

BCASA NEWSLETTER

Boston Chapter of the American Statistical Association

Serving

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Boston Chapter ASA, c/o Michael Posner, 313 Summit Avenue #3, Brighton, MA 02135

Homepage: <http://www.amstat.org/chapters/boston>

Overview of Event Schedule

January 27, 2004	BCASA Statistician of the Year Banquet	Boston, MA
February 7, 2004	BCASA Winter Party	Cambridge, MA
March 25, 2004	BCASA Evening Lecture	Cambridge, MA
April 24, 2004	New England Statistics Symposium	Cambridge, MA
May 10-11, 2004	BCASA Spring Conference	Boston, MA

Event schedule on the web: <http://www.amstat.org/chapters/boston/schedule.html>

Detailed announcements appear inside this issue. All events are announced to BCASA members by email to provide sufficient advance notice to make plans to attend. We are currently planning events for the upcoming year, so if you have suggestions please contact Program Chair Tom Lane at tlane@alum.mit.edu.

ANNUAL WINTER POTLUCK DINNER AND PARTY

Hosts Linda and Tom Marx

Date: Saturday, February 7, 2004

Time: 6:00 PM

RSVP: By February 4, 2004 to Sue Perry (sperry@rhoworld.com).
Please indicate what item you will be bringing (appetizer, main dish, side dish, salad, or dessert).

Location: 196 Appleton Street
Cambridge, MA
617-491-2558

Directions: The Marx home is a few blocks west of Harvard Observatory and a few minutes from Harvard Square, toward Belmont. It is about equidistant from Harvard Square and Porter Square so you can take the Red Line to either stop. The home is between Concord Ave on the north and Huron Ave on the south; it's between Royal Ave on the east and Walden St on the west. Driving or walking away from Harvard Square on Concord Ave, take the second left after the intersection of Concord and Huron Aves. It's the fourth house on the left, at the intersection of Appleton and Saville Sts. There's on-street parking on nearby streets. Note that Appleton St. is one-way north between Huron and Concord Aves.

MOSTELLER STATISTICIAN OF THE YEAR BANQUET

Optimal Design for Epidemiological Cohort Studies, with Application to the Planned National Children's Study

Louise Ryan

**Department of Biostatistics
Harvard University**

Date: Tuesday, January 27, 2004

Time: 6:15 - 6:45 Social
6:45 - 7:30 Dinner
7:30 - 8:45 Talk

Cost: \$35 for dinner and social (\$30 for chapter members)
The talk is free.

RSVP: By noon on Friday, January 23 to Sue Perry at sperry@rhoworld.com.
Please note whether you will attend the dinner and whether you plan to park on campus (see below).
Dinner spaces are limited.

Location: Simmons College
Special Functions Room
Main College Building, 1st floor
300 The Fenway
Boston, MA 02115

Directions/map: www.simmons.edu/directions.html

Parking: There is a free lot accessible from Avenue Louis Pasteur but spaces are very limited. You will not be allowed to park unless you sign up by the RSVP date and indicate that you intend to park in the lot. There may however be parking on nearby streets.

Abstract: This talk will discuss design challenges motivated by the planned National Children's Study. This complex study will involve 100,000 children followed from birth throughout childhood. Among the statistical challenges to be addressed are the sampling framework (population-based versus center-based designs) and the use of two- (and multi-) stage sampling strategies. Multi-stage designs can provide a cost-effective, yet statistically efficient, strategy in settings where logistics and/or resource limitations preclude measuring all outcomes and predictors on all study subjects. Well-known special cases of two-stage designs include case-control, case-cohort, two-stage, as well as nested case-control designs. However, extensions to the longitudinal setting are relatively understudied. The talk will draw on work conducted with Warren Strauss from Battelle Labs and David Loecke, a doctoral student in the Harvard Biostatistics Department.

Program Chair note: Every year the Boston Chapter selects a Mosteller Statistician of the Year. Criteria include excellence in teaching, research, and service to the chapter and to the profession in general. This year Louise Ryan, Professor of Biostatistics at Harvard University, was selected for her many contributions in all of these areas.

EVENING LECTURE

Andrew Lo
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

- Date:** Thursday, March 25, 2004
- Time:** 6:30 Light dinner
7:00 Presentation
- Cost:** Dinner: \$9 members, \$11 non-members, \$5 students
Presentation: free
- Location:** Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts
- Details:** Additional details for this event including title, abstract, and room number will be emailed to members and will appear in the March Newsletter and on the web: <http://www.amstat.org/chapters/boston/schedule.html>
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NEW ENGLAND STATISTICS SYMPOSIUM

Hosted by the Harvard University Department of Statistics

- Date:** Saturday, April 24, 2004
- Location:** Science Center
1 Oxford Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
- Website:** <http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~stats/ness2004.html>
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SPRING CONFERENCE

International Conference on Analysis of Genomic Data

**Sponsored by the Boston Chapter of the American Statistical Association
and the Channing Laboratory**

- Date:** May 10-11, 2004
- Synopsis:** The conference will cover current research on statistical models and bioinformatic methods for microarray data, proteomic data, and population genetics.
- Website:** <http://www.amstat.org/chapters/boston/genomic/Main.htm>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chapter Dues

The BCASA newsletter is emailed to current members. Please be sure your membership is current by using your annual ASA membership renewal form and sending your BCASA dues to ASA, or by sending your BCASA dues directly to the BCASA. The BCASA membership fee is only \$9 (it's only \$3 for students) and BCASA members get discounts for events. Instructions are on our web site at <http://www.amstat.org/chapters/boston/join.html>. See the ASA web site for more information including ASA membership discounts: <http://www.amstat.org/membership/join.html>.

ASA Strategic Initiatives

ASA members and groups are invited to submit a proposal for an initiative specifically directed toward items in the Strategic Plan that could be considered for implementation in 2004. The due date is March 1 and applicants will be notified of the funding decisions in April. The approved current ASA budget includes \$100,000 to fund Strategic Initiatives. For more information, including a list of proposals funded in prior years, please see <http://www.amstat.org/admin/strategic01.html>.

Traveling Statistician Outreach Program

In this program, professional statisticians will travel to colleges and universities to give interesting statistical talks and to discuss statistics as a profession. The targeted colleges and universities are those that may not have many statisticians because of geographic isolation or simply have no formal statistics departments. Interested schools and volunteer speakers should contact Scott Evans at evans@sdac.harvard.edu or Kerstin Allen at kallen@rhoworld.com.

Thank you

The BCASA planning committee wishes to express its gratitude to Sue Perry at Rho, Inc. for taking reservations and keeping track of attendees and fees for BCASA events for over five years. Thank you, Sue!

Congratulations

Warm congratulations go to Shelley Hurwitz for receiving the prestigious Partners in Excellence Award for Leadership and Innovation from Partners HealthCare. Shelley is a long-time member of the BCASA Planning committee and the current BCASA Vice-President.

Chapter Elections

The Boston Chapter of the ASA has elections in the spring for terms of office that start the following January 1. Terms generally run for two years, however the Chapter Representative to the ASA has a three-year term. Officers are elected in a staggered manner, and elections for the offices of President and Program Chair will be held this year. Nominations are being accepted by the Past-President, Robert B. Smith at RSmithPhd@aol.com. As always, the Planning Committee invites new members to join. Candidates for officers are generally selected from active, contributing members of the Planning Committee. The Committee meets about once every six weeks during the academic year. Anyone interested in joining the Planning Committee may contact Scott Evans at evans@sdac.harvard.edu.

Job Opportunities

BIostatistician: Rho, Inc., a Contract Research Organization, is seeking a Biostatistician to be located near Boston in the Newton, MA office. Job responsibilities include designing, implementing and communicating the statistical aspects of clinical trials. Qualified candidates will have either at least a master's degree in Statistics or Biostatistics or bachelor's degree in Biostatistics and up to 5 years of relevant full-time or part-time experience, preferably in the pharmaceutical industry or in the study of clinical trials. Very strong written and oral communication skills as well as familiarity with SAS are essential, as is an ability to pay attention to details while writing, editing, or validating. This is a full-time position. Rho provides a positive work environment and offers excellent benefits. Please send your resume and cover letter to Human Resources at hr@rhoworld.com; fax to 919-869-1261. Please reference the job title and job code STAT02BO. Rho, Inc. is an EOE/AA.

BIostatistician: The Center for Clinical Investigation at Brigham & Women's Hospital is seeking a highly qualified biostatistician to support all aspects of clinical investigation, including design and analysis of clinical studies, collaboration with investigators affiliated with Harvard Medical School, grant and protocol development and review, and teaching and mentoring of junior investigators. The individual must have an MS or PhD in statistics or biostatistics and at least three years' experience, a strong record of collaborative research, excellent interpersonal skills, excellent oral and written communication, multitasking capability to handle numerous simultaneous projects, and a strong commitment to excellence in research. Candidates with broad consulting interests who enjoy collaborating with physicians and other research staff are encouraged to apply. Expertise in study design, grant writing, clinical trials, case-control and cohort studies, statistical genetics, protocol monitoring, hierarchical, longitudinal, survival, categorical, nonlinear, circadian, epidemiology, SAS. The Biostatistician will have a Research Associate appointment at Harvard Medical School. Interested candidates should send a letter of interest, CV, writing sample, and reference letters to: Dr. Shelley Hurwitz, Biostatistics Director, BWH Center for Clinical Investigation, 1620 Tremont Street – BC-CCI-3, Boston, MA 02120-1613. Applications are also accepted by email to hurwitz@hms.harvard.edu.

The BCASA Newsletter is published four times during the academic year and is emailed to current BCASA members. Send your comments to any of the officers or newsletter production committee members.

BCASA CHAPTER OFFICERS

<i>President, 2003-04</i>	Scott Evans, Harvard School of Public Health
<i>Program Chair, 2003-04</i>	Tom Lane, The MathWorks
<i>Vice-President, 2004-05</i>	Shelley Hurwitz, Brigham and Women's Hospital
<i>Secretary, 2004-05</i>	Maureen Mayer, Raytheon Company
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<i>Council of Chapters Representative, 2003-05</i>	Nick Horton, Smith College
<i>Past President, 2003-04</i>	Robert B. Smith, Social Structural Research Inc.

BCASA NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION COMMITTEE

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