back at 2021 and provides important updates and what the Chapter is planning for 2022. This edition includes:

- Chapter Officers of 2022
- Highlights from 2021 activities
- Announcements

In 2022, a new President (Saurabh Mukhopadhyay) and President-Elect (Jung Wook Park) took office. As proposed by our past President (Jamie Myles) and subsequently approved by members' votes, the NIC-ASA constitution has been amended to increase term lengths from 1-year to 2-years in order to ensure smooth operation and transition. I am honored to be the new Chapter President and I am very thankful to all past and current (including new) officers for their support and contributions in Chapter activities. Please see the current list of officers on the right-hand side.

As mentioned in a past newsletter (Spring 2013), this chapter started in 1984. For the past several years, the chapter has been highly successful with its main activities of providing training sessions and the fall conference. As in 2020, last year we again organized an ASA Council of Chapters Traveling Course (in May 2021). We also organized a fall conference jointly with the International Chinese Statistical Association Midwest Chapter. Both the short course and the conference held in 2021 will be briefly discussed later in this newsletter.

For 2022, the NIC-ASA Chapter invites you to attend a half-day Travelling Course on Clinical Trials Using Master Protocol and Its Applications on Friday, May 13, 2022, to be offered in virtual format. After two years of virtual meetings, the 2022 Fall Conference will be held in-person. The registration for the short course is open, and the online registration link is available on the Chapter website. The details of the conference will be sent out soon. More details on these and additional information, including a link to the Chapter website, is given on the next page.

To all who are members of the Chapter, thank you. If you are receiving this newsletter and are not yet a member of the Chapter, please consider joining along with your membership to ASA.

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Looking Back at 2021

Short Course: Last year's short course on "Introduction to Structural Equation Modeling with Health-related Outcome Measures" was given virtually on May 21, 2021. The three instructors were Douglas D. Gunzler and Adam T. Perzynski (both from the Center for Health Care Research and Policy at Case Western Reserve University) and Adam Christopher Carle (University of Cincinnati College of Arts and Sciences). The course was designed to "make Structural Equation Modelling (SEM) accessible to students, faculty, and other researchers across many disciplines, addressing issues unique to health and medicine". SEM is often used to test hypothesized relationships among observed and latent (unobserved) variables. The abstract is available in the Events section of the chapter website.

Fall Conference: The 2021 NIC-ASA & ICSA Midwest Chapter Joint Fall Conference was held virtually on October 22, 2021. The Keynote address, "Misconceptions and Facts about Aducanumab Approval," was given by Dr. Yaning Wang, current CEO of Createrna Science and Technology and former Director of the Division of Pharmacometrics, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, FDA. Subsequent technical sessions focused on Machine Learning and Innovative Trial Designs. The complete program for the conference can be found in the Events section of the chapter website.

Welcome to New Officers/Volunteers

The Chapter welcomes John Schoenfelder, Yunzhao Xing, and Xiaotian Chen who have volunteered to accept responsibility for various activities as officers in the chapter.

The chapter works best when there are active volunteers. Volunteering provides you an opportunity to expand your network within the local statistical community, give something back to your profession, looks good on your Resume, and is fun. If you would like to volunteer, speak with any of the officers listed on the previous page and we will be happy to welcome you to the team.

Looking ahead to 2022

Short Course: As previously mentioned, this year's short course will be held on Friday, May 13. The title is "Clinical Trials Using Master Protocol and Its Applications". The abstract for the course, which will be given by Jingjing Yi (BeiGene), Xiaoyun (Nicole) Li (BeiGene), and Chengxing (Cindy) Lu (AstraZeneca), is displayed on the chapter website. It is noted that the course will include discussion of a COVID platform trial. You may register for the course using the link on the Chapter website. It is requested that attendees register by Monday, May 9.

Fall Conference: The annual joint meeting of the NIC-ASA and ICSA Midwest Chapter will be held in October. This year's event is planned to be a 2-day face-to-face meeting. The plan is to have a short course on the first day and the fall conference on the next day. Stephanie Dunbar (AbbVie VP and Head of Statistical Sciences and Analytics) will be the Keynote Speaker, and the conference will have technical sessions and a student poster session. Technical sessions will include topics on leveraging external control data in clinical trials, Bayesian modeling, innovative trial designs, and more topics of interest to pharmaceutical statisticians. We are also discussing the possibilities of other student activities such as roundtable discussions that focus on student intern opportunities. Additional details and registration information will be sent out over the next several months.

Chapter Website

Additional information about the Chapter and its activities can be found on the Chapter Website. The link to the website is below:

<https://community.amstat.org/northeasternillinoischapter>

The site contains various information about the chapter including current and past events and newsletters.