

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

November 19, 2007	Panel Discussion	Boston, MA
December 11, 2007	Evening Lecture	Lowell, MA
January 19, 2008	Winter Party	Newtonville, MA

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

THE FDA ADVISORY PANEL CALLING STATISTICIANS

A Panel Discussion

Janet Andersen, Victor DeGruttola, Rich Gelber, David Schoenfeld, Sharon Lise-Normand

Harvard School of Public Health

- Date:** Monday, November 19, 2007
- Time:** 5:45 pm to 6:45 pm
- Cost:** The lecture is free and open to the public
- Details:** The details of this event will be later distributed via email.
- Location:** Library Lecture Hall,
Emmanuel College
Boston, MA
- Directions:** The directions can be found at emmanuel.edu/Tools_Navigation/Maps_&_Directions.html the building labeled "2" on the following map; emmanuel.edu/Documents/pdfs/1.7_Campus_Map.pdf.
- RSVP:** By noon on Tuesday, November 13, to Sue Perry at susan_perry@rhoworld.com.
- Abstract:** FDA Advisory Committees are frequently called upon to advise the FDA regarding difficult approval and policy decisions. Statisticians can play an integral role on these committees. Statisticians that have served on FDA Advisory Committees will share their experiences and discuss the complex role of the statistician. They will also explore guidelines on some oft used statistical procedures such as adaptive design, the use of Bayesian methods, non-inferiority studies, and the assessment of benefit and risk.
- Moderator:** Scott Evans, Harvard University

FRAUD IN MEDICAL RESEARCH

Evening Lecture

Ted Colton

Boston University School of Public Health

Date: Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Time: 6:30 pm Light Dinner, 7:00 pm Lecture

Cost: Dinner is \$13 for chapter members, \$15 for others. The talk is free.

Location: Alumni Hall,
University of Massachusetts North Campus at Lowell,
Lowell, MA01854

Directions: The directions to alumni hall and parking can be found at [click here](#).

RSVP: By noon on Wednesday, December 5, to Sue Perry at susan_perry@rhoworld.com. Please note whether you will attend the dinner, or just the talk.

Abstract: What do academicians, government agencies, researchers, journals, and businesses all have in common? They all are concerned with ethics and data integrity. Who is to blame and what causes breaches of ethics? Are we currently detecting them all? This topic is especially relevant due to several recent cases of misconduct in medical research and multi-center clinical trials. While detection of breeches is important we don't want to falsely accuse. Join us for an evening of dissecting these data fraud cases. While unraveling each the presentation will focus on addressing how the fraud was detected, why the fraud was committed, how it was reported, and consequences. Also of issue is how one handles data when some data are suspected or confirmed as fraudulent? What measures, if any, can we take to prevent future episodes of fraud? In this lecture data fraud will be examined from a statistical perspective.

Speaker: Dr. Ted Colton was chair and professor of the former Boston University School of Public Health (BUSPH) Epidemiology and Biostatistics department and has more than 40 years of experience in biostatistical and epidemiologic collaboration and consultation with health professionals. See <http://sph.bu.edu/> for Dr. Colton's biographical sketch.

ANNUAL WINTER POTLUCK DINNER AND PARTY

Social Event

At the home of Katherine Monti

Date: Saturday, January 26, 2007

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: Newtonville, MA

RSVP: By January 23 to Sue Perry (susan_perry@rhoworld.com or 617-965-8000 x22); after Jan.23, please, be sure to copy katherine_monti@rhoworld.com. Please provide (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) both phone and email contact information (so that you can be reached in case of weather problems).

Directions: For a map, [click here](#). Lothrop Street is off of 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; #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 #30. 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. In the event of very light snow, we will party on! Please feel free to email katherine_monti@rhoworld.com if you have questions or to give notice of last-minute changes. Check the chapter web site for cancellation information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Statistician of the Year Nominations Solicited

The BCASA Mosteller Statistician of the Year award is presented each year at a banquet/lecture in February to a distinguished statistician who has made exceptional contributions to the field of statistics and has shown outstanding service to the statistical community and to the Boston Chapter. The recent Harvard University Department of Biostatistics 50th anniversary celebration featured a tribute to Prof. Mosteller who was chairman in 1977 to 1981, and died in the summer of 2006.

The current Statistician of the Year is LJ Wei. Previous recipients of the award are Fred Mosteller, 1990; Herman Chernoff, 1991; Marvin Zelen, 1992; Ralph D'Agostino, 1993; William DuMouchel, 1994; Don Rubin, 1995; Nan Laird, 1996; David Hoaglin, 1997; Richard Goldstein, 1998; Arlene Ash, 1999; Cyrus Mehta, 2000; Alan Gelfand, 2001; Alan Zaslavsky, 2002; John D. McKenzie, Jr., 2003; Louise Ryan, 2004; Mei Ling Tee Lee, 2005; and Carl Morris, 2006. Please forward all nominations by November 5, 2006 to Scott Evans at evans@sdac.harvard.edu. Include a brief description of the candidate's qualifications for the award. Please vote for a candidate by casting your ballot to Scott at the email address above. Voting tabulation will take place at the November Planning Committee meeting.

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: math.smith.edu/~nhorton/msr.html or by contacting Shelley Hurwitz at hurwitz@hms.harvard.edu. The deadline is March 1st, but there's no reason to delay.

JSM Abstract Submission

The 2008 Joint Statistical Meetings will be held at the Colorado Convention Center (<http://www.denverconvention.com>) located at 700 4th Street, Denver, Colorado, 80202. Abstract submission opens December 3, 2007. See amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2008 for details. Please consider submitting an abstract.

Funds for Membership Socials

If you would like to host a membership social, ASA will provide up to \$100 toward the cost of refreshments. If you are a member of an academic department, your department can sponsor ASA membership for your students. See amstat.org/membership/ChapterSchoolSocials.pdf for details. You may also contact any BCASA officer or planning committee member for additional information.

Cyber Enabled Discovery and Innovation

NSF National Sciences Institute (NSI) issued a solicitation for proposals under a new initiative entitled "Cyber Enabled Discovery and Innovation". They are targeting multidisciplinary computational projects that promise "radical paradigm changing" results in at least one of three areas:

1. Enhancing human cognition and generating new knowledge from a wealth of heterogeneous digital data,
2. Understanding complexity in natural, built, and social systems: deriving fundamental insights on systems comprising multiple interacting elements,
3. Building virtual organizations: enhancing discovery and innovation by bringing people and resources together across institutional, geographical or cultural boundaries.

A letter of intent must be submitted between October 30 and November 30, 2007. See mathinstitutes.org.

Data Mining Section Proposed

The ASA Special Interest Group (SIG) in Statistical Learning and Data Mining is now beginning the process to become a section of the ASA. See the ASA homepage amstat.org for details on how to join the SIG.

NESSIS Symposium a Success

The 2007 New England Symposium on Statistics (NESSIS) was held on Saturday, September 29, at the Harvard University Science Center. There were over 100 participants, of various backgrounds, from whom we received much positive feedback; many found it useful, enjoyable, and constructive. NESSIS provides a key forum for creating collaborative opportunities between statisticians and others who support sports industries including journalists, medical personnel, business management, reporters, trainers, coaches, data collectors, and athletes. Research presented at the conference included college and professional level, on topics as diverse as data collection, training, player and referee evaluation, monetary and other resource allocation, and injury forensics. This conference provides statisticians an opportunity to improve the quality of the statistical methods used on the popular topic of sports. A sequel to this conference could be held next year. Many from the press attended this conference (USA Today, New York Times, ESPN Magazine, and even the Harvard Gazette!), and with the favorable press that this event received, there is potential that NESSIS will grow.

President's Report

It is a pleasure submitting this President's report. We have had a very active year to date, and I am extremely grateful for all the efforts, support and initiatives of all planning committee members and of the membership at large.

One interesting bit of news is that the chapter is going virtual. We have held two events this year with remote access provided by an internet-based symposium conferencing tool. Both events went without a hitch! Participants were happy with the convenience this format (which differs from that of a webinar) affords. We are also trying to provide similar remote access to our planning committee meetings, and held one such remote meeting last summer. Here is your chance to join the planning committee without too much of a time investment, particularly if you are a bit far from Boston! We would be delighted to have you join us; please just send an email to me at dhaughton@bentley.edu if this is tempting.

We had a number of interesting events, including a very successful conference on statistics in sports (amstat.org/Chapters/boston/nessis07.html), masterfully organized by Scott Evans and Mark Glickman. We have cataloged video of the conference available from that web page as well. A six-hour short course on Bayesian statistics by Christian Robert and Jean-Michel Marin was provided remotely (from France) to our local members. Stay tuned for a number of upcoming evening talks, short courses and conferences, not to mention our annual holiday party, which is upcoming!

Please remember to send your nominations to the Mosteller Statistician of the Year Award, as well as your ideas and comments. And please also remember to nominate excellent students for Mu Sigma Rho membership, and invite colleagues or students to become members of the ASA and chapter, and participate in its activities. I very much hope to meet you in the near future at one of our events or at a planning committee meeting.

Dominique Haughton, Bentley College

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

There were no job opportunities requested for distribution with this month's Newsletter.

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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