



PharmaSUG 2006

November 2005

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Our co-chairs, Mal Foley, and Matt Becker

Plan Now for PharmaSUG 2006

By Cecilia Mauldin

Bonita Springs, FL will be the host city for PharmaSUG 2006, which will be held at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa from May 21nd through May 24th. Plan to attend!!!

Bonita Springs Florida is located between Naples and Fort Myers at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort. This is a wonderful resort with beach access, lush gardens and Estero Bay views.

The Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa has a fully equipped fitness center and two lighted tennis courts. It is a short boat ride to the Hotel's private beach, and it has a 12-acre environmental preserve. If you play golf, be sure to take advantage of the 18-hole Raymond Floyd-designed championship golf course.

The restaurants are kid-friendly and adults can enjoy a paddle through the mangroves.

From early February to May 6, 2006, people identifying themselves as attending PharmaSUG will have a guarantee rate of \$180.00 per night. This rate includes many amenities.

Note that if the hotel sells out prior to this date, rooms are gone. There is no guarantee rooms will be available for all PharmaSUG attendees - so sign up early!!

Individuals will make reservations directly with the Hotel reservations office. The direct phone number to the reservations department is (239) 390-4402, Monday - Friday, 6:00am till 6:00pm Eastern Time. Reservations can also be made by calling 1-800-233-1234 or by contacting the Hotel www.coconutpoint.hyatt.com. Attendees must identify themselves as part of the Group/meeting to receive the Group rate.

All rooms require a one-night's deposit by guest check, money order, or credit card by the Reservation Cut-Off Date. Cancellation will be accepted up to seventy-two

(72) hours prior to arrival. The deposit is refundable to guest if timely notice of cancellation is given and a cancellation number obtained.

Matt and Mal, serving as your Academics and Operations Chairs, along with many others, will be very busy over the next months planning the conference. We hope that this conference is the most successful PharmaSUG yet.

We are planning pre- and post- conference training sessions, two and a half days of paper presentations, many from industry-seasoned professionals, as well as great poster displays. We will have an exhibit and demo room, many vendors, and SAS representatives available to answer questions.

The Section Chairs are working hard to line up exciting presenters. The popular Hands-On Workshop Section will again be feature in 2006. Also, the Public Health Research Section that made its debut last year will continue in 2006. In response to comments received at the 2005 Conference in Phoenix, we are adding a Management section for 2006. This new section encompasses a broad range of issues facing programmers, consultants, executives and front-line supervisors in today's ever changing pharmaceutical and bio-tech industries. Topics include recruiting and retention, programming metrics, temporary work force challenges, interpersonal interactions, quality control vs. meeting commitments, and tips for new managers.

Mal and Matt must thank our Committees, as without these very dedicated people who volunteer their time and expertise, there would be no conference. Please see the names of the people serving on the Conference Committee and Section Chairs on page 7. Up-to-date contact information for the Committees can be found at www.pharmasug.org/2006.



Gazebo at the 2006 Conference Hotel

And now a word from our SAS BOWL

quizmaster.....

**"It's All About Me"
By Brian Shilling**

As part of our many extra-curricular activities at PharmaSUG, we gather early on Monday evening, after the presentations when the day has concluded, to test our knowledge of SAS, compete with our old and new friends, and enjoy some "play" time. SAS Bowl began at PharmaSUG several years ago and continues to entertain, and teach conference attendees.

SAS Bowl has a game show type of atmosphere and it enjoyed by many. During SAS Bowl, contestants are asked questions to which they respond, trying to answer quicker than their opponents. 4 teams of 5 people play against one another until there is an ultimate winner. Over the past few years, SAS Bowl has grown to have a Jeopardy!® feel, and the game quickened, adding even more excitement.

As host, I make up the rules. The rules are: there are NO rules. I make up rules as I go along, add and remove points as I see fit, and inflict my opinion and attitude on anyone who doesn't agree with me!

Check your conference packet at the conference and join us on Monday night for the wildly entertaining SAS Bowl!

I hope to see you there!



SAS-Bowl Team thinking about ...

What to do while you are in

Bonita Springs By Mary Ann Hope

Enjoy a Piece of Paradise at PharmaSUG !
Bonita Springs is a beautiful, natural area just north of Naples, Florida that offers a wide variety of attractions and activities for all visitors. While at the conference take some extra time to enjoy a day at the beach or a sunset cruise on the Gulf of Mexico. Take advantage of championship golf courses, great fishing and boating on the Gulf backwaters or walk the miles of pristine beaches in Bonita Springs and on surrounding barrier islands.

Bonita Springs, San Marco and Captiva Islands offer countless attractions for your own exciting adventure. Explore art museums and art galleries, and shopping at upscale boutiques. Discover some of the wonderful outdoor activities like parasailing, snorkeling, or visiting a swamp sanctuary or nature center or just relaxing on the beach!

In addition the Hyatt Coconut Point Resort and Spa offer many excursions provided by a tour company. Visitors can enjoy either a full or half day trip of boating, fishing or shelling. Other exciting excursions that are offered include:

- ❖ Dinner yacht cruises to San Marco Island
- ❖ Eco-tours of the Everglades National Park
- ❖ Historic tours to Edison-Ford winter Estates in Ft. Myers
- ❖ Catamaran sailing in the blue waters of the Gulf of Mexico
- ❖ Backwater or offshore fishing charters
- ❖ Guided trolley tours of Naples /Marco Island
- ❖ Kayak trips through the mangroves and back bays of the Gulf of Mexico



**Kayaking next to the 2006 Conference Hotel.
Plan to enjoy a great conference and great
experience in sunny Florida!**

European Inaugural Pharmaceutical

Users Software Conference Closes Successfully By Stephen Bamford

The first-ever Pharmaceutical Users Software Exchange (PhUSE) held October 10-12, 2005 in Heidelberg, Germany closed successfully. Over 270 participants from 12 countries attended and made this the premier programming event for the pharmaceutical industry in Europe. Over 100 companies attended and over 60 presentations were given with the purpose of facilitating the exchange of new information and ideas relating to SAS software and its usage in the Pharmaceutical R&D arena. Highlights included the CDISC stream, application development stream and poster session.

PhUSE 2005 was a resounding success. Feedback from the attending companies was that they were impressed about the event itself and the content. We now are looking forward to PhUSE 2006 that will take place in Dublin, Ireland between the 9th and 11th October.

The PhUSE committee comprises of across industry companies such as: Accovion, Amadeus, Amgen, AstraZeneca, Biogen Idec, Covance, GlaxoSmithKline, Novartis, OPS, Pfizer, PPD, Quintiles and Roche and PhUSE is a non-profit organization run by volunteers chaired by Stephen Bamford, Associate Director of the Statistical Analysis and Reporting Group for Pfizer. For more information, please see: www.PhUSE.info



Picture of attendees to PhUSE

PharmaSUG 2005 in Review

by Nancy Brucken

PharmaSUG 2005, co-chaired by Susan Fehrer and Nancy Brucken, took place in Phoenix, Arizona at the Pointe South Mountain Resort. The more than 645 attendees came from 15 countries.

There were 153 papers presented in 10 different sections. The new Public Health Research section included papers in Epidemiology, Health Economics and Outcomes Research. Richard Read Allen and Ron Simpson did a great job putting this section together.

For a second year in a row, the Hands-on Workshops using PC's provided by SAS were a big success. Neil Howard and Daphne Ewing had all the computers running smoothly throughout the presentations.

The resort conference rooms were large enough to hold most of the people who wanted to attend a paper but small enough that you could still see the presenters. Panel discussions on CDISC, outsourcing, and managing SAS programmers drew good crowds.

We were able to eat wonderful food; thanks to Ellen Brookstein- the volunteer party was particularly impressive

After listening to papers all day, we were able to escape from the 110-degree heat in the water park, riding down the 8-story water slides. Monday's Game Night drew a crowd for sand volleyball and ping-pong,



PharmaSUG 2005 Best Papers

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

Applications Development

Janet Stuelpner, Left Hand Computing, Inc. "Automated Excel-lent Validation"

Linda Collins & Alan Hopkins, PharmaStat LLC
"Comparison of Techniques for XML and RTF Tables"

Coder's Corner

Elizabeth Taylor, Endo Pharmaceuticals Inc.
"Generate Word Macros to Organize and Maintain Tables and Listings"

Lara Guttadauro, Kendle International Inc. "Use PROC FORMAT to Apply Value-Specific Suffixes to Your Data"

Data Management

John Cantrell, University of North Carolina
"Preventing Data Loss When Combining SAS Datasets"

Sandra Minjoe, Genentech "Lab Unit Conversions: Taking Advantage of Expert External Resources"

FDA Compliance: E-Submission and Validation

Susan J. Kenny, Maximum Likelihood Solutions
"Considerations for Implementing SDTM and ADaM Standards"

Keith Benze, SEC Associates, Inc. "Risk-Based Approach to SAS Program Validation"

Public Health Research

Marla J. Husnik, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center; Yijian (Eugene) Huang, Emory University, Rollins; Grant Colfax, San Francisco Department of Public Health "Assessing Within- and Between-Subject Effects with Correlated Clinical Data"

Posters

Jane Lu, AstraZeneca "Advanced Array Applications in Clinical Data Manipulation"

Amy Gillespie, Merck & Co., Inc. "To Macro or Not To Macro"

Statistics & Pharmacokinetics

Denise J. Smith, Pamela J. Atherton, Angelina Tan, Paul J. Novotny, Jeff A. Sloan, Mayo Clinic QOL Team, Mayo Clinic, Cancer Center Statistics "Analyzing and Displaying Study Data in Clinical Trials Made Easy"

Technical Techniques

John Morrill "Programming Tips and Examples for Your Toolkit, II"

Daniel Downing, CaremarkPCS "How to Get 10 Pounds of Data Into a 5 Pound Can - Using Flyover Techniques in HTML Output"

Tutorials

Richard Pless, Ovation Research Group "An Introduction to Regular Expressions with Examples from Clinical Data"

Chang Chung, Office of Population Research; Toby Dunn, Texas Education Agency "Retaining, Lagging, Leading and Interleaving Data"

We Thank Our 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 2005 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 2006 conference

co-chairs



Mal Foley
Academic Chair

Matt Becker
Operations Chair

Mal Foley is a SAS software engineer. His career includes being an international computing consultant, a university professor, and the CEO of his own computing company. Recently, Mal has taken a "sabbatical" from his position as senior SAS programmer/analyst with the Department of Biostatistics at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Mal is part-time SAS trainer and provides in-house SAS seminars around the country. He presents papers and seminars at SAS user groups at the local, regional, national and international levels. He has volunteered for PharmaSUG every year since 1996, and looks forward to co-chairing PharmaSUG 2006.

Matt Becker resides in North Carolina where he is the Director of Statistical Programming at PharmaNet, Inc., a global contract research organization. He has been programming in SAS since 1989 when he started working at STATPROBE, Inc. Matt has been in the CRO industry for 16 years.

He has presented at many RUGs and has been a section chair, session coordinator, treasurer, and registrar with PharmaSUG.

Moreover, Matt was the Chair of PharmaSUG 2000 in Seattle, WA. He enjoys playing golf and watching professional football and professional and college hockey (GO BLUE!!).

About PharmaSUG....

PharmaSUG is a non-profit organization consisting of professionals worldwide that 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

Be at Bonita Springs on May 21, 2006!!



View of
Dolphins
dorsal fins



We will have water
slides again in
2006!

Volunteers

PharmaSUG is a conference based on volunteers. 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, coordinate sections, etc Anyone interested in volunteering his/her time and services to the organization is encouraged to contact our Volunteer Coordinators, Elaine Czarnecki and Craig Brelage (see our Web Page, www.pharmasug.org/2006). **Note to 2006 attendees** - volunteering to help with the conference entitles you to a ticket to the legendary volunteer party).

PharmaSUG 2006 Conference Committee

Current contact information is available at WWW.PHARMASUG.ORG

Academic Chair
Malachy (Mal) Foley
Univ. of North Carolina

Operations Chair
Matt Becker
PharmaNet

Publications Coordinator
Cindy Song
Sanofi-aventis

Registrar
Richard Read Allen
Peak Stat

Treasurer
Margaret Hung
GlaxoSmithKline

Sponsors & Vendors Coordinators
Elizabeth Dennis
Quintiles, Inc.
and
Brenda Bishop
EMB Statistical Solutions, LLC

Assistant Registrar
Jim Edgington
Threshold Pharmaceuticals

Graphic Artist
Kimberly Riddell

Volunteer Coordinators
Elaine Czarnecki
Merck and Co.
and
Craig Brelage
Eli Lilly and Co.

SAS Bowl Coordinator
Brian Shilling
BioCor

Pre/Post Conference Seminar Coordinators
Margaret Hung
GlaxoSmithKline
and
Sandra Minjoe
Genentech, Inc.

SAS Liaison
Patsy Harbour
SAS Institute Inc.

Meals Coordinator
Ellen Brookstein
Wyeth

Newsletter Editors
Cecilia Mauldin
PPD
and
John Cantrell
UNC

Media & Materials Coordinators
Zhuoye Xu
Merck & Co., Inc.
and
Jacques Thibault
Mankind Corporation

Webmaster
Malcom Ong
Cornerstone Technology Consulting
Event Coordinator
Mary Anne Hope
Health Services Advisory Group

PharmaSUG 2006 Sections Chairs

Applications Development
Cecilia Mauldin
PPD
and
Alissa Ruelle
PharmaNet Inc.

Coder's Corner
Thiru Satchi
TS Consulting Group, Inc.
and
Mario Widel
Eli Lilly & Co.

Data Management
Syamala Ponnappalli
Pharmanet Inc.
and
Jack Schoemperlen
Amgen, Inc.

Posters
Elaine Dempsey
Bayer
and
David C. Izard
Shire Pharmaceuticals

Hands-On Workshops
Brian Shilling
BioCor
and
Jennifer Lester
ZymoGenetics, Inc.

Management
Jim Baker
Amgen
and
Pete Yribar
Genentech, Inc.

Tutorials
Izabella Peszek
Sanofi-Aventis
and
Alfredo Rojas
Merck & Co., Inc

Technical Techniques
Jim Johnson
and
Neil Howard

FDA Compliance:
Electronic Submission & Validation
Steve Yao
Amgen Inc
and
Susan Fehrer
BioClin, Inc.

Public Health Research
Diana Williams
Stat-Tech Services, LLC
and
Jeff Chafin
GlaxoSmithKline

Statistics & Pharmacokinetics
Patricia Cerrito
University of Louisville
and
Josh Horstman
Eli Lilly

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

PharmaSUG 2006 Dates to Remember

Registration Fees

Abstracts and first drafts due	December 5, 2005	On-site Registration	\$525
PharmaSUG registration opens	February 6, 2006	Regular Registration	\$425*
Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa Registration opens**	February 6, 2006	Early Registration	\$375*
		Presenter rate	\$275*
Final Papers due	February 13, 2006		
Early Registration ends	April 14, 2006		
Regular Registration ends	May 12, 2006		

Notes –

*a \$50 will added to the above rates for Paper (non online) registrations.

On-line registration will be available by Feb. 6,.2006 at www.pharmasug.org/2006

**The special room rate for the Hyatt conference hotel ends May 5, 2006 or on an EARLIER date when rooms are sold out. In past years, rooms have sold out.

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