BCASA NEWSLETTER

Boston Chapter of the American Statistical Association

Serving Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont

Homepage: http://www.amstat.org/chapters/boston   Newsletter: BCASANews@verizon.net

Upcoming Events

BCASA

January 30 **6:00 pm**	**30 Lothrop Street** **Newtonville**	**Annual Pot Luck Dinner** **and Party**
February 6 **10:00 am**	**BU School of Public** **Health**	**John Buonaccorsi:** **Measurement Error**
February 26 **3:00 pm**	**Harvard School of** **Public Health**	**Celebrating the Life of** **Stephen Lagakos**
April 1 **6:30 pm**	**Simmons College**	**Joseph Blitzstein:** **Mistakes in Probability**
April 20 **3:00 pm**	**Genzyme Corporation**	**Steve Gilbert: Clinical** **Trials Designs**
May 4 **7:00 pm**	**Suffolk Law School**	**Til Stürmer: Statistical** **Issues in Epidemiology**
June 10 **12:00 pm**	**UMass Medical School**	**Nicholas Horton: Missing** **Data**

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March 2 8:30 am	University of Connecticut	Mini-Conference: Analysis of Incomplete Data
April 17 8:30 am	Harvard University	New England Statistics Symposium

Message from BCASA President

Best wishes for a very happy year 2010 and year of the Tiger from the Boston Chapter of the American Statistical Association! We would like to wish you all a wonderful new year, featuring, in addition to health, happiness and prosperity, the opportunity to see you at one of our events!

Please contact me at dhaughton@bentley.edu if you would like to join the BCASA Planning Committee. We meet about once every six weeks, and the chapter provides (good) dinners during our meetings. Come and have an impact on the choice of events proposed by the chapter!

And most of all, thank you for being part of the BCASA community!

<div align="right">Dominique Haughton</div>

EVENTS

Annual Winter Pot Luck Dinner and Party

Date	Saturday, January 30, 2010
Time	6:00 pm
Location	Home of Katherine Monti, 30 Lothrop Street, Newtonville, MA
Directions	Lothrop Street 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 Street, on the right. Unit 30 is the unit closest to the road. The first few guests can park in the double bay associated with the condo (turn right into the condo driveway, then park behind the first garage on the right), or in one of the spaces at the far end of the condo lot, or in the driveway alongside the unit. Those who arrive later can park on Lothrop or Jennison Streets, or even Judkins Street, if necessary. Lothrop Street dead ends just past the condo. If there has been snow, parking may be tight since the streets are narrow.
In Case of Snow	In case of heavy show, we will have to cancel or reschedule this event. In the event of light snow, we will party on! Email *katherine_monti@rhoworld.com* if you have questions or to give notice of last-minute changes. Check the chapter web site for cancellation and rescheduling information.
RSVP	Please email Sue Perry *susan_perry@rhworld.com*. Give her (1) your name, (2) how many people will be in your party, (3) what you would like to bring (appetizer, entrée, side dish, salad, or dessert), and (4) how to be contacted by phone and email, so that you can be reached in case of weather problems.

Celebration of the Life of Stephen Lagakos

Sponsored by the Department of Biostatistics, Harvard School of Public Health

Date	Friday, February 26, 2010
Time	3:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Cost	No charge
Location	Sebastian's Café, Harvard School of Public Health, 677 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115.

Description

This special event, sponsored by the Department of Biostatistics at the Harvard School of Public Health, provides BCASA the opportunity to honor Stephen Lagakos with its 2009 Statistician of the Year award. The award, first given in 1990, is named after the initial recipient, Frederick Mosteller, to honor excellence in teaching, research, and service to the profession.

Stephen Lagakos died on October 12, 2009 in an auto accident. He served for eight years as chair of Harvard's Department of Biostatistics and as an associate editor of the *Journal of the American Statistical Association*. He was also the founder and first director of the School of Public Health's Center for Biostatistics in AIDS Research. The center applies statistical methods to evaluate clinical trials related to HIV disease. He also collaborated with Marvin Zelen on the famous "Woburn Study," a landmark in the application of statistics to environmental and public heath concerns. This study led to the recognition that ordinary citizens could play an important role in systematically assessing environmental risks.

Stephen was also a long time member of the editorial board of the *New England Journal of Medicine*. When disputes involving quantitative methods arose, he was usually the first member of the board to be consulted by the editor. He also served on many NIH and FDA committees.

The School of Public Health also recognized Prof. Lagakos as an outstanding teacher. His highest priority always was mentoring students, post-docs, and junior faculty.

Persons attending this celebration are encouraged to actively participate by making comments from the floor. For more about Prof. Lagakos' life, see

http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/biostats/lagakos/

Connecticut Chapter Annual Mini-Conference:
The Analysis of Incomplete Data – From Past to Future

Date Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Location University of Connecticut, Storrs

Cost Students $10; members of CT ASA chapter $40; others $50 (by February 16, 2010)

Directions/Registration *http://www.amstat.org/chapters/Connecticut/home/MiniConference/miniconf index*

Schedule

8:30 am to 9:00 am	Breakfast and On-site Registration
9:00 am to 9:10 am	Introduction and Welcome
9:10 am to 10:00 am	*Dr. Rod Little*: Missing Data in Clinical Trials
10:00 am to 10:20 am	Break
10:20 am to 11:10 am	*Dr. Andrea Rotnitzky*: Outcome Regression and Double-Robust Estimation with Improved Efficiency
11:10 am to 12:00 pm	*Dr. Joe Schafer*: Useful Extensions of Multivariate-Normal Imputation Model
12:00 pm to 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm to 2:20 pm	*Dr. Ming-Hui Chen*: Methods and Inferences for Survival Models with Missing Covariates
2:20 pm to 3:10 pm	*Dr. Alan Zaslavsky*: Diagnosing Imputation Models by Applying Target Analyses Under Posterior Replications of Observed Data
3:10 pm to 3:30 pm	Break
3:30 pm to 4:00 pm	Panel: The Future of the Analysis of Incomplete Data
4:00 pm to 4:30 pm	Question and Answer Session

Common Mistakes in Probability, and How Not to Avoid Them

Joseph Blitzstein

Harvard University

Date	Thursday, April 1, 2010
Time	Dinner: 6:30 pm. Lecture: 7:00 pm
Cost	Dinner: $9 members; $12 others. Lecture is free.
Location	Kotzen Room, Simmons College, 300 The Fenway, Boston, MA
Directions	The Kotzen Room is in the basement of the Library Tower (close to the Avenue Louis Pasteur entrance to the Library). Visitors should enter the garage from the Avenue Louis Pasteur driveway. They will have to take, and keep, a ticket to enter the garage. Bob Goldman will provide everybody with a ticket at the event, which will enable them to exit the garage.
Registration	*http://blitzstein.eventbrite.com*

Abstract

Probability blends together intuitive and counterintuitive results so seamlessly that blunders are extremely common. We will discuss and categorize mistakes that have been ensnaring people for centuries, from Newton to the beginning student. Among others, we will discuss notational inflexibility, destroying information, not distinguishing distinguishability and indistinguishability, and "sympathetic magic". Of course, it is not enough just to point out these mistakes, but neither is it enough just to try to avoid these mistakes! Fully coming to terms with them (both why they are mistakes and why they are common), rather than ignoring them or rationalizing them away with formalisms, often points the way toward deeper insights into probability and statistics.

New England Statistics Symposium

Date	Saturday, April 17, 2010
Time	8:30 am to 5:00 pm
Cost	$30 students; $36 members; $40 others
Location	Science Center, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138.
Directions/Registration	*http://www.stat.harvard.edu/NESS10/reg.htm*

SHORT COURSES

Measurement Error: Models, Methods and Applications

John Buonaccorsi

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Date	Saturday, February 6, 2010
Time	10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Cost	$25 students; $35 members; $50 others
Location	Boston University School of Public Health, Boston, MA. Administration Building, 80 East Concord Street, Room L-112.
Directions	*http://bcasa-buonaccorsi.eventbrite.com*
Registration	By January 31. Send check payable to BCASA to Huichao Chen, Department of Biostatistics/CBAR, Harvard University, 651 Huntington Ave, FXB502, Boston, MA 02115. Or online at website above.
Prerequisite	Applied Linear and Logistic Regression Analysis

Abstract

This course will present an introductory and applied look at measurement error (including misclassification). The focus will be on the basic models use for measurement error, the impacts of measurement error on naive analyses that ignore it, and an overview of techniques to correct for it. Emphasis is on categorical models (for proportions and two-way) and linear and non-linear regression, including binary regression. A number of examples will be presented and an overview of computing options presented.

LECTURES/RECEPTIONS

Bayesian Adaptive Clinical Trial Designs:
What is a Highly Regulated Frequentist to Do?

Steve Gilbert

Genzyme Corporation

Date	Tuesday, April 20, 2010
Time	Lecture 3:00 pm. Reception 4:00 pm,
Cost	Reception: $5 members; $7 others. Lecture is free.
Location	Genzyme Corporation, 500 Kendall Street, Cambridge, MA 02142. Room: GC,01103, Roscoe Brady Lecture Hall (located on the 1st floor).

Directions/Registration   *http://gilbert.eventbrite.com*

Abstract

Bayesian adaptive designs for clinical trials have received increasingly more attention in recent years. Despite a growing body of literature they are however, still relatively rare outside of certain academic centers and present many interesting challenges when used in practice. This talk provides an introduction to some designs used in pharmaceutical research and focuses on their implementation in the non-academic world. We also ask if they are truly Bayesian and if they offer any advantages over frequentist adaptative designs.

Propensity Score Calibration and Other Statistical Issue in Epidemiology

Til Stürmer

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Date	Tuesday, May 4, 2010
Time	Dinner 6:30 pm. Lecture 7:00 pm.
Cost	Dinner: $9 members; $12 others. Lecture is free.
Location	Suffolk University Law School
Directions/Registration	*http://sturmer.eventbrite.com*
Abstract	Not yet available

Accounting for Missing Data:
Challenges for the Analysis of Observational and Randomized Studies

Nicholas Horton

Smith College

Date	Tuesday, June 10, 2010
Time	Lunch: 12:00 pm. Workshop 12:30 pm.
Cost	Lunch: $9 members; $12 others. Workshop is free.
Location	7th Floor Conference Room, Access Building, Department of Quantitative Health Sciences, University of Massachusetts Medical School, 55 Lake Avenue, Worcester, MA

Directions/ Registration   *http://horton.eventbrite.com*

Abstract

Missing data arise in almost all real-world situations, and can cause bias or lead to inefficient analyses. The development of statistical methods to address missingness has been actively pursued in recent years. In this talk, I will (1) address complications in observational studies when there are many patterns of missing values for categorical and continuous predictors as well as (2)discuss issues in implementing analyses that are consistent with the intention to treat principle in randomized trials and (3) demonstrate how these methods can be implemented through detailed discussion of examples.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bentley University Virtual Analytics Symposium

Co-sponsored by Bentley University and the Boston chapters of the ASA and of INFORMS

BCASA president Dominique Haughton launched this new symposium on December 2, with a talk by Thomas H. Davenport, President's Chair in Information Technology and Management at Babson College, on Competing on Business Analytics.

The symposium brings together professionals interested in analytics (i.e., data-based, organizational decision making) in corporate, academic or government settings. You can attend the meetings in person or remotely. Further information is available at **http://atc3.bentley.edu/conferences/virtualanalytics/index.html**. The next meeting will be in the second half of January. See the web site for details.

Nominations for Mu Sigma Rho

The BCASA encourages all faculty members teaching statistics in Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire or Maine to consider nominating students (both undergraduate and graduate) for membership in Mu Sigma Rho, the national honorary society for statistics.

What's in it for the students? Inductees receive a free membership in the American Statistical Association, the BCASA and a subscription to *Chance* magazine. This is a great way to encourage careers in statistics for your top students, and tie them in to many useful resources, job opportunities and related articles.

What's in it for you? Nominating a student is an easy way for you to provide a pat on the back to your top students, and simplify getting them set up as student member of the ASA as well as the local chapter. Your name is listed on correspondence with students, and your school is also listed along with the name of the student.

The process is straightforward for both the nominator and the nominee. As nominator, you are asked to fill out a 1-page form per student, attach a transcript (unofficial is fine) and induction fees of $5 per student. The student only needs to confirm their interest in having their name put forward.

More information and the nomination form can be found at:

   http://www.math.smith.edu/~nhorton/msr.html.

Completed forms and induction fee should be sent to Liam O'Brien, Department of Mathematics, Colby College, 5838 Mayflower Hill Waterville, ME 04901-8858. The due date is March 1, 2010.

American Cancer Society Award

Marvin Zelen is among four recipients of the American Cancer Society's (ACS) medal of honor for 2009. The other three recipients are Lance Armstrong, Edward E. Harlow, and Arnold J. Levine.

A press release from ACS says: "Dr. Zelen's major contribution has been his successful effort to introduce statistical science as a pre-eminent component of the national program in cancer clinical trials." The press release also lists several of Prof. Zelen's other accomplishments and quotes him as saluting many others who have worked to improve cancer-related clinical trials.

Society for Clinical Trials

The Society for Clinical Trials (SCT) is a non-profit organization devoted to the promotion of high quality clinical trials. The Society is unique in its focus on clinical trials and in its interdisciplinary composition. The Society's membership comprises investigators and other professionals from various disciplines and settings including academia, industry, the non-profit sector, and government. What the members all share is recognition of the crucial importance of well designed clinical trials in advancing the health of the public through high quality research.

Society membership is especially appropriate for young investigators or trainees with an interest in clinical research methods. Our annual meeting, which will be held in Baltimore May 16 to 19 in 2010, is devoted to sessions on topics of contemporary interest to clinical investigators and others interested in methodology pertinent to clinical research. Several prizes are awarded for the best abstracts submitted by students or trainees, including the Thomas Chalmers Award, and the Sylvan Green Scholarship Program that provides funds for a physician clinical investigator in training to come to our annual meeting and present a paper. Our website is ***www.sctweb.org***.

You may join the SCT community either by connecting to the membership application section of our website and completing the information, or by completing a membership form. You can obtain the form from and submit the form to: Society for Clinical Trials, Inc. 100 North 20th Street, 4th Floor Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103.

REPORT

Council of Chapters Report

The Boston chapter serves statisticians in Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. As of November 23, 2009 the chapter had 475 members (compared with 460 on August 8, 2008).

Overall, the chapter remains very active. During 2009 there were twelve events. These included evening lectures, short courses, social activities, and retreat. The chapter remains an active affiliate of Mu Sigma Rho (the national honorary society for statistics) and inducted twenty new members this year.

The chapter planning committee is busy planning next year's program. As always, we welcome suggestions for speakers and topics as well as feedback on chapter activities.

In August, the Council of Chapters Representatives held its annual meeting at the Joint Statistics Meetings in Washington, DC. The meeting allows chapter representatives to share their experiences. This year we discussed beginning an ASA program of voluntary accreditation of individual statisticians. For more information, see *www.amstat.org/news/VoluntaryAccreditationofStatisticians.cfm*.

Congratulations to the following ASA members from Massachusetts who were named Fellows of the American Statistical Association: Mark Chang (AMAG Pharmaceuticals), Robert J. Gray (Harvard School of Public Health and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute), and Gary King (Harvard University).

Jim MacDougall
Council of Chapters Representative

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Assistant/Associate/Full Professor, Health Sciences, Bouvé College of Health Sciences, Northeastern University, Boston, MA

Northeastern University strives to create a vibrant and diverse community, characterized by collaboration, creativity and an unwavering commitment to excellence. Our core mission is to educate students for a life of fulfillment and accomplishment and to create and translate knowledge to meet global and societal needs. Bouvé College is one of six colleges at Northeastern University and prepares students for health science careers in nine undergraduate and 29 graduate majors. The comprehensive array of skills, expertise and professions present in the Bouvé College of Health Sciences are found at few institutions.

The Bouvé College of Health Sciences invites applications for a new interdisciplinary faculty position in biostatistics with a primary appointment being in the Department of Health Sciences, starting in September, 2010. The college is recruiting a biostatistician to teach in a Masters of Public Health and other programs, and to contribute to research and other scholarly activities with faculty in the Departments of Health Sciences and Pharmacy Practice. This academic position may be either tenure-track or non-tenure track, depending on the qualifications of the candidate. Outstanding tenured faculty will also be considered with the option of obtaining tenure upon entry. The successful candidate should be committed to excellence and innovation in teaching and research supervision. Additionally, the candidate should be able to work with a diverse group of students and faculty having varying levels of knowledge regarding research design and statistical methods. Superior oral and written communications skills are desired.

Requirements include: a doctorate in biostatistics or a closely related field from an accredited institution; graduate teaching experience in biostatistics; experience supervising graduate students; record of grantsmanship and publications (commensurate with experience). Research experience in community, public health or other non-academic settings is also desirable.

Northeastern is committed to providing faculty and staff with a highly competitive and comprehensive benefits program. Our benefits program offers protection and financial security as well as a range of programs that support work/life balance.

Interested candidates: Applications must be submitted on-line by visiting the Provost website at http://www.northeastern.edu/provost/faculty/positions.html and click on `Access Faculty Positions'. Applications should include a cover letter, a statement of current and future research interests, curriculum vitae, and contact information for at least three references. For more information regarding this position please contact Search Chair Professor Alisa Lincoln at *a.lincoln@neu.edu*.

Northeastern University is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Educational Institution and Employer, Title IX University. Northeastern University particularly welcomes applications from minorities, women and persons with disabilities. Northeastern University is an E-Verify Employer.

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The BCASA Newsletter is published four times during the academic year and is emailed to all chapter members. Please send suggestions and comments to the editor, Stan Morse, at **BCASANews@verizon.net**.