

BCASA NEWSLETTER

Boston Chapter of the American Statistical Association

Serving

Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont

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

BCASA homepage: <http://www.amstat.org/chapters/boston>

Overview of Meeting Schedule

The BCASA Program Chair and the Planning Committee have organized an interesting and diverse schedule of events for the next few months. Detailed announcements appear below. The schedule can also be accessed at our web site. 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.

November 22, 2003	IMS/WPI Workshop	Worcester, MA
December 2, 2003	BCASA Daytime Lecture	Boston, MA
January 27, 2004	BCASA Statistician of the Year Banquet	Boston, MA
February 7, 2003	BCASA Winter Party	Cambridge, MA
May 10-11, 2004	BCASA Conference on Genomic Data	Boston, MA

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

WORKSHOP

Statistics and Sports

**Sponsored by the Institute of Mathematical Statistics and the
Department of Mathematical Sciences, Worcester Polytechnic Institute**

- Date:** Saturday, November 22, 2003
- Time:** 8:30 AM to 4:45 PM
- Speakers:** Mark Glickman, Boston University
Carl Morris, Harvard University
Hal Stern, University of California - Irvine
- Organizers:** Carlos J. Morales (cmorales@wpi.edu)
Andrew W. Swift (swift@wpi.edu)
- Cost:** \$10 (\$5 students and IMS members)
- Location:** Worcester, MA
- Website:** Go to <http://users.wpi.edu/~swift/sports/> for program, directions, lodging, and registration information.

DAYTIME LECTURE

Statistical Methods for Assessment of Individual/Population Bioequivalence

Shein Chow, PhD

Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Date: Tuesday, December 2, 2003

Time: 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM

Cost: Free. Coffee and snacks provided by Frontier Science.

Location: Frontier Science
900 Commonwealth Ave, Second Floor
Boston, MA 02215
Front desk phone: 617-632-3610

Directions: The building is located at the west end of the Boston University area, at the corner of Commonwealth Avenue and St. Paul Street. There is a CVS on the first floor. The entrance is on St. Paul Street. The closest T-stop is St. Paul Street on the Green B-line. There is no private parking available, so we encourage you to take public transportation.

RSVP: Required by end of day on November 25 to Sue Perry (sperry@rhoworld.com).

Abstract: In recent years, as more generic drug products have become available, it is a concern whether generic drug products approved based on the current regulation of average bioequivalence will have the same quality, safety and efficacy as that of the brand-name drug product. In addition, it is also a great concern whether the approved generic drug products of the same brand-name drug product can be used interchangeably. In practice, drug interchangeability can be classified as either drug prescribability or drug switchability. In its recent draft guidelines, the US FDA recommends that population bioequivalence (PBE) and individual bioequivalence (IBE) be assessed using the method proposed by Hyslop, Hsuan, and Holder (2000) to address drug prescribability and drug switchability. The US FDA suggests that a 2x4 crossover design be considered for assessment of PBE and IBE, while a 2x3 crossover design may be used as an alternative design. In this talk, a brief introduction of the idea, concept and background of PBE and IBE will be provided. A comprehensive review of the FDA draft guidances will also be discussed. In addition, detailed statistical procedures for assessment of IBE/PBE under various crossover designs will be provided.

Program Chair note: The speaker is Vice President of Biostatistics and Data Management for Millennium Pharmaceuticals, and has published extensively in the biostatistics literature. This talk promises to be accessible to all, and to provide practical information to anyone working in the pharmaceutical industry.

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: Required by noon on Friday, January 23 to Sue Perry at sperry@rhoworld.com.

Please note whether you will attend both the social and 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 design 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 Batelle 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.

ANNUAL WINTER POTLUCK DINNER AND PARTY

Hosts Linda and Tom Marx

Date: Saturday, February 7, 2004

Time: 6:00 PM

RSVP: Required 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.

SPRING CONFERENCE

International Conference on Analysis of Genomic Data

May 10-11, 2004

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

Synopsis: The conference will cover current research on statistical models and bioinformatic methods for microarray data, proteomic data, and population genetics.

Conference Website: <http://www.amstat.org/chapters/boston/genomic/Main.htm>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEISM News

Eleven instructors of statistics at New England colleges attended the eighth New England Isolated Statisticians Meeting (NEISM8) held at Smith College in Northampton, MA on Saturday, October 25. The group discussed "The Future of the Mathematical Statistics Course," "What are the Big Concepts in Statistics? and How Should We Cover Them?," "Assessing Statistical Software Understanding," and "Using Data Gathered From Your Class." For this meeting, "Isolated" statisticians are those who teach in departments or institutions where contact with other statisticians is minimal. The NEISM8 participants gratefully acknowledge the financial support of BCASA. For information about future NEISM meetings, please contact Robert Goldman at robert.goldman@simmons.edu.

Summer Internships

If your company would like to offer summer internships to students studying mathematics or statistics, the BCASA can help find candidates. We can advertise your opportunity on our website, through our email list, and in the newsletter. Contact Shelley Hurwitz (hurwitz@hms.harvard.edu) or Katherine Monti (kmonti@rhoworld.com) for details.

Chapter Dues

The BCASA newsletter is emailed to current members. Please be sure your membership is current by using the annual ASA membership renewal form and sending the BCASA dues to ASA, or by sending the BCASA dues directly to the BCASA. The BCASA membership fee is only \$9 (\$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>.

Video

If you would like to review Gary King's BCASA lecture on "Enhancing the Validity and Cross-Cultural Comparability of Survey Research", it is available on videotape: <http://athome.harvard.edu/dh/vsr.html>.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Committee

The Boston Chapter has had an exciting few years, thanks in part to the efforts of the Education Committee and our local volunteers.

Last February's Career Night was a roaring success, despite the wintry weather! In fact, this was the largest turn-out ever for this event -- thanks to the speakers, the job market, an extensive network of e-mail addresses, and the food provided by the Boston University Statistics and Consulting Unit. Mingling and eating was followed by 10-minute presentations from statisticians working in public health, clinical trials, actuarial sciences, software development, and bioterrorism.

The High School Outreach Program that matched local statisticians with local high school statistics teachers was a success for a number of local teachers. Thanks go out to the statisticians who volunteered their time and enthusiasm for statistics. While the program officially ended in May 2003, at least one statistician is still in touch with his high school statistics teachers. The matching effort did not work as well for other teams, so we're putting the program on hold while we come up with a new model for this worthwhile outreach effort.

Enough about the past...we're hoping to make the 2005 career workshop a daytime event. This event will have talks and should assist statisticians in their job searches by providing a venue for passing out resumes.

This year, we're starting a new outreach program, thanks to an idea from Scott Evans, Chapter President. The Education Committee will help organize a "Traveling Outreach Program" to isolated colleges or colleges with small statistics departments (or none for that matter). We propose to send a statistician out to speak to students about a statistical topic or simply about working as a statistician -- all in an effort to kindle more interest in statistics. Any interest in this program may be directed to myself at kallen@rhoworld.com or to Scott Evans.

Thanks again to our local volunteers, the Education Committee, and the rest of the Boston Chapter Planning Committee.

~Submitted by Kerstin Allen

Membership Committee

The Boston Chapter is the third largest Chapter of the ASA, with 364 members. The Chapter serves all of Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. While the chapter has members from each of these states and several others, 300 of the members are from Massachusetts. Chapter members have diverse statistical interests as indicated by their ASA Section memberships. The Biopharmaceutical and Biometrics sections have the largest number of BCASA members, with approximately one quarter of the Chapter membership belonging to each. ASA Committee membership is similarly diverse.

State/Country	n
MA	300
RI	12
NH	11
ME	8
VT	7
CT	6
NY	4
NC	3
NJ	3
OH	2
CA	1
IA	1
IL	1
IN	1
NM	1
OR	1
Canada	1
Germany	1

Largest Chapter	n
Washington, DC	855
New Jersey	449
Boston	364
North Carolina	340
Philadelphia	340

Type of Employment	n
Academic	133
Pharmaceutical + Biomedical	77
Commercial	28
Insurance	3
Unknown	133

Section Membership	n	Change*
Biopharmaceutical	97	10
Biometrics	90	-3
Computers And Graphics	56	-1
Statistical Consulting	53	4
Statistics In Epidemiology	51	-14
Statistical Education	45	4
Bayesian Statistical Science	34	-3
Statistical Computing	31	2
Statistics In Health Sciences	30	5
Health Policy Statistics	29	-8
Survey Research Methods	28	-6
Business And Economic Statistics	26	-2
Statistics In Sports	16	-2
Quality And Productivity	16	0
Statistics And The Environment	14	-8
Nonparametric Statistics	11	0
Statistics And Marketing	10	-4
Statistical Graphics	9	-2
Government Statistics	8	2
Risk Analysis	7	-6
Government And Social Sciences	7	-5
Social Statistics Section	7	-2
Physical And Engineering Sciences	7	-1

Service Position	n
Council of Sections	4
Section on Health Policy Statistics Officer	3
JSM Program Committee – 2004	2
Biopharmaceutical Section	2
Advisory Committee on Continuing Education	2
Committee on Membership Retention and Recruitment	1
Committee on Outreach Education	1
Committee on Publications	1
Committee on Statisticians in Defense and National Security	1
Committee on Statistics and Disability	1
Council of Chapters Governing Board	1
Current Index to Statistics Management Committee	1
JEBS Management Committee	1
New York City Metro Chapter Officer	1
Noether Award Committee	1
Rhode Island Chapter Officer	1
Scientific and Public Affairs Advisory Committee	1
Section on Nonparametric Statistics Officer	1
Section on Physical and Engineering Sciences Officer	1
Section on Risk Analysis Officer	1
Section on Statistical Education Officer	1
Section on Statistics in Epidemiology Officer	1
Section on Statistics in Sports Officer	1

*Positive numbers indicate an increase from 2002 to 2003.

~ Submitted by Scott Evans and Maureen Mayer with Data Supplied by Nancy Hiatt

OFFICER'S REPORT

President's Report

Recently the Boston Chapter converted to an electronic newsletter. It is estimated that this conversion saves the Chapter nearly \$2,500 per year, thus allowing the Chapter to pursue other initiatives. The Chapter is also making more use of the current website.

The Chapter's purpose as stated in its constitution is to "foster in the broadest manner statistics and its application, and to promote unity and effectiveness of effort among all groups in the area having an interest in or being concerned with statistical problems". In keeping with this purpose, the Chapter is developing new initiatives, and seeking new partnerships for collaborative efforts.

The Chapter invites proposals for new statistical initiatives and will consider subsidizing these initiatives proposed by its members. Policies for reviewing submitted proposals are in development. Recent successful initiatives have included the "Isolated Statisticians" initiative (see the submission by Bob Goldman in this newsletter) and the "High School Outreach Program" which paired professional statisticians with high school statistics teachers to enhance the experience of high school statistics students.

One developing initiative is the "Traveling Outreach Program" (see the Education Committee Report in this newsletter). In this program, professional statisticians will travel to colleges and universities to give interesting statistical talks or to discuss statistics as a profession. The targeted colleges and universities are those that do not have many statisticians due to geographic isolation or are simply schools that have no formal statistics departments. Interested schools or volunteer speakers are encouraged to contact the Chapter.

The Chapter is also interested in developing partnerships for jointly sponsored programs such as conferences, workshops, and career nights. The Chapter is currently teaming with the Channing Laboratory in the Department of Medicine of the Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School to organize an International Conference on the Analysis of Genomic Data in May of 2004 (see the current newsletter announcement). The Chapter would be pleased to work with organizations that are developing non-profit statistical programs (large or small) and can assist with advertising and other planning activities.

In addition, schools or departments that are organizing talks or events may simply request that the Chapter assist in advertising the event. The Chapter also looks for new venues that would provide a host location for Chapter-organized talks. Chapter members associated with such venues are encouraged to contact a member of the Planning Committee.

~ Submitted by Scott Evans

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>Vice-President, 2002-03</i>	Susan Assmann, New England Research Institutes
<i>Program Chair, 2003-04</i>	Tom Lane, The MathWorks
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<i>Secretary, 2002-03</i>	Shelley Hurwitz, Harvard Medical School
<i>Council of Chapters Representative, 2003-05</i>	Nick Horton, Smith College

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