

Join us at

PharmaSUG
2008

Atlanta, Georgia • June 1-4

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PharmaSUG 2008 Co-chairs



Margaret Hung and Sandra Minjoe

Plan Now for PharmaSUG 2008

By: Margaret Hung

More Bang for the Buck!

This is not the usual gathering of professionals on SAS programming. PharmaSUG offers more to its attendees in terms of education, professional development, sharing of ideas, and networking.

- Wide variety of learning experiences tailored to the health sciences, bio-tech, and pharmaceutical industries
- Four concurrent presentation sections plus Hands-On Workshops and Posters, including
 - Industry-specific sections in Regulatory Submissions and Standards, Public Health
 - A non-technical Management Section
- Pre/Post Conference Seminars – Quality classes at very affordable price of \$99 each. Offers not just programming tips but also topics not found elsewhere. Sample seminars:
 - Best Practices for Regulatory Submission
 - CDISC Logic
 - XML for SAS Programmers
 - Present a case study of a health outcomes research project - from getting the data from various sources and into analysis SAS datasets - to producing summary tables - to the analysis phase of testing a hypothesis.
- More games
- Fabulous hotel – Hyatt Regency is conveniently located in the heart of downtown Atlanta adjoining Peachtree Center Mall. We have been given lots of space for our conference events. For the first time, we have over 10K sq. ft. as our SAS demo room and vendor exhibit. More space means more room for more exhibit activities.
- Convenient location - The Atlanta international airport is a major hub. Its mass transit system, Marta provides a convenient ride to many attractions in Atlanta at relatively low costs (e.g., \$2.15 from the airport to Hyatt Regency).

- Sightseeing – Atlanta has tons of entertaining and educational attractions for all ages! And it won't put a big dent on your pocket book, as there are bargains. For example, Atlanta CityPass offers 6 attractions for one low price - \$64 for adults and \$45 for kids – provides admission to the Georgia Aquarium, the World of Coke, The High Museum of Art, the CNN studio tour, Fernbank, or the Atlanta Botanical Gardens, and Zoo Atlanta or the Atlanta History Center. And it is good for 9 days, so you can break up your tours around the conference! (See the next article for details.)

What To Do While You Are in Atlanta

By: Kim Truett

There are many attractions in Atlanta that you may want to take in on your off-hours at the conference or by staying a day or two before or after the conference. Here are just a few examples.

Atlanta CityPass:

<http://www.citypass.com/city/atlanta.html> 6 attractions; \$64 for adults and \$45 for kids. Provides admission to the Georgia Aquarium, the World of Coke, The High Museum of Art, the CNN studio tour, Fernbank, or the Atlanta Botanical Gardens, and Zoo Atlanta or the Atlanta History Center. It is good for 9 days.

High Museum of Art <http://www.high.org/> : On MARTA; currently has an exchange program with the Louvre Museum.

CNN Studio Tour <http://www.cnn.com/StudioTour/> : Walking distance from the hotel; interesting behind the scenes tour of CNN, you get to go above the actual broadcast floor and see them working. 55 minute walking tour with stairs.

Zoo Atlanta <http://www.zooatlanta.org/> : Cab ride or car required, a pretty good zoo including pandas.

Georgia Aquarium <http://www.georgiaaquarium.org/> : Walking distance from the hotel; very popular attraction.

Imagine It <http://www.imagineit-cma.org/> : Children's museum: walking distance from the hotel; this is a good museum for younger children (like 8 and younger).

The World of Coca-cola <http://www.woccatlanta.com/>:

Walking distance from the hotel; neat museum that includes a tasting area where you can try 70 different beverages that coke makes and sells around the world

Lenox Square and Phipps Plaza

<http://www.simon.com/mall/default.aspx?ID=207> : On MARTA , excellent shopping destination, these two malls sit on opposite corners and are anchored by Neimann Marcus, Macy's Bloomingdales at Lenox and Nordstrom, Parisian and Saks Fifth Avenue at Phipps Plaza.

Stone Mountain

<http://www.stonemountainpark.com/> : 16 miles east of Atlanta, the largest piece of exposed granite in the world, one of the area's best attractions for families. Including a very patriotic laser light spectacular show every evening at 9:30 pm <http://www.stonemountainpark.com/lasershow/> There is a highly commercialized section that you can pay money to enter, but \$8.00 lets a car load in to access the hiking trails – including a 1.3 mile hike to the top and to see the laser show.

Plan to enjoy a great conference and great experience in Atlanta!

European Pharmaceutical Users Software Conference Closes Successfully

By: Kevin Kilminster

Approximately 300 delegates, presenters and exhibitors representing statistical programming in pharma industry (including 16 from the US) gathered in the Portuguese capital of Lisbon in October, and enjoyed a very successful 3 day conference covering a wide range of relevant topics.

This was the third such conference - following Heidelberg in 2005, and Dublin last year. As ever, there was a healthy mix of companies, nationalities and experience, with plenty of opportunities to network with peers in other organizations. New for this year was a management stream, specifically for those who have moved into the supervision of programming groups, and also a University Day, where students from the University of Lisbon were

invited to attend sessions relevant to them and learn more about our industry. Due to the number and quality of papers received it was also possible for the first time to run four streams concurrently.

Keynote speaker for this year was Dr Armando Oliva of the FDA's Office of Critical Path Programs, who gave an interesting insight into his expectations for the future of bioinformatics at the FDA, and also how the Agency handles submission data currently.



PhUSE Conference Chair Dirk Spruck with Keynote Speaker Dr. Armando Oliva

The PhUSE committee also used the conference to launch the PhUSE society. PhUSE are looking to branch out in providing additional services to programmers in the pharma industry, with plans for a biannual pharmaceutical programming journal, one day training events, e-learning courses and quarterly newsletters. Of course, PhUSE will also continue to run the annual conference. More details on all of this will be available on the PhUSE website (www.phuse.eu) in the coming weeks.

Locations for next years conference are still under discussion, but it looks likely for the first time we'll be somewhere in the UK. So, if you'd like to spend some time in the old country with your European peers, keep the week of Oct 6th free in your diary. We'll look forward to seeing you then.

PharmaSUG 2007 in Review

By: Richard Allen

PharmaSUG 2007, co-chaired by Cindy Song and Richard Allen, was held from Sunday June 3 through

Wednesday June 6, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver, Colorado. A new attendance record was set with over 680 attendees from 36 states in the US, 4 Canadian Provinces, Mexico and 10 countries outside of North America, some as far away as Australia, Israel, and Japan.

The conference began on Sunday evening with the opening session and a keynote presentation by Dr. Edward Helton of the SAS institute on the *SAS Roadmap for Pharma, Healthcare and Public Health*, followed by dinner. During the dinner a slide show of some scenes from past PharmaSUG conferences was shown. Many of these photos were provided by Warren Carin of GSK. As usual, we had wonderful food at the dinner and throughout the conference, thanks to our Meals Coordinator, Ellen Brookstein.

Over the next 2 1/2 days there were 4 concurrent sessions with over 150 papers in 11 different sections, plus the very popular hands-on-workshop section where participants were able to get direct instruction on a variety of topics from noted SAS experts. There also were a number of posters as well as exhibits, live demonstrations and the ability to speak directly to SAS developers in the centrally located exhibit/demo room. The popular panel discussion of data standards was continued and the Management section, in its second year, also had a panel discussion on *Performance Counseling for Techies*, moderated by Jim Baker and Pete Yribar. The conference also offered a number of pre- and post-conference seminars for attendees to expand their SAS knowledge.

On Monday night, we had our 3rd Annual Game Night where many conference attendees joined us for a 'no money exchange' Texas Hold 'Em poker tournament. Prior to that, SAS held a mixer in the exhibit/demo room for attendees to unwind. Tuesday night was the volunteer party for those that helped organize and run the conference. Thanks to all 2007 volunteers and everyone should consider volunteering to help out with the 2008 conference in Atlanta.

Prior to the conference, some attendees were able to take advantage of a half-day hike in the mountains just outside of town that was offered by a local outfitter. During the conference, attendees could unwind with any of the many hotel amenities or go out on the town. The hotel was in downtown Denver close to many shops, restaurants and other events. Many attendees arrived early or stayed in town after the conference to enjoy the Colorado outdoors and scenery. Overall, PharmaSUG 2007 was an enjoyable event and a vibrant exchange of valuable information.

PharmaSUG 2007 Best Papers

The Pharmaceutical Industry SAS® Users Group would like to congratulate the following best paper award recipients:

Applications Development

Tatyana Kovtun, Berlex Laboratories; John Markle, Berlex Labs; Chris Treglio, Berlex Laboratories – “Customizing DI Studio to Generate CDISC Compliant SDTM Domains”

David W Carr, ICON Clinical Research; Lanie Quintana, ICON Colleague; Akari Yamagami, ICON Colleague - “PROC REPORT or DATA _NULL_: Which to Use and How to Make It Easier”

Coder's Corner

Louie Huang, Baxter BioScience – “Using GSLIDE Procedure to Assemble Multiple Graphs on One Single Page”

Britney D Gilbert, PPD, - “Using Multiple Output Statements in the SUMMARY Procedure”

Karen N Easterling, PPD, Inc. – “The Creation of Time Deviations”

Data Management

Kim Truett, KCT Data, Inc. – “FS-What: A New Use for an Old SAS Component”

FDA Compliance - Electronic Submission & Validation

Frederick Wood, Octagon Research Solutions, Inc.; Thomas Guinter, TAKE Solutions, Inc. – “Evolution and Implementation of CDISC Study Data Tabulation Model (SDTM)”

Rachel A Brown, Westat; Jennfier K Fulton, Westat – “CSI - Denver: Common SAS Issues in Our Programs and Tips for Better Investigation of Your SAS Code”

Management

Sandy Paternotte, PPD – “Tending the Fire – Interventions for Burn-out”

Posters

David G Ryerson, Colorado Prevention Center – “Using PROC REPORT Compute Blocks to Enhance ODS RTF Output”

Karen M Schlangen, Hollis-Eden Pharmaceuticals, Inc. – “Coding for Efficient Presentations: The Case of Trend Tests”



Posters on display
(photos courtesy of Warren Carin)

Public Health Research

Chan Zeng, University of Colorado Health Science Center; Gary O Zerbe, University of Colorado Health Science Center – “Application of Ghosh, Grizzle and Sen's Nonparametric Methods in Longitudinal Studies using SAS PROC GLM”

Statistics & Pharmacokinetics

Paul D Sherman, self; Leroy Bracken, self - “Hypothesis Testing: An SQL Analogy”

Technical Techniques

Nicholas J Nerren, PPD – “Methods for Repeated Macro Calls”

Max Cherny, GSK – “Let SAS Write Your SAS/GRAPH Programs for You”

Tutorials

JoAnn R Matthews, Highmark Blue Shield – “Proc SQL Versus the DATA Step”

Volunteers

PharmaSUG is a conference organization based on volunteers. Can you volunteer? We need all kinds of skills. We need people who can stuff bags, help at the registration desk, judge papers, set up and remove posters, take pictures, coordinate sections, etc. Contact Susan Fehrer or Neil Howard (see contact information at the end of this Newsletter).

Thanks To Our 2007 Sponsors!

The annual PharmaSUG conference is heavily reliant on our corporate sponsors. Without their support our conferences would not be as extensive and complete as they have become.

The Executive and Conference Committees for 2007 would like to extend their deepest gratitude to our corporate sponsors. Your support and sponsorship makes PharmaSUG one of the most comprehensive conferences for SAS programmers.



Meet Our PharmaSUG 2008 Conference Co-chairs



Sandra Minjoe has been active in PharmaSUG since 1999, spending many years as a pre- and post-conference seminar coordinator. At her "day job", she's a Principal Statistical Programmer Analyst at Genentech, Inc., where her focus is on Data Process. She's also involved in CDISC, working on the AdaM sub-team since 2001. She lives in Vallejo, California, very near Napa Valley wine country, and on sunny weekends you'll likely find her cruising around in her convertible.



Margaret Hung has been with PharmaSUG since its inception in early 1990's. She was the co-chair for PharmaSUG 1996 in San Diego, CA and PharmaSUG 1997 in Hilton Head, SC. Formerly with GSK, Margaret now has her own consulting company doing validation and documentation. While at GSK, she worked on various process improvement projects and served on the CDISC Lab team developing lab data standards. She has presented papers and served on PharmaSUG conference committee in numerous roles including seminar coordinator, treasurer, registrar, and section chair. She is also an Enrolled Agent in charge of PharmaSUG's tax-related matters.

About PharmaSUG....

PharmaSUG is a non-profit organization consisting of professionals worldwide who use SAS software in their work. Its primary purpose is to provide a forum for the exchange of information and the promotion of new ideas concerning the use of SAS software as it relates to quantitative health sciences including epidemiology,

health economics, health management, outcomes research, biostatistics, clinical research and the pharmaceutical industry.

This newsletter is published by PharmaSUG as a vehicle for disseminating information to PharmaSUG affiliates. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information provided herein, but PharmaSUG cannot be held liable for inaccuracies.

Please visit our website at WWW.PHARMASUG.ORG

See you in Atlanta on June 1, 2008!



PharmaSUG 2008 Dates to Remember

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Abstracts and first drafts due | December 3, 2007 |
| Registration opens | February 4, 2008 |
| Hyatt Regency Reservation Open | Now |
| Final Papers due | February 25, 2008 |
| Early Registration ends | April 18, 2008 |
| Hyatt Regency Conference Room Rate Cut-off * | May 9, 2008 |
| Regular Registration ends | May 22, 2008 |

*The special room rate for the Hyatt conference hotel ends May 9, 2008 or on an EARLIER date when rooms are sold out. In past years, rooms have sold out early.

PharmaSUG 2008 Registration Fees

| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| On-site Registration | \$600 |
| Regular Registration | \$475** |
| Early Registration | \$425** |
| Presenter rate | \$300** |

**\$50 will be added to the above rates for paper registration i.e. 'print & fax' instead of using the PharmaSUG online registration system at www.PharmaSUG.org

PharmaSUG 2008 Conference Committee

(Specific contact information is available at www.PharmaSUG.org)

Academic Chair

Sandra Minjoe
Genentech, Inc.

Operations Chair

Margaret Hung
Hung Consulting LLC

Publications Coordinator

Syamala Ponnappalli
ICON Clinical Research

Registrar

Ellen Brookstein
Contractor

Treasurer

Cindy Song
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Iza Peszek
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Meals Coordinator

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BCBS of Arizona

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Contractor/Trainer

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and

Joshua Horstman
First Phase Consulting, Inc.

Scholarship/Speaker Sharing

Nancy Brucken
i3 Statprobe

Event Coordinator

Kim Truett
KCT Data, Inc.

PharmaSUG 2008 Section Chairs

Applications Development

Jack Schoemperlen
Independent Contractor
and
Jeanina Worden
Pacific Data Designs, Inc

Coder's Corner

Jeff Chaffin
Glaxo SmithKline
and
Lin Yan
Merck & Co., Inc

Data Management & Quality

Craig Brelage
Eli Lilly & Company
and
Freddie Paino
Quintiles

Posters

Mario Widel
Genentech, Inc
and
Paul Sherman
Independent Contractor
and
Thiru Satchi
T & S Consulting Corp

Hands-On Workshops

Elaine Dempsey
Kendle
and
Alissa Ruelle
PharmaNet

Management

Pete Yribar
Genentech, Inc.
and
Gopal Rajagopal
Merck & Co., Inc

Tutorials

Mal Foley
Contractor/Trainer
and
Kirk Paul Lafler
Software Intelligence Corp

Technical Techniques

Cecilia Mauldin
ClinForce
and
Mary Fleischer
ZymoGenetics

Regulatory Submissions & Standards

Eunice Ndungu
Merck & Co., Inc
and
Mark Matthews
Eli Lilly

Public Health Research

Richard Allen
Peak Statistical Services
and
Paul Slagle
I3 Global

Statistics & Pharmacokinetics

Guowei Wu
Merck & Co., Inc
and
David Izard
Shire Pharmaceuticals

PharmaSUG 2008
c/o SAS Institute
SAS Campus Drive
Cary, NC 27513

PharmaSUG 2008 Special Volunteers/Support

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Sandy Paternotte
PPD, Inc.

**Scholarship/Speaker
Sharing Assistant**

Pamela Butler
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Tom Guinter
TAKE Solutions

Registrar Aide

Phil Pellicone
PRA
International

**Presenter Feedback
Coordinator**

Jim Johnson
Ephicity

Game Night Coordinators

Xingshu Zhu
Merck & Co Inc.
and
Pete Yribar
Genentech, Inc

Photographers

Diane Carow
Quintiles
and
Warren Carin
GSK

Graphic Artists

Kimberly Riddell
and
Ramona Martin
Rographix

Webmaster

Michelle Langston
Caterpixel

Thank you for volunteering and thank you to your companies that allow and encourage you to participate.
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