

PHARMASUG 2007



Happy New Year from PharmaSUG!

Welcome from our PharmaSUG 2007
Conference Co-chairs:
Richard Read Allen and Cindy Song

Denver, Colorado will be the host city for PharmaSUG 2007, which will be held at the Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center (<http://denverregency.hyatt.com/hyatt/hotels/>), from June 3 through June 6. Plan to attend!!!

Nicknamed “the Mile High City”, Denver sits high above sea level. As an interesting fact, when you climb up to the State Capitol, you're precisely 5,280 feet above sea level when you reach the 15th step. Denver enjoys 300 days of annual sunshine – that's more than San Diego and Miami Beach. Mild weather, outdoor recreation, exciting nightlife, tantalizing restaurants, history & culture, lots of shopping, and world class attractions make Denver one of the most desirable cities in the world.

The Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center was newly opened in December 2005 and is centrally located in downtown Denver. Many business and entertainment districts are within walking distance, including the 16th Street Mall, LoDo, Larimer Square and Coors Field. The hotel offers a wide array of amenities including elegantly styled guestrooms with grand beds and flat-screen TVs, and an extensive health club. In addition, PharmaSUG attendees will enjoy free high-speed internet access in their guest rooms, as well as a guaranteed rate of \$180.00 per night from June 1 to June 8.

Cindy Song and Richard Allen, serving as your Academic and Operations Chairs, along with many others, will be very busy over the next months planning the conference. We hope that this conference will be the most successful one yet.

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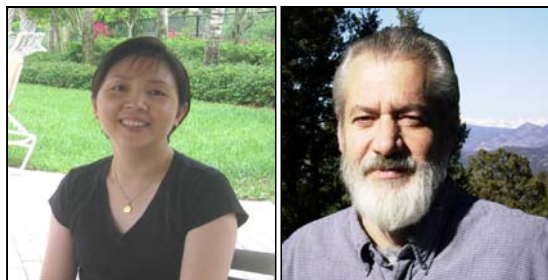
We are planning pre- and post- conference training sessions, and two and a half days of paper presentations, many from industry-seasoned professionals, as well as great poster displays. We will have an Exhibit and Demo room, with many vendors and SAS representatives available to answer questions.

The Section Chairs are working hard to line up exciting presenters, both experienced and first-timers. The popular Hands-On Workshop Section will again be featured in 2007. SAS will be lending us laptop computers, and presentations are by invitation only. Also, the Management Section that made its debut last year will continue in 2007. In addition, there will be more coverage on CDISC related topics in the FDA Compliance Section.

Richard and Cindy must thank the Conference Committee, as without these very dedicated people who volunteer their time and expertise, there would be no conference. Margaret Hung and Jim Edgington will prepare for their 2008 conference Co-Chair responsibilities by taking the roles of Registrar and Publications Coordinator, respectively. Margaret also serves as PharmaSUG Treasurer. Craig Brelage will assist Margaret as Assistant Registrar. Ellen Brookstein will plan the excellent meals that we have come to associate with PharmaSUG conferences. This year, MaryAnne Hope will assist Diana Williams

in organizing the Pre- and Post- Conference Seminars. They are working hard to line up great seminars given by many well-known industry presenters. Brian Shilling and Ellen Brookstein will coordinate the Game Night - an exciting and enjoyable event that has attracted many participants since its inception. Also, Jennifer Lester and Brenda Bishop will serve ably as Sponsor & Vendor Coordinators. Jacques Lanoue, Jacque Thibault and Dan Downing will again coordinate Media & Materials, which includes all of the PharmaSUG posters around the conference area. We have two Event Coordinators to plan fun events for us in Denver, Greg Nelson and Matt Becker. Iza Peszek and Freddie Paino will serve as Volunteer Coordinators - please volunteer and make their jobs easier! (as an added incentive, there will be a Volunteer party one evening) We have a new Webmaster, Michelle Langston, this year. She has created a wonderful brand-new look for our website, and we have now more information on it than ever before! Please visit the site www.pharmasug.org and explore what PharmaSUG has to offer. Our wonderful logo and other graphics have been designed by Kimberly Riddell. And also, how can we thank Michael Smith of SAS enough for being our liaison? We so appreciate his time, dedication, and expertise. Elaine Dempsey will again serve as the Newsletter Editor, together with Nancy Brucken (doing double duty, serving also as a Section Co-Chair); without their help, you would not be reading this newsletter!

From the Planning Meeting luncheon held in Bonita Springs, Florida, we had many volunteers who agreed to serve in various capacities. Our 2007 Section Co-Chairs are: Paul Slagle, Alissa Ruelle, Mario Widel, Guowei Wu, Cecilia Mauldin, Jack Schoemperlen, Sandra Minjoe, James Wu, Susan Fehrer, Thiru Satchi, Neil Howard, Matt Becker, Laura DiTullio, Jian Fang, Jeff Chafin, Nancy Brucken, Patricia Cerrito, Josh Horstman, Syamala Ponnappalli, Jim Johnson, Mal Foley, and Eunice Ndungu. We look forward to seeing you in Denver in early June!



Cindy Song and Richard Read Allen

All about Denver
By Richard Read Allen

The city of Denver sits at the foot of the Rockies on the high plains. Denver has a mild, dry and semi-arid climate averaging 300 days of sunshine annually and less than 16 inches of precipitation. Due to Denver's dry relative humidity, summer is delightful, with average temperatures in the 80's. Though the city is relatively flat and easy to get around, the mountains are not far away for your outdoor enjoyment before and/or after the conference.

The conference hotel sits one block south of the 16th Street Mall, a shopping and entertainment area. A free shuttle travels the length of the mall allowing easy travel within the downtown area. Larimer Square at the east end of the mall contains many boutiques, restaurants and cafes and can be accessed via the shuttle or a short 6-block walk from the hotel.

Just north of the Larimer Square area is Lower Downtown or Lodo. This is an area of brewpubs, cafes, sports-bars and Coors Field where the Colorado Rockies play baseball. To the west of Larimer Square is the Pepsi Center where the Colorado Avalanche hockey and Denver Nuggets basketball teams make their homes. A schedule of games will be placed on the website if any of these teams are playing during the conference week. On the east end of the 16th Street Mall, also a six-block walk from the hotel is the Civic Center Park. The city-county buildings are on the western end of this park and the state capitol building, where one can stand at one mile high on the 15th step, sits on the eastern end. For those attending pre-conference seminars or arriving early, the Civic Center Park hosts the Capital Hill People's Fair, an Arts and Crafts festival, the weekend prior to the conference. Please see www.peoplesfair.com for more information. The new Denver Art Museum is a short walk from Civic Center park. (www.artsataltitude.com)

About 15 miles west of downtown Denver, the Rocky Mountains begin their rise from the plains. At the base of these mountains is the city of Golden, home of the Coors Brewing Company. Just south of Golden is the town of Morrison where the Red Rocks Amphitheater is located (www.redrocksonline.com). This world-famous outdoor natural amphitheater is the venue for many big-name concerts. A schedule of events during the conference will be posted on the website.

A little to the northwest of Golden in the foothills of the Rockies, are the old mining towns of Blackhawk and Central City where casinos are located with limited stakes gambling. Bus travel to these cities is available from Denver. About 75 miles up I-70 from Golden is the ski country. The resorts of Keystone, Breckenridge, Copper Mountain and Vail are all easily accessible and have many summer outdoor activities such as golfing, mountain biking, horseback riding, fishing and hiking available. It's possible that the Arapahoe Basin ski area will still be open for skiing.

Plan to attend PharmaSUG 2007 in Denver, June 3-6, and come early and/or stay late and enjoy what the region has to offer. Please check the website, www.pharmasug.org, often for updates on things to do in Denver while you're at the conference.



Poster presenter at PharmaSUG 2006 in Florida

PharmaSUG 2006 in Review by Mal Foley

PharmaSUG 2006, co-chaired by Matt Becker and Malachy (Mal) Foley, was held in Bonita Springs, Florida at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa from Sunday, May 21 through Wednesday, May 24, 2006. Nearly 600 attendees came from 9 countries.

The conference was packed with ample learning opportunities for all the participants no matter what their learning style. There were 4 concurrent sessions with over 150 papers in 11 different sections, plus panels, posters, workshops, seminars, live demonstrations, exhibitions, ability to speak directly to SAS developers as well as networking with peers.

The new Management section included papers on Metrics, Employment and, of course, Managing programmers and projects. Jim Baker and Pete Yribar did a great job initiating this new section. For the second year, we had a Public Health Research section, which included papers in Epidemiology, Health Economics and Outcomes Research. Jeff Chafin and Diana Williams were the successful overseers of this section.

The attendance at the conference was so large that the conference hotel was completely filled and 4 overflow hotels and shuttle buses had to be contracted. As a result of the high attendance, the 2007 conference hotel will be much larger. As usual, we had wonderful food throughout the conference, thanks to our Meals Coordinator, Ellen Brookstein.

After a full day of learning, the conference attendees could unwind with any of the many hotel amenities. On Monday night, we had our 2nd Annual Game Night where many conference attendees joined us for courtyard volleyball, a floating golf hole chip challenge and/or the 'no money exchange' Texas Hold 'Em poker tournament. All in all, PharmaSUG 2006 was a vibrant exchange of valuable information.

Thanks for an excellent conference, Mal and Matt!



Take advantage of Hands-On Workshops at PharmaSUG 2007

Best Paper Awards from PharmaSUG 2006

Coder's Corner

Building Stronger Axes for Your SAS Graph Wagons

- *Don (Dongguang) Li, NCIC-CTG*

Quote Me On This: How To Make SAS Talk Database

- *Paul D Sherman, self*

Data Management

External Data Utility, a SAS Application to Manage Data from Acquisition to Database Release

- *Margaret Hung, GlaxoSmithKline*
- *Mohit K Goel, Analysts International*
- *Sheila M Moody, Smith Hanley Consulting*

Posters

Enhancing RTF Output with RTF Control Words and In-Line Formatting

- *Lori S Parsons, Ovation Research Group*

Manipulating Plot Area When Using CALL EXECUTE to Create Multiple Graphs

- *Brandon Graham, PPD, Inc.*

Developing and Managing a SAS Macro Library

- *Margaret K James, Merck & Co.*
- *Carolyn Maass, Merck & Co.*
- *Virginia Redner, Merck & Co.*

Public Health Research

De-Identification of Clinical Trials Data Demystified

- *Jack Shostak, Duke Clinical Research Institute*

Statistics & Pharmacokinetics

Sample Size Calculation and Timeline Estimate for Progression-Free Survival

- *Chung-Kuei Chang, Pinnacle Resources Group*

Tutorials

Simple Test of Hypotheses for the Non-statistician

- *Art Carpenter, CA-Occidental Consulting*

Best Papers (cont'd)

Technical Techniques

Call Execute for Everyone!

- *Daniel J Boisvert, HCRI*

"DO NOT EDIT BELOW THIS LINE" (Configuring SAS to work for you)

- *Kim R Truett, KCT Data, Inc.*

An easy, concise way to summarize multiple proc compares using &SYSINFO

- *Lexter S Fennell, PPD*

Management

How to Get Promoted: Planning for Career Growth

- *Sandra Minjoe, Genentech, Inc*

HIRE Power in the Pharmaceutical Industry

- *Neil Howard, Amgen*

Applications Development

DIFFTREE: A Macro to Compare Corresponding Files under Two Directory Trees

- *Andy E Barnett, PPD Inc.*

SAS, GNU & Open Source: MinGW Development Tools and Sample Applications

- *Brian Fairfield-Carter, PRA International*
- *Stephen Hunt, PRA International*
- *Tracy Sherman, PRA International*

Mapping Clinical Data to a Standard Structure: A Table Driven Approach

- *Nancy Brucken, i3 Statprobe*
- *Paul Slagle, i3 Statprobe*

Congratulations!



Greetings from our European colleagues at PHUSE 2006

PhUSE Conference 2006

By Kevin Kilminster

PhUSE (Pharmaceutical Users Software Exchange) 2006 was held October 9th through October 11th, 2006 in the beautiful city of Dublin, Ireland. Following the inaugural event last year, this second successful conference brought together over 300 programmers, statisticians and managers from the pharma industry, representing over 80 companies and 14 countries.

The conference had three parallel streams of presentations with the main focus on the use of software in the pharmaceutical industry. Presentations ranged from simple, but useful, programming tips to the latest on integrating available technology with industry requirements, e.g. SAS, SPlus, ETL Studio, Microsoft .NET and CDISC. Between presentations there was the opportunity to wander around the demo and exhibition area where CROs, solution providers and software vendors featured their products and solutions.

Personal highlights of this years conference included Technical and Coding Solutions streams, Tutorials and the ever popular Coders' Corner – not forgetting the fabulous tour of the Guinness Brewery on Monday evening.

The conference closed on Wednesday with a panel discussion based on the use of graphics within data reporting with panellists Philip Holland from Holland Numerics Ltd, Dave Smith from SAS, Joel Hoffman from Insightful and Richard Pugh from Mango Solutions. Greg Nelson from ThatWave Technologies chaired the panel, which included numerous contributions from the floor and lots of good-natured debate.

Overall attendee feedback suggests that this year's PhUSE built on last year's success, so if this whets your appetite to experience a European user group meeting we'd be delighted to see you at Lisbon 2007!

Introducing the PharmaSUG 2007 Section Co-chairs

Applications Development

Paul Slagle, I3 Statprobe
and
Alissa Ruelle, PharmaNet Inc.

Coders Corner

Mario Widel, Eli Lilly & Co.
and
Guowei, Merck & Co.

Data Management

Cecilia Mauldin, Abraxis
And
Jack Schoemperlen, Amgen

Management

Neil Howard, Amgen
and
Matt Becker, Pharmanet

FDA Compliance

Electronic Submission &

Validation

Sandra Minjoe, Genentech
and
James Wu, Sanofi-Aventis

Posters

Laura DiTullio, GE Health
and
Jian Fang, Sanofi-Aventis

Hands-On Workshops

Susan Fehrer, BioClin, Inc.
and
Thiru Satchi, TS Consulting

Public Health Research

Jeff Chafin, GSK
and
Nancy Brucken,
I3 Statprobe

Tutorials

Mal Foley, U of NC
and
Eunice Ngundu, Merck

Technical Techniques

Syamali Ponnappalli,
Pharmanet
and
Jim Johnson, Consultant

Statistics and Pharmacokinetics

Patricia Cerrito, U of Louisville
and
Josh Horstman, Eli Lilly



Fun at PharmaSUG 2006

Gaming at PharmaSUG

By Brian Shilling

For many years now SASBowl has been the game of choice for our Monday night extracurricular activity. However, recently, the popularity and enthusiasm for the game has begun to wane. An executive decision had to be made! So, SASBowl is no longer on the activity list.

We haven't eliminated the gaming altogether though. At the 2006 meeting we started the Texas Hold-Em night and it was a huge success! Many conference attendees turned out and manned the tables. Prizes were given to the top three winners and we all had a terrific time!

We are holding the Texas Hold-Em tournament again in Denver at the 2007 meeting. The top three prize amounts are going to be increased! If you haven't heard of Texas Hold-Em poker game, below is the basic structure of the game¹.

1. The betting structure can vary. Sometimes antes are used, but most games start with two players to the left of the dealer placing out a predetermined amount of money so there is an initial amount to get things started. This is called *posting the blinds*.
2. The dealer shuffles up a standard deck of 52 playing cards.
3. Each player is dealt two cards face down. These are called your hole or pocket cards.
4. Then there is a round of betting starting with the person to the left of the two who posted the blinds. This round is usually referred to by the term *pre-flop*.

Gaming at PharmaSUG (continued)

5. The amount a player can bet depends on what kind of game it is.
6. Much like most games of poker, players can call, raise, or fold.
7. After the betting round ends, the dealer discards the top card of the deck. This is called a *burn card*. This is done to prevent cheating.
8. The dealer then flips the next three cards face up on the table. These cards are called *the flop*. These are communal cards that anyone can use in combination with their two pocket cards to form a poker hand.
9. There is another round of betting starting with the player to the left of the dealer.
10. After the betting concludes, the dealer burns another card and flips one more onto the table. This is called the *turn card*. Players can use this sixth card now to form a five card poker hand.
11. The player to the left of the dealer begins another round of betting. In many types of games, this is where the bet size doubles.
12. Finally, the dealer burns a card and places a final card face up on the table. This is called the *river*. Players can now use any of the five cards on the table or the two cards in their pocket to form a five card poker hand.
13. There is one final round of betting starting with the player to the left of the dealer.
14. After that, all of the players remaining in the game begin to reveal their hands. This begins with the player to the left of the last player to call. It's called the *showdown*. Players use a combination of their pocket cards and the community cards to form a poker hand.
15. The player who shows the best hand wins!

The PharmaSUG Gaming Commission (really just Ellen Brookstein and Brian Shilling) wish to thank everyone who helped out last year with getting the game off the ground and keeping it running smoothly: Steve Pearce (Amgen), Diane Foose (GSK), Pete Yribar (Genentech) and Jim Edgington (Threshold Pharmaceuticals). Please be sure to check your conference brochure or schedule to find the time and place of the game. Attendees wishing to participate should plan to sign up early – the seats go quickly!

See you in Denver – and bring your poker face!
<http://www.texasholdem-poker.com/beginnersintro.php>

Getting to know our PharmaSUG 2007 conference co-chairs

Richard Read Allen
Operations Chair

Richard Read Allen has been using SAS software since 1981 while in graduate school at Montana State University. After leaving school, he continued his SAS career as a statistician/programmer at the National Center for Toxicological Research in Jefferson, Arkansas. In 1994 he moved to Evergreen, Colorado and started Peak Statistical Services, an affiliate member of the SAS Alliance.

Richard has presented at PharmaSUG, SUGI, NESUG, WUSS and the local Denver SUG. He has volunteered at PharmaSUG since 1999 and has been a Session Coordinator, Section Chair, Publications Coordinator and Academic Chair.

Cindy Song
Academics Chair

Cindy Song resides in New Jersey where she is an assistant director and programming therapeutic area head in the Biostatistics and Programming department at Sanofi-Aventis, a leading global pharmaceutical company. She has been programming in SAS since 1995 when she started working at Merck & Co., Inc.

Cindy has presented at PharmaSUG and still remembers her very first presentation. She has served as a Section Chair, Session Coordinator, Paper Judge, and Publications Coordinator during the past 6 years.

Visualize PharmaSUG!



Dates to Remember

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| PharmaSUG registration opens | February 5, 2007 |
| Hotel registration opens | February 5, 2007 |
| Copyright Grants due | February 16, 2007 |
| Final Papers due | February 26, 2007 |
| Early Registration ends | April 20, 2007 |
| Hotel Reservation cut-off date | May 11, 2007 |
| Regular Registration ends | May 25, 2007 |
| PharmaSUG 2007 | June 3-6, 2007 |

PharmaSUG is the Pharmaceutical Industry SAS Users Group consisting of professionals worldwide who use SAS software in their work. It is a non-profit organization whose primary purpose is to provide a forum for the exchange of information and the promotion of new ideas concerning SAS software as it relates to clinical research and the pharmaceutical industry. The group is not affiliated with SAS Institute in any way.

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Elaine Dempsey and Nancy Brucken, Newsletter editors