

BCASA NEWSLETTER

Boston Chapter of the American Statistical Association

Serving

Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont

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

Newsletter email: bcasa_news@yahoo.com

SCHEDULED EVENTS

January 20, 2007	BCASA Annual Winter Potluck Dinner and Party	Newtonville, MA
February 14, 2007	BCASA Mosteller Statistician of the Year Banquet	Boston, MA

An online event schedule is available at: <http://www.amstat.org/chapters/boston/schedule.html>. Detailed announcements are below. All events are announced to members through our email list. We are currently planning events for the coming year. If you have suggestions please contact Program Chair Matt Tom.

ANNUAL WINTER POTLUCK DINNER AND PARTY

at the home of Katherine Monti

Date: Saturday, January 20, 2007

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: 30 Lothrop Street
Newtonville, MA 02460

Phones: 617-721-1405 (cell)
617-965-8000 x22 (work)

RSVP: By January 18 to Sue Perry (sperry@rhoworld.com or 617-965-8000 x22).

Please provide your name, how many people will be in your party, what you would like to bring (appetizer, entrée, side dish, salad, or dessert), and phone or email contact information (so that you can be reached in case of weather problems).

Directions: <http://maps.google.com/maps?q=30+Lothrop+Street,+Newtonville,+MA> or <http://www.mapquest.com/>.

Lothrop is off Crafts Street between Washington Street and Watertown Street. Crafts Street is off Washington Street, between Pike Exit 17 and Walnut Street.

The condo is at the end of Lothrop, on the right. The first few guests can park in the double bay associated with the condo (turn right immediately after passing the condo), or in one of a few spaces at the far end of the condo lot, or in the driveway alongside the condo. Those who arrive later can park on Lothrop or Jennison or even Judkins, if necessary. Lothrop dead-ends just past the condo. If it has snowed, parking may be tight since the streets are narrow.

Cancellation: In case of heavy show, we may cancel. Please feel free to call if you have questions. Check the chapter web site for cancellation information.

MOSTELLER STATISTICIAN OF THE YEAR BANQUET

How can statisticians play the winner?

LJ Wei
Professor of Biostatistics
Harvard University

- Date:** February 14, 2007.
- Cost:** Dinner is \$30 for chapter members, \$35 for non-members, and free for all students. The presentation is free.
- Location:** Frontier Science
900 Commonwealth Ave
Boston, MA 02215
- RSVP:** By February 9 to Sue Perry (sperry@rhoworld.com or 617-965-8000 x22).
- Directions:** Frontier Science is at the intersection of Commonwealth Avenue and St. Paul Street. Please enter the building on St. Paul and go to the second floor, where someone will let you in. There is a Green Line (B) stop at this intersection. On-street parking is available on St. Paul and on Commonwealth. A Boston University parking Lot, which charges a fee, is across Commonwealth, on Buick Street.
- Abstract:** The world around us is exploding with information. How can statisticians optimally contribute to this world? Professor Wei will lead an open discussion using several examples from bioinformatics, clinical trials, and individualized medicine (e.g. Pharmacogenomics, the study of how an individual's genetic inheritance affects the body's response to drugs). Discussion topics will include how professionals in other disciplines view statisticians and how statisticians can best contribute.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

From the Desk of the BCASA President

Happy New Year and greetings to everyone! I hope that your 2007 will be filled with happiness and health! I look forward to meeting you at our upcoming events and would like to take this opportunity to invite you to join the planning committee. Please feel free to email me, Dominique, with your ideas and suggestions at dhaughton@bentley.edu. Your ideas and suggestions are very welcome. All the best for a great year from Dominique Haughton, your new BCASA President, and from the Planning Committee.

Member News

Heather Ribaud and Scott Evans of the Harvard School of Public Health are co-recipients of the Robert Zackin Distinguished Collaborative Statistician Award for significant statistical contributions to research advancing the care of people with HIV. The award was presented by the AIDS Clinical Trials Groups in Baltimore, Maryland in December, 2006.

Shelley Hurwitz, our Chapter Vice President, presented a distinctive desk clock to Scott Evans at the December Planning Committee meeting in recognition of his distinguished service as President for two terms. This gift was made possible by contributions from chapter officers.

Summer Internships

If your company would like to offer summer internships to students studying statistics or mathematics, the BCASA can help. We can announce the internship on our website, through our email list, and in the newsletter (next issue: March 2007). Contact Katherine Monti (kmonti@rhoworld.com) for details.

Mu Sigma Rho

Please consider nominating your students for membership in Mu Sigma Rho, the national honorary society for statistics. Information can be found at: <http://www.math.smith.edu/~nhorton/msr.html>. The deadline is March 1st, but there's no reason to delay.

Did you know?

In Boston in 1989, at the 150th celebration of the founding of the American Statistics Association, the late Fred Mosteller was the first recipient of the Boston Chapter of the ASA Statistician of the Year Award. Professor Mosteller received the award for his excellence in teaching and mentorship, influential research, and service to the statistics profession. The award was later renamed in his honor. At the suggestion of BCASA Planning Committee member John McKenzie's original idea, it appears that the 2014 JSM meeting will be here in Boston. Make sure to mark it down in your 2014 calendar!

ASA Committee Membership

Tony Lachenbruch, soon to be president-elect of ASA, is looking for members to join ASA committees. Anyone interested ASA website (<http://www.amstat.org/comm/nominations/index.cfm?fuseaction=welcome>) for a list of committees and what they do. You can volunteer through the website or contact kmonti@rhoworld.com. No guarantees, of course, but there are about 150 committee positions that need filling. If you are interested, or get someone else interested, please send me name, email, phone, a list of one or more committees of interest, and why the candidate is interested in the particular committee. I think resumes are optional.

ASA Chapter Membership

We currently have 452 members, up from one year ago when we had 410 members. Membership totals exclude persons who are members of the BCASA but not of the ASA. Non-ASA members are encouraged to join the ASA so that their names can be included in the BCASA membership registry. Having our BCASA members as part of ASA allows us to provide targeted events based on our membership composition.

Meeting Within a Meeting: an ASA Program for Math/Science Teachers

An ASA sponsored one-day meeting will be held on Monday, July 30, 2007 at the Salt Palace Convention Center, Salt Lake City, as part of the ASA national meetings. The meeting content is based on standards, assessments, and textbooks consistent with the Guidelines for Assessment and Instruction in Statistics Education (GAISE) recommendations (www.amstat.org/education/gaise), National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) Principles and Standards for School Mathematics and Curriculum, and Focal Points for Pre-kindergarten through Grade 8 Mathematics (www.nctm.org/focalpoints). This meeting provides an opportunity for middle school and junior high math and science teachers to enhance their understanding and teaching of statistics within the math curriculum, which is based on conceptual understanding, active learning, real world data, and classroom appropriate technology, and also for the local teachers to network with ASA chapter members to organize learning communities. This one-day meeting includes activity-based sessions, lesson plan development, lunch and dinner followed by a panel discussion, with an overnight stay with optional activities on Tuesday. Provided are the registration cost, meals and refreshments, one night of lodging (Monday night), handouts, professional development half-credit for 7-13 contact hours (if possible), and a certificate of participation from the American statistical association (ASA). Post meeting program evaluation questionnaires will assist in organizing future follow-up workshops and the development of a listserv. Teachers should submit their applications, letter of intent, and a letter from their principal, all due by February 1, 2007. Those interested should contact Rebecca Nichols, at either rebecca@amstat.org or (703) 684-1221, Ext. 1877, for more information.

Cancer Biomarkers Conference

The SMi Group is announcing its Cancer Biomarkers Conference to be held on March 14 and 15, 2007, at the Hatton Venue in London. The program will be led by a panel of international experts and is designed to focus specifically on biomarker applications for oncology. The SMi Group's Cancer Biomarkers Conference is an excellent opportunity for you to learn from industry leaders about how they are applying biomarkers to expedite cancer detection and drug discovery and development. For more information and to register visit <http://www.smi-online.co.uk/events/overview.asp?is=4&ref=2561> or contact Eve Laskowski at elaskowski@smi-online.co.uk.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

PRINCIPAL BIostatistician: Wyeth Research, a global leader in pharmaceuticals, consumer health care products, and animal health care products, posts the following opening. As a Principal Biostatistician you will participate in the planning and reporting of clinical trials, including addressing study design, sample size, CRF design and proposed methods of analysis and associated liaisons with other clinical/operations staff. You will ensure the maintenance or productivity and adherence to project target dates with respect to clinical development plans, clinical analysis plans, protocol development, and analysis and report preparation for assigned projects. You will have responsibility for the statistical analysis and interpretation of data and presentation of results in co-authored CSRs and will also have responsibility for the development and execution of validated SAS programs to list and summarize clinical trial data. You will also conduct peer review of project related work performed by other statisticians, maintain compliance with the latest bio-statistical regulatory requirements, maintain study and project documentation and files according to departmental policy, and maintain external academic, professional, and industry contacts. This position requires at least a Masters degree in statistics, or in mathematics with a large statistical component. For a candidate with a Masters degree, DESS or DEA, at least 5 years of relevant work experience is required. For a candidate with a PhD or Doctorate, at least 1 year of relevant work experience is required. Qualified candidates please visit us at www.wyethjobs.com or submit your CV to maulm1@wyeth.com.

SR. PRINCIPAL BIostatistician II: Wyeth Research, a global leader in pharmaceuticals, consumer health care products, and animal health care products, posts the following opening. As a Senior Principal Biostatistician II you will be responsible for the overall statistical support for one or more key clinical projects. You will typically coordinate the activities of other staff members. In addition, you would be expected to take a role in cross-functional tasks (staff training, process improvement initiatives, development of working procedures, etc.) and to maintain a high level of professional activity (e.g., research leading to publications and presentations). You will be actively involved with the company's statistical strategic plans and be expected to know some of the new approaches and statistical strategies from the competing companies. You will often be the departmental representative on Clinical Project Teams and would be responsible for the overall statistical support for one or more clinical projects. You may at times be called on to coordinate the data analysis activities of other staff members, and in some cases, may also contribute as part of a team working on data analysis and reporting for other projects. This position requires a MS or Ph.D. in either biostatistics or statistics or another related area. It is advantageous for the candidate to possess a thorough knowledge of the theory and techniques of applied statistical methods such as, Experimental Designs, ANOVA, Linear Models, non-parametric, regression, correlation analysis, categorical data analysis, and survival analysis. It is also advantageous for the incumbent to possess programming skill in SAS. Qualified candidates please visit us at www.wyethjobs.com or you can submit your curriculum vitae to maulm1@wyeth.com.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR: The University of Massachusetts at Amherst School of Public Health and Health Sciences (<http://www.umass.edu/sphhs/>) is seeking applicants for a tenure track position in Biostatistics at the Assistant Professor level. The successful candidate will join the faculty in the Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology. Responsibilities will include research; teaching, primarily at the graduate level; and advising Masters and Doctoral students. The candidate will be expected to develop his/her own areas of research, and engage in collaborative research with other faculty from programs and departments within the School and University. The Biostatistics and Epidemiology Program has an active teaching/research faculty consisting of five epidemiologists and seven biostatisticians. Program faculty collaborate extensively with others in the School of Public Health and Health Sciences, in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, and with other departments in the University as well as with departments and individual faculty at the University's Medical School. The University is located in the scenic Pioneer Valley of western Massachusetts, which is home to five colleges (Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts) with easy access to major metropolitan areas. The University of Massachusetts School of Public Health and Health Sciences is committed to increasing the number of minorities and women on its faculty and welcomes applications from such candidates. Candidates for the position must have a terminal degree (PhD, Dr. PH) in biostatistics or related field of study, evidence of independent and collaborative research potential, and a demonstrated interest and ability in teaching at the graduate level. The University offers a competitive salary with an attractive benefit package. The application review process will begin January 15 and will continue until suitable candidates are found. Interested candidates should send their curriculum vitae, letter of interest, and three letters of reference to Dr. Andrea Foulkes, Search Committee, 408 Arnold House, 715 N. Pleasant St., University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003. The University of Massachusetts is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer. Women and members of minority groups are encouraged to apply.

POST-DOCTORAL FELLOW / ASSISTANT PROFESSOR: The Division of Biostatistics at The Ohio State University (OSU) School of Public Health invites applications for Post-doctoral Fellows and a tenure-track Assistant Professor. All applicants must have a PhD in either Statistics or Biostatistics. Candidates should have excellent communication skills. The junior faculty member will be involved in teaching, methodological research, and collaboration with OSU cancer researchers and biological investigators. All applicants should provide a letter of application, curriculum vitae, and the names and contact information for three references. Processing of applicants will continue until the position is filled. Women and other under represented groups are especially encouraged to apply.

ASSOCIATE / FULL PROFESSOR: The Division of Biostatistics at The Ohio State University (OSU) School of Public Health invites applications for a senior faculty (associate/full professor) position. All applicants must have a PhD in Statistics or Biostatistics. Candidates should have a substantial bibliography of peer-reviewed publications, an established record of funded research collaboration, excellent communication skills and exemplary teaching. We are also particularly interested in candidates with expertise in survival analysis. The senior faculty member will be involved in teaching and methodological research, collaboration with OSU investigators, and mentoring of junior faculty members from the Division. There is an expectation of attracting external funding for research and training programs. A high quality of graduate advising is also expected. All applicants should provide a letter of application, curriculum vitae, and the names and contact information for three references. Processing of applicants will continue until the position is filled. Women and other under represented groups are especially encouraged to apply. Rank and salary will be determined by the candidate's credentials.

Interested candidates for either of these two positions please send application materials to Mei-Ling Ting Lee, Ph.D. (meiling@sph.osu.edu), Chair, Division of Biostatistics, School of Public Health, The Ohio State University, B122 Starling-Loving Hall, 320 West 10th Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43210. The Ohio State University (OSU) is an EEO/AA employer. To build a diverse workforce, The Ohio State University encourages applications from individuals with disabilities, minorities, veterans, and women.

BIostatistician: John Snow, Inc., and its nonprofit affiliate JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc., (JSI R&T) are public health research and consulting firms dedicated to improving the health of individuals and communities throughout the world. We believe that all people are entitled to accessible, appropriate quality healthcare. To make this vision a reality JSI applies practical and innovative solutions in management, research, education, information and training. JSI R&T is currently seeking a full-time biostatistician to collaborate on a variety of domestic projects. The biostatistician will work in a collaborative framework as a member of project teams, and whose role it will be to guide data collection and analysis as necessary. Specifically, the biostatistician will help design evaluations, compute sample sizes, select appropriate statistical procedures, and provide statistical programming expertise. The biostatistician will bring an in-depth understanding of statistical theory (strengths and limitations of methods), the sources and implications of bias, confounding, and site effects, and will be able to convey this to the project team. We are looking for someone with experience with and training in: statistical theory, contingency table analyses, regression modeling (linear and logistic), and sample size/power analysis. Understanding of mixed models is a plus. Experience with or training in: statistical programming in SAS or SPSS, to manipulate complex data sets, including experience with programming principles (testing, documentation); experience working in health care applications; understanding of epidemiologic principles (relative risk, odds ratios, confounding, effect modification); experience in evaluation or experimental design, including developing timelines; and an ability to communicate with both technical and non-technical colleagues and clients. This position requires a Masters degree in statistics, biostatistics, epidemiology, or related discipline and several years experience in health care services or research. Also required are strong organizational skills and communication skills, with excellent attention to detail. Interested candidates should send cover letters and resume to Jessica Ogarek at JSI Research and Training Institute, 44 Farnsworth Street, Boston, MA 02210.

SENIOR BIostatistician: Masspro, one of the leading performance improvement organizations in the United States, dedicated to advancing healthcare quality, announces an opening for a Senior Biostatistician. The Senior Biostatistician is responsible for advanced statistical programming and analysis of Medicare and MassHealth co-operative projects and for contracts with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The Biostatistician assists Masspro staff in analyzing data to improve health outcomes and health service delivery. The responsibilities of this bio-statistical analysis position include applying knowledge of statistical theory to select appropriate statistical methods, analyzing and interpreting data using categorical data analysis and multivariate analysis techniques (e.g. logistic regression, ANOVA), model development, conducting exploratory research to develop sampling methodology and to calculate required sample size, using sampling techniques to draw statistically valid samples, answering questions regarding use of statistical techniques as posed by Masspro staff, and writing technical notes and result summaries for reports. Also required is to assist in the development of grant proposals including the writing of statistical analysis sections and the conducting of analysis to define, develop, validate and refine quality measures, as well as creating specifications for those measures. Statistical programming skills required for this position include using advanced SAS programming skills to manipulate data, perform statistical analysis, and develop complex reports as appropriate; documenting all SAS programs and writing other documentation as needed; working with information services and operations staff to resolve issues of data quality and accuracy; creating statistical reports using administrative databases such as claims data; and creating and updating Access databases to generate reports from SAS datasets. A successful candidate will be required to identify and communicate to the Senior Director any organizational issues that may impede the success of projects. Candidates for this position should have a Masters degree in biostatistics, statistics, or epidemiology (Ph.D. preferred), a minimum of 5 years of work experience in programming, data manipulation and statistical analysis in a healthcare environment, a minimum of 5 years of work experience using SAS, proficiency in developing macros, use of SQL and relational databases in a client server environment, some knowledge of MS Access, Visual Basic or other programming language is preferred. Also helpful is experience using SUDAAN software. Interested candidates should apply at masspro.org.

The BCASA Newsletter is published four times during the academic year and is emailed to current BCASA members. Send comments or suggestions to Maureen Mayer bcasa_news@yahoo.com or to any of the individuals listed below.

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