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: bcasa_news@yahoo.com

SCHEDULED EVENTS

November 14, 2006	BCASA Evening Lecture	Cambridge, MA
November 30, 2006	Afternoon / Evening Lecture	Storrs, CT
December 2, 2006	BCASA Short Course	Natick, MA
January 20, 2007	BCASA Annual Winter Potluck Dinner and Party	Newtonville, MA
February TBA, 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 in advance to members on our email list. We are currently planning events for the coming year. If you have event suggestions please contact Program Chairs Matt Tom or Tom Lane.

BCASA EVENING LECTURE

Extending the Empirical Distribution through All Possible Values

Joe Kahan
FM Global

Date: Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Time: 6:30 – 7:00 PM: Light dinner
7:00 – 8:00 PM: Lecture

Cost: Dinner is $8 for chapter members, $10 for others. The talk is free.

Registration: An RSVP by noon on Tuesday, November 7, to Sue Perry at sperry@rhoworld.com. Please indicate whether you will attend the dinner, or just the talk.

Location: Buckingham Browne & Nichols Upper School
80 Gerry's Landing Road
Cambridge, MA 02138

Directions: http://www.bbns.org/directions.htm

Abstract: Many tools exist to assess the fit of data to theoretical probability distributions. Three methods are typically used to select the best-fit distribution: the Chi-Square, the Kolmogorov-Smirnoff, and the Anderson-Darling. Joe Kahan will discuss an alternative method to these based on the tail of the distribution which may extend beyond the maximum observed sample value. It will be shown that the probabilities of the observed values in different samples, as well as the uncertainty associated with those probabilities, are distribution-free. This implies that an empirical distribution may best represent the sparse data inherent in the tails. This fitted empirical distribution extends throughout the range of possible sample values, rather than being constrained between the minimum and maximum observed values as is often the convention. The mean value associated with the empirical distribution is calculated and may used as a discriminant between the competing distributions.

Program Chair Note:
This lecture will give us a chance to see how statistics is used in a local company. FM Global is a world-wide property insurer with a substantial research department and a special interest in fire-related losses. Chapter member Joe Kahan, as a senior research specialist, performs actuarial studies, including the temporo-spatial distribution of property losses.

AFTERNOON / EVENING LECTURE

Pfizer Colloquium 2006

Emanuel Parzen, H. Joseph Newton, and Grace Wahba

A Cooperative Program between Pfizer, the University of Connecticut,
And the American Statistical Association

Program: **Part-I**: "Objective Bayesian / Frequentist Statistics: My Way with Quantiles" (Pfizer Colloquia by Distinguished Statisticians in Honor of Dr. David S. Salsburg) with Emanuel Parzen as the speaker.

Part-II: "A Conversation with Emanuel Parzen" (Conversations with Distinguished Statisticians in Memory of Professor Harry O. Posten Series) with discussants H. Joseph Newton and Grace Wahba.

Date: Thursday, November 30, 2006

Times:

Social Hour	3:30 – 4:25 PM
Part I: Introductory Remarks:	4:30 – 4:45 PM
Part I: Lecture (50 minutes)	4:50 PM*
Part II: Conversation (55 minutes)	6:10 PM*

* Followed by a question and answer session.

Location: The Thomas J. Dodd Center, Konover Auditorium, University of Connecticut-Storrs

Directions: http://www.stat.uconn.edu/home/Events/Pfizer/Pfizer2006/index.htm

Discussants: **Professor Emanuel Parzen,** Distinguished Professor, Department of Statistics, Texas A&M University (http://stat.tamu.edu/~eparzen). He received the American Statistical Association's Samuel S. Wilks Memorial Medal (for Outstanding Statistical Research/U.S. Army) in 1985 and again in 1994. He is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Statistical Association, and the Institute of Mathematical Statistics.

Professor H. Joseph Newton, Dean of Science and Professor of Statistics, Texas A&M University (http://www.stat.tamu.edu/~jnewton/). Holder of: Richard H. Harrison III/External Advisory and Development Council College of Science Dean's Chair, and George P. Mitchell '40 Chair in Statistics. He is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association.

Professor Grace Wahba, (http://www.stat.wisc.edu/~wahba,) is the 2004 I.J. Schoenberg Chair and Hilldale Award recipient as a Professor of Statistics, and a Professor of Biostatistics, Medical Informatics, and of Computer Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Statistical Association, and the Institute of Mathematical Statistics.

SHORT COURSE

Introduction to Regression Modeling of "Time to Event" Data

David W. Hosmer
University of Massachusetts at Amherst and University of Vermont

Date: Saturday, December 2, 2006

Time: 8:00 AM – 8:30 AM Check-in
8:30 AM – 4:30 PM Course (1 hour lunch break around noon)

Location: The MathWorks
One Apple Hill Drive
Natick, Massachusetts 01760

Directions: http://www.mathworks.com/company/aboutus/directions.html

Cost: $75 for BCASA members; $100 for non-members; and $50 for students.
This will cover the course materials and lunch.

Registration: Registration is limited to 100 participants. Mail check payable to BCASA, addressed to BCASA, c/o Tom Lane, 128 Bingham Rd., Carlisle, MA 01741. Registrations will be accepted until the course fills, but should arrive by November 27. After that date, inquire by e-mail to tlane@mathworks.com to see if on-site registrations will be accepted. Checks will not be cashed until after the event but are not refundable for no-shows. Receipts will be available at the event. Registrants will be provided hard-copy of the presentation.

Abstract: This course will introduce the use of regression models to analyze time to event or survival data, particularly the use of the proportional hazards model with right censored data. The course emphasizes methods rather than theory. Topics will include: regression model formulation, interpretation of model parameters, model building strategies, testing model assumptions, assessing model fit, presenting the results of a fitted model and, if time permits, time-varying covariates.

Outcomes: The participant should be able to:

1. Discuss the differences between the normal errors linear regression model and a general parametric regression model for time to event data with right censoring.
2. Define the PH model and be able to use output from an estimated model containing nominal and continuous covariates to estimated hazard ratios.
3. Discuss different model building strategies and build a model using purposeful selection of model covariates.
4. Know the importance of having the correct scale for a continuous covariate and be able to use scale selection methods.
5. Discuss the importance of verifying model assumptions and fit.
6. Discuss the different residuals that have been proposed for assessing a fitted PH model and be able to use them to assess model assumptions and fit.
7. Use estimated model parameters to provide relevant estimates of hazard ratios and a covariate adjusted survivorship function.

Course Outline:

1. Introduction to Time to Event Data, Review of Kaplan-Meier Estimator, Estimators of Quantiles and the Log-Rank and Other Tests. (Chapter 1 and 2 of HL* and pages 1 - 30 of the course booklet to be distributed to class participants).
2. Regression Models for Survival Data (Chapter 3 of HL and pages 31 - 54 of the course booklet)
3. Interpretation of a Fitted Proportional Hazards Regression Model (Chapter 4 of HL and pages 55 - 84 of the course booklet)
4. Model Development (Chapter 5 of HL and pages 85 - 120 of the course booklet)
5. Assessment of Model Adequacy (Chapter 6 of HL and pages 121 - 163 of the course booklet)
6. Extensions of the Proportional Hazards Model (Chapter of HL and pages 164 -173 of the course booklet 7)
7. (HL textbook): Hosmer, D.W. and Lemeshow, S. (1999) *Applied Survival Analysis: Regression Modeling of Time to Event Data,* New York: John Wiley & Sons Inc.

Program Chair Note:

In addition to the HL textbook David Hosmer is co-author with Stanley Lemeshow of *Applied Logistic Regression, 2nd Edition* [E-Book] (2004), New York: John Wiley & Sons Inc.

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 either 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 alongside the condo, in the driveway. Those who arrive later can park on Lothrop or Jennison or even Judkins, if necessary. Lothrop dead- ends just past the condo. If there has been snow, 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

LJ Wei

Professor of Biostatistics
Harvard University

Date: February, 2007 (The event date is to be announced.)

Cost: Dinner is $30 for chapter members, $25 for students, and $35 for others.
The presentation is free.

Location: Frontier Science
900 Commonwealth Ave
Boston, MA 02215

Abstract: To be announced.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Successful Full Monte

The Wednesday Sept 20th lecture, "The Full Monte Carlo: A Live Performance," by Dr. Xiao-Li Meng of Harvard University, held at Smith College (http://maven.smith.edu/~nhorton/lecture.html) went extremely well. There were 48 people in attendance, including folks from Worcester, North Reading and Natick; faculty, graduate students and undergraduates from Smith, Mt Holyoke, and UMASS Amherst, disciplines included Statistics, Mathematics, Computer Science, Economics, and Physics. Many attendees commented to the coordinator that they thought the talk was interesting. The attendance at this event set a record for Smith College's applied statistics seminar series, which could be due to Xiao-Li's reputation as well as the co-sponsorship by the Chapter. The talk was combined with a membership social (paid for by the ASA as part of its outreach initiatives, reimbursements are available for such events) providing incentive to increase membership in both the American Statistical Association (ASA) and the Boston Chapter (BCASA).

Our First K-6 Statistical Fair, a Success

A successful Elementary School Statistics Fair was coordinated by a member of the Boston chapter on the thirtieth of October 2006, at the Small World Elementary School in Nashua, New Hampshire from 6:30 to 8pm (http://statfair.wiki.com/). An ASA strategic initiative, this fair introduced elementary school students to statistics in a fair format, much like the more prevalent math fairs. The intent of this fair was to develop an educational fair curriculum that could be administered at other elementary school sites if desired. This fair was attended by approximately 90 people; approximately 54 children, 28 parent guardians, eight fifth and six grade volunteers. The fair focused on families with a kindergarten through grade six child member and consisted of six activities; scent experiment, lie detector, scatter (line) plots, skittles pictograph, teddy bear urn sampling, and spin art. Seven teachers helped with the activities along with some fifth and sixth graders. The biggest successes were that the children and families had fun collecting the data, and that the fifth and sixth graders got to communicate and teach the younger children. The peer transactional learning model where older students assisted in administering activities to the younger ones was more successful for this brief after school fair, than a more traditional teacher student videotape and lecture educational paradigm. Pre and post fair participant survey and post fair teacher survey data were collected. Lessons learned and ideas for improvement will be submitted to ASA.

BCASA Membership: What a Deal!

The BCASA Planning Committee decided not to increase dues for 2007. Dues changes were have taken effect on January 1, 2007.
To see current ASA chapter and section dues view the document at http://www.amstat.org/membership/chapsection.pdf.

ASA Membership Socials

BCASA members are encouraged to host a membership social for their school (or organization) for which the ASA will reimburse up to $100 to cover the cost of pizza, sandwiches, or snacks, and soft drinks. This facilitates communication amongst current and future statisticians as well as enticing membership in both the American Statistical Association (ASA) and the Boston Chapter (BCASA).

Nominations for Mu Sigma Rho

Local accepted student members into the Mu Sigma Rho national honorary society for statistics, who pay their $5.00 dues, receive a free one year membership in the Boston Chapter and national ASA and a subscription to Chance magazine, compliments of the Chapter. For further information on how to nominate a student, visit the website http://www.math.smith.edu/~nhorton/msr.html .

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: January 2007). Contact Katherine Monti (kmonti@rhoworld.com) for details.

Election Results

In January 2007, newly elected BCASA officers will begin their two year terms. Dominique Haughton will start her term as President, succeeding Scott Evans, and Matt Tom will start his term as Program Chair, succeeding Tom Lane. BCASA officers up for election next year are Shelley Hurwitz as Vice President, Maureen P. Mayer as Secretary, and Rui Wang as Treasurer. Nicholas Horton will serve as our elected Council of Chapters Representative for two more years.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In my last report as Chapter President, I wish to thank the chapter membership for its activities and for contributions to our profession. I particularly thank the members of the Planning Committee for their dedication and service. It is this dedication that allows the Boston Chapter to offer so many quality programs such as evening lectures, short courses, career days, and outreach initiatives. I have enjoyed and been blessed by the spirit of the membership and the thoughtfulness of members of the Planning Committee. I am also very pleased to hand over the reigns to Dominique Haughton. Dominique has been a valued member of our Planning Committee for many years and will undoubtedly lead the Chapter to additional successes over the next few years.

On November 3rd, BCASA along with several other organizations sponsored a "Celebration of the Extraordinary Life of Fred Mosteller." Professor Mosteller was a preeminent statistician of his time and often considered a pioneer in our profession. He chaired four departments at Harvard University, and was the President of the Boston Chapter of ASA from 1959-1960 and the President of the ASA in 1967. He was the first recipient in 1990 of the Boston Chapter "Statistician of the Year Award", for his excellence in teaching and mentorship, influential research, and his service to the statistics profession. This award was later re-named after Professor Mosteller. The celebration featured short recollections and remarks from family members, students, colleagues, and Harvard University President Derek Bok, discussing Professor Mosteller as a father, an educator, a mentor, an administrator, and a researcher. These wonderful recollections highlighted Professor Mosteller's masterful teaching and influence on his students and colleagues, his unmatched work ethic and scholarship, his warmth, and his sense of humor.

The Boston Chapter of American Statistical Association selects the Mosteller Statistician of the Year to honor a distinguished statistician who significantly contributes to our profession and provides service to the local chapter. The Chapter is delighted to announce that Professor Lee-Jen (LJ) Wei has been named the 2007 Mosteller Statistician of the Year for his major contributions and innovations in methodological research, excellence in teaching and mentoring, and his overall service to the entire statistics profession including the chapter. A banquet will be held February 2007 to honor Dr. Wei.

The Chapter has become a significant resource for statistical activities, providing assistance in the planning, advertising, and funding of activities undertaken by chapter members and local departments. The Chapter would be pleased to partner with chapter members, departments, and other organizations that wish to conduct events that will benefit chapter of members. Since the Boston Chapter serves all of Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont, the Chapter particularly encourages members that reside and departments that are located outside of the Boston area to contact the Chapter if they are interested in organizing a local event.

I would like to remind members that the Boston Chapter is now an affiliate chapter of Mu Sigma Rho. Please consider nominating excellent students for membership. Also please encourage and support students in joining the ASA and the Chapter and engaging in associated activities. Students greatly benefit from such activities as they help provide a foundation for students building a career in statistics.

As a brief glance into the future, the Chapter is in the preliminary stages of planning a conference on statistics in sports (potentially in the spring of 2007, involving academic statisticians as well as statistical analysts from professional sports teams). The Chapter will also be looking to have "distance" events (i.e., events that can be viewed over the web). Members who wish to assist in planning and / or organizing these or other events are encouraged to contact the Chapter.

Submitted by Scott Evans

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Fidelity Investments, one of the world's largest providers of financial services, posts two of its current openings below.

DIRECTOR, DECISION SCIENCES (Job # 0608706): Fidelity has an opening is for a talented quantitative professional is to join the Decision Sciences department, at Fidelity Personal Investments located in Boston, Massachusetts. The Decision Sciences department is a world-class provider of advanced analytics with the goals of understanding customer needs, providing business insights, designing sophisticated experiments, measuring investment impact, improving its targeting, maximizing return on investment, designing sophisticated experiments, optimizing marketing campaigns, and providing analytic consulting. The person chosen to fill this particular position will drive analytical database marketing (including campaign design and targeting), perform predictive modeling and data mining, and design and implement required measurement and analysis. Responsibilities include campaign and targeting design (providing statistical cell sizing, experimental design, and targeting strategies); applying advanced predictive modeling, data mining, and machine learning techniques to improve targeting and maximize return on investment; performing campaign measurement and analysis, where no-mail control groups are present or absent, randomized or not, through standard or sophisticated analysis techniques; teamwork, communication, and presentation. As the director of decision sciences you will work closely with the campaign manager on campaign design, targeting, and measurement; and you will interact frequently with internal clients on business needs and recommendations along with providing analytic consulting and professional presentations. Required applicant qualifications include an MS/MA/PhD in statistics, management science, econometrics, economics, or business analysis, with at least 3 years of relevant experience, marketing and data marketing experience, strong quantitative skills, as well as effective oral, written, and presentation skills. Desired applicant qualifications include advanced SAS programming and complex data processing experience, excellent business judgment and the ability to recognize business implications of data, experience with test design, analysis, reporting, and measurement strategy development, knowledge of complex measurement, advanced statistical estimation, hypothesis testing and sample size determination, predictive modeling, data mining, machine learning such as logistic regression and decision trees, and familiarity with Microsoft Access and Excel in the Unix/Linux environment (SQL and Brio skills are a plus) and data mining techniques and software such as CART, MARS, TreeNet SAS and SAS macros.

SENIOR QUANTATIVE ANALYST: As a Sr. Quantitative Analyst, you will be responsible for supporting the various analytical and quantitative needs of the Strategic Planning and Analysis group within the Distribution Operations team. You will be responsible for using time series analysis, regression, etc. to assist in the creation of a robust forecasting system that incorporates marketing initiatives and external market variables. Your responsibilities will also include assisting in the maintenance of multiple analytical models for Distribution. Responsibilities will include working with Strategic Planning and Analysis group members to design a forecasting system, leveraging robust analytical techniques to determine statistical drivers of variation in customer contact volumes across multiple channels (phone, web, branch, etc), Assisting in the management of multiple analytical models to support management of the Distribution network of Fidelity Personal Investments, being responsible for the maintenance and production of several analytical tools, including tracking model scenarios and results, being responsible for synthesizing large amounts of data into analytical results and translating those results for the business, developing templates for reporting analytical results to senior leadership, and communicating results of analyses to various levels within the organization. Desired applicant qualifications include educational requirements – M.S. in Statistics or related discipline required,1-5 years business experience, preferably as an analyst, exceptional quantitative skills, knowledge of SAS strongly preferred, knowledge of MS Access, Adobe Acrobat Writer desired, familiarity with simulation/optimization models, ability to work individually and as part of a team , must be a self-starter, ability to work in a very fast paced environment with changing priorities, strong attention to detail , strong interpersonal skills essential, excellent communication skills, ability to exercise good judgment and solve problems, creative problem solving skills.

Please send responses for either of these positions to dave.muller@fmr.com. These and other opportunities are listed on fidelities web site www.fidelitycareers.com. For more information about Fidelity Investments, visit www.Fidelity.com.

The Division of Nephrology is closely affiliated with the Biostatistics Research Center (BRC), which provides statistical consulting services to the Tufts-New England Medical Center research community, has the following two opportunities available.

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE/STATISTICIAN (JOB CODE NM886): The statistical research associate will report to the director and work closely with all senior statisticians of the Biostatistics Research Center (BRC), in the Division of Clinical Care Research at Tufts-New England Medical Center. He/she will be responsible for providing statistical analysis and advanced computer programming for a variety of research projects. The selected applicant will provide statistical consulting and research services to the New England Medical Center research community. The principle duties and essential functions of the position are to consistently apply the corporate values of respect, honesty and fairness and the constant pursuit of excellence in improving the health status of the people of the region through the provision of customer-friendly, geographically accessible and high-value services within the environment of a comprehensive integrated academic health care system, to provide statistical consultation and advanced programming support to other researchers in the hospital through the BRC, and to assist these researchers in the construction of statistical databases and the analysis of data. Responsibilities include extensive statistical programming, database management, statistical modeling and hypothesis testing. Additional responsibilities

include managing, assisting researchers in accessing, and maintaining large statistical databases for the division, assisting senior faculty members in managing their own statistical databases, supporting statistical analyses for major division health services research projects, participating in the division training program through teaching seminars to research fellows and MPH students on statistics and statistical programming, and participating in the general statistical work of the division through weekly research project support coordination meetings and study design seminars and provides input to colleagues on how to advance their research including working with senior statistical staff on BRC research grants, and developing new statistical methodologies, writing and assisting researchers in writing up research methods sections on papers and grant applications, and participating in writing scientific articles and may present papers and results of research at scientific professional meetings, maintaining a collaborative, team relationships with peers and colleagues in order to effectively contribute to the working groups achievement of goals, and to help foster a positive work environment. Required qualifications for applicants include a master's degree in statistics, biostatistics, programming, and three years of experience, preferably in a medical research environment or equivalent. Also required is an in-depth knowledge of computer programming, managing statistical databases and analyzing biomedical data, experience working with data and analyses in SAS, SPSS, or S-Plus, the ability to meet with researchers and develop a plan with them to meet their needs within their time and budget constraints, the ability to clearly explain and present statistical results to hospital researchers and investigators, the ability to work independently, excellent writing ability and presentation skills, the ability to communicate highly technical ideas to non-statisticians on a one-to-one basis, as well as in a classroom or meeting setting. Experience teaching statistics and statistical programming is desirable.

STATISTICIAN/SAS PROGRAMMER/DATA MANAGER: The person chosen to fill this position directly reports to Lesley Stevens MD MS, Dana Miskulin MD MS, and Andrew Levey MD, of the Nephrology/Medicine Department at Tufts New England Medical Center (NEMC). The selected applicant will assist with two clinical research projects within the Division of Nephrology at the Tufts-New England Medical Center. The individual will be responsible for assembling and maintaining a set of relational databases for the purposes of analysis and for conducting statistical analyses in conjunction with senior statisticians. Principal duties and responsibilities include working with researchers and senior statisticians to provide statistical support for research projects in the Division of Nephrology; assisting researchers with the design of experiments, construction of databases, and the analysis of data; applying and documenting quality control processes to clean databases from clinical studies and clinical populations; designing, creating, and maintaining a set of relational databases, in collaboration and communication with researchers and statisticians, for the purpose of analysis; ensuring that databases comply with HIPAA regulations; communicating with an inter-disciplinary team internal to and outside of NEMC, describing data issues and assisting in solving problems that arise in any of the above tasks; providing statistical analytical support to the research staff in the Division of Nephrology and statisticians in the Division of BRC; providing networking support to the Division staff, attending weekly research meetings and meetings with researchers and statisticians; and is encouraged to attend educational rounds in BRC. Applicants are required to have a degree in statistics or biostatistics, or related field, and two to three year's experience, preferably in a medical research environment is desired. Evidence of completion of an independent research project is also desirable. Required is experience in computer programming, managing statistical databases and analyzing biomedical data is required. Experience with SAS, or S-Plus (or R) programming is required. Experience with Microsoft Access is also desirable.

Interested candidates for either of these two Biostatistics Research Center (BRC) positions should contact Mark Ferigno at MFerigno@Tufts-NEMC.org or by phone at 617-636-7267.

BIOSTATISTICIAN: Massachusetts General Hospital has the following opening for a Master's Level Clinical Research Biostatistician (requisition number part-00029171) at its MGH Biostatistics Center in Boston MA. This is a regular full time (40 hours per week) position. Massachusetts General Hospital is arguably the largest research hospital in the world with a research budget of over 300 million dollars. The Massachusetts General Hospital Biostatistics Center is a group of eight Ph.D. and six MA Biostatisticians, along with eleven other staff members. We provide statistical support to multiple research groups within the Massachusetts Hospital. We are the statistical center for three national research projects and one international project and have an active research program in statistical methodology. Candidate requirements include a Masters Degree with three or more years of experience in applying biostatistics to clinical studies; the ability to effectively communicate results and explain statistical methods orally, graphically, and in written reports; ability to work as part of an interdisciplinary research team; and experience using SAS to analyze data. Interested applicants please apply through the MGH web page http://www.massgeneral.org/jobs/jobframe.htm.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BIOSTATISTICS: Boehringer-Ingelheim, one of the largest pharmaceutical companies in the world, seeks to find a director of the biostatistics function in the US. This position is located is the northeastern United States. He/she will manage 25 statisticians responsible for both clinical research and drug development within a rapidly growing organization. The ideal candidate will likely have a Ph.D., a minimum of 10 years total experience with five years in management of the biostatistics function in a pharmaceutical company or other organization subject to the statistical and analytical requirements of FDA approval processes. This experience will include at least three successful FDA submissions. The successful candidate is probably working in the pharmaceutical industry, but they may also come from a medical device company, academic, or research organization. Position will be located in the northeastern US. Interested candidates please forward CV and/or contact information to Chris Ladoulis, Lone Aspen, LLC, at chrisladoulis@gmail.com. Boehringer-Ingelheim offers an attractive compensation package.

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.