



PharmaSUG 2009

Portland, Oregon • May 31 - June 3

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PharmaSUG 2009 Co-chairs



Ellen Brookstein and Syamala Ponnappolli

Plan Now for PharmaSUG 2009

By: Ellen Brookstein

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:
 - [Testing and Validating SAS Programs in an FDA Regulated Environment](#)
 - [CDISC De-mystified: An Introduction to CDISC](#)
 - [Insights into ADaM](#)
 - [Quick Results With SAS/GRAPH® Software](#)
 - [SAS & XML](#)
- Texas Hold 'em Poker and Ping Pong tournaments, and for the first time, relaxing Yoga classes
- The **Hilton Portland & Executive Tower** hotel is located in the heart of **Portland, Oregon's** city center and only a block away from the [MAX Light Rail system](#) providing access to many of Portland's premier attractions. MAX also provides transportation to and from the **Portland International Airport** in just 30 minutes as well as to surrounding cities. For the second time, we have over 10K sq. ft. as our SAS demo room and vendor exhibit. More space means more room for more exhibit activities.

- Take advantage of Oregon's **tax free** shopping at many nearby shops and malls.
- Check out the link to tourist information on our website – waterfalls, wineries, gorgeous coastline, Chinese gardens and history museum, plus much, much more!
<http://www.travelportland.com/visitors/>

What To Do While You Are in Portland

There are many attractions in Portland 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.

Most importantly, join the Portland Rose Festival! You will be there in the heat of the festival. Check out this website <http://www.rosefestival.org/> for events calendar. Tall ships, fireworks, parades, tours - to name a few of the endless festivities. It is going to be a blast.



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

PharmaSUG 2008 Report by PhUSE Organizers

By: John Hirst and Dirk Spruck

Since the beginning of PhUSE there have been close ties with PharmaSUG. The model of the PhUSE conference followed the model of the PharmaSUG conference and members from the PharmaSUG executive committee, like Richard Allen and Diana Williams, were extremely helpful with their advice when PhUSE started planning their first conferences. This year PhUSE steering committee members John Hirst and Dirk Spruck accepted PharmaSUG's invitation and attended their conference in Atlanta.

The PharmaSUG conference committee under the leadership of the academic chair Sandra Minjoe and the operations chair Margaret Hung did an excellent

job organizing another great conference with over 150 presentations, 576 participants, and with amazing 226 first time attendees. Most participants came from the US/Canada and only less than 20 participants were from Europe. The topics presented during the 3 day conference were similar to the topics presented at PhUSE, which shows that we all face the same challenges in our jobs.

Throughout Saturday and Sunday before the conference there was the opportunity to participate in pre-conference workshops on various topics like CDISC, SAS ODS, macro programming, validation, and compliance. This year 12 workshops were offered with a total of over 320 participants. The actual conference then started Sunday evening with a dinner, the opening session, and the keynote speech by Dave Handelsman on "Life Sciences and Analytics" within SAS. Because PharmaSUG has the status of a SAS User Group conference the keynote is traditionally given by a senior SAS representative.

On Monday morning the presentations started in four parallel streams. In addition hands-on workshops were offered in a fully equipped learning center and SAS offered presentations on special topics in the demo and exhibition area.

The exhibition area was huge with 22 exhibitors. Pharmaceutical companies, contract research organisations, software and solutions providers and specialist recruitment companies were all represented. SAS Institute filled nearly half the space, with individual stands demonstrating various SAS products such as SAS V9.2, SAS Drug Development and SAS JMP and providing the opportunity to discuss the products with the experts. SAS also had exhibition stands for education and publishing, offering the opportunity to discuss SAS training needs and SAS certification and to browse and buy books from the SAS publishing portfolio.

The posters were displayed in the exhibition area as well. Tuesday afternoon SAS sponsored a mixer and Dirk used the opportunity to distribute flyers for "Pharmaceutical Programming", which generated a lot of interest for the new journal.

This year's fun event was the ping pong and a poker tournament on Monday evening. Both were well attended but many people took also the opportunity to have dinner with colleagues and friends or to explore the city. The PharmaSUG conference hotel was located in the business district of Atlanta within walking distance to the Centennial Olympic Park, the Coca-Cola Museum and the Georgia Aquarium, the biggest aquarium in

the world. Right across the street was the Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel, which is one of the tallest hotels in the world, and which offered a great view over the city. Next door's Atlanta Marriott Marquis wowed with a stunning 143 m high atrium. Because of its airport and hotel infrastructure Atlanta is definitely a conference hub. At the same time as PharmaSUG there was a national volleyball tournament and a volunteer conference with several thousand participants each.

The conference concluded on Wednesday with the closing session, during which the best paper awards were announced and various prizes were awarded. Next year's conference chairs Syamala Ponnappalli and Ellen Brookstein gave an outlook on the "green" conference city of Portland, Oregon, where PharmaSUG will take place from May 31st to June 3rd 2009.

We congratulate the organizers on a successful conference and we are looking forward to a continued relationship with our friends at PharmaSUG.



PharmaSUG 2008 in Review

By: Sandra Minjoe

Atlanta welcomed PharmaSUG on June 1-4, 2008 for our annual conference. It was a warm few days for the almost 600 attendees from 10 different countries.

We were quite pleased to meet a whopping 226 attendees who had never attended a PharmaSUG conference before. Ten of these were our student scholarship award winners, which you can read about in a special article found in this newsletter.

The conference included many learning opportunities, including 2 full days of Hands-On Workshops, 25 posters, more than 100 presentations in 11 sections, 2 panel discussions, and 10 pre- and post-conference seminars. If that wasn't enough, there were live demos, exhibitions, and the chance to speak directly with SAS® developers. There were also many networking opportunities, and a position referral

manual allowed attendees to do a little career research.

**PharmaSUG
2008**

Of course we managed to have some fun, too! Game night had a huge turnout, this year with both poker and ping pong tournaments. Many of our attendees took advantage of the terrific downtown location to check out the nearby Coke Museum, Georgia Aquarium, or CNN.

Thanks to all the volunteers who put in many hours of work to make the conference a success, including the executive committee, conference committee, section chairs, authors/presenters, session coordinators, bag stuffers, and registration desk workers. Special thanks this year goes out to those in the Hands-On Workshop room who weathered through a myriad of technical difficulties on Monday morning. In case you didn't know, the conference is put on every year by volunteers – we literally couldn't do it without you!

New Journal Pharmaceutical Programming

By: Dirk Spruck

There is a new journal called "*Pharmaceutical Programming*" with focus on programming in the regulated environment of the pharmaceutical and life sciences industry. Although initiated in Europe *Pharmaceutical Programming* is poised to become a global forum for programmers in our industry. It will serve as a knowledge repository and a forum for exchange between programmers working around the world.

Many of the members of the journal's editorial board are long time supporters and presenters of the PharmaSUG community. In 2008 the first two issues of *Pharmaceutical Programming* were authored and two more issues are scheduled to be published in 2009. The journal is available in print as well as online on the Ingenta website. Please check out the table of contents of the first two issues of the journal:

<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/maney/pha>

The journal is peer-reviewed and will be published two times a year. It is shipped for free to all members of the PhUSE (**Pharmaceutical Users Software Exchange**) society. Articles are also freely available on the Ingenta website to all PhUSE members. PhUSE has currently over 500 members worldwide.

For future issues of *Pharmaceutical Programming* we are looking for new and updated material. You can find a non-exclusive list of relevant topics on the journal's website:

<http://www.phuse.eu/pharmaprog.aspx>

Sample copies of *Pharmaceutical Programming* will be available at this year's PharmaSUG conference in Portland. If you are interested in writing an article or if you have questions regarding the journal please contact the editor-in-chief Dirk Spruck (dirk.spruck@phuse.eu) or any member of the editorial board.



PharmaSUG 2008 Best Papers

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

Applications Development

Brian Fairfield-Carter, ICON Clinical Research;
Stephen Hunt, ICON Clinical Research, Canada –
“Fast and Efficient Updates to Project Deliverables:
The Unix/GNU Make Facility as a Cross-Platform
Batch Controller for SAS”

Ronald Fehd, Centers for Disease Control –
“SmryEachVar: A Data Review Routine For All
Memnames in a Libname”

Wei Zhang and Bob Cui, Sanofi-Aventis – “Automate
Compiling Clinical Appendix Tables and Listings into a
Review Package”

Coder's Corner

Nancy Brucken, i3 Statprobe – “One-Step Change
from Baseline Calculations”

Lara Guttadauro, i3 Statprobe – “Keeping your macro
robust: Does your dataset exist, does your variable
exist?”

Michael Stout, DePuy Orthopaedics, a Johnson
Johnson company – “Table Numbers - Chaos to
Simplicity”

Data Management & Quality

Stetson Line and Scot Bahlavooni, Genentech, Inc.
– “Identifying and Surfacing Data Changes for
Effective Quality Management

Management

Hui-Ping Chen and Mark Matthews, Eli Lilly and
Company – “Quality Oversight Measured By
Complexity”

Posters

John R Iwaniszek, Natalie Walker, Laura J Lovette
, Stat-Tech Services, LLC – “%CHCKFRQS - A Macro
Application for Generating Frequencies for QC and
Simple Reports”

Hamed Zahedi, University of Louisville – “Text Mining
to Summarize Complicated Datasets Containing
Structured, Nominal Data”

Xinping Wu, Baxter Healthcare Co. – “Simple and
Quick Methods to Verify Subject's Scheduled Visits
Compliance”

Public Health & Research

R. Scott Leslie, Medimpact Healthcare Systems, Inc.
– “The Use of Propensity Scores and Instrumental
Variable Methods to Adjust For Treatment Selection
Bias”

Regulatory Submissions and Standards

Bhavin A. Busa, Sheila Vince, Jameelah Aziz, Cubist
Pharmaceuticals Inc. – “Validating CDISC SDTM-
Compliant Submission-Ready Clinical Datasets with
an In-House SAS® Macro-Based Solution”

Carol R Vaughn and Greg Ridge, Sanofi-Aventis –
“Experiences Submitting CDISC SDTM and JANUS
Compliant Datasets”

Statistics & Pharmacokinetics

Shuping Zhang, Jane Liao and Xingshu Zhu, Merck
& Co., Inc. – “A SAS Macro for Single Imputation”

Paul Juneau, Aditya Sikka, Jiawei Qiao and Michelle
Gayari, MMS Holdings, Inc. – “Approximate
Simultaneous Nonparametric Confidence Intervals
for All-Pairwise Comparisons and Comparisons with
a Designated (Control) Group in a One-Way Layout
Using the SAS® System”

Technical Techniques

Michael C. Doherty and Xiaochun Zhang, i3 Drug
Safety – “Automate the process of removing highly
correlated covariates for multivariate logistic
regression”

David Franklin, Independent Consultant – “Adding
Control to Your Data Using SAS System and Dataset
Options”

Tutorials

Wei Cheng, Isis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. – “ODS STATISTICAL GRAPHICS 101”

Lawrence Rasouliyan, ICON Clinical Research – “The Logic and Logistics of Logistic Regression”



PharmaSUG 2008 Scholarship Winners

Thanks to a generous grant from SAS, PharmaSUG was once again able to award scholarships to deserving graduate students to enable them to attend the 2008 conference. Elizabeth Ceranowski from SAS was instrumental in getting word out regarding the scholarships to colleges and universities around the country, while PharmaSUG scholarship coordinators Pam Butler and Nancy Brucken reviewed applications from 24 students, and selected the following 10 winners:

- Barbara Chalef, Kennesaw State University
- Suman Duvvuru, University of Tennessee
- Xiaoyun Li, Florida State University
- Kwame Nyarko, University of Iowa
- Sudeshna Paul, Purdue University
- Elisa Priest, North Texas State University
- Mariana Toma-Drane, University of South Carolina
- Weizhen Ying, Vanderbilt University
- Hamed Zahedi, University of Louisville
- Yufan Zhao, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

These students had their registration fees covered by SAS, along with a free ½-day pre- or post-conference seminar provided by PharmaSUG, and PharmaSUG and SAS paid for their hotel rooms, as well. In exchange, the students assisted at the conference by volunteering as session coordinators or presenting papers, and sat together at the Opening Session, so they could get to know each other. As one of the students observed after the conference, “I was happy to get to know so many people there- this was the most useful resource I brought back from the conference. The notes and

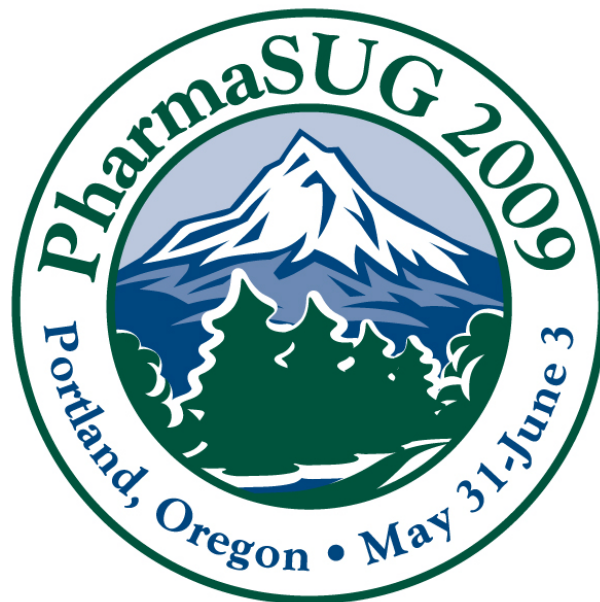
programs I learned from the workshops are very useful for my research, too.” One student, Hamed Zahedi, received a Best Paper award in the Posters section for his poster, “Text Mining to Summarize Complicated Datasets Containing Structured, Nominal Data.”

PharmaSUG and SAS plan to continue the scholarship program at the 2009 conference. Scholarship applications will be available for download on the PharmaSUG website, and scholarships will again include the conference registration fee, a free 1/2-day pre- or post-conference seminar, and 3 free hotel nights during the conference period. The application deadline is March 31, 2009.



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 Carol Matthews or Lynn Mullins (contact information at www.PharmaSUG.org).



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Meet Our PharmaSUG 2009 Conference Co-chairs



Syamala Ponnappalli

resides in sunny southern California where she is the Associate Director of Statistical Programming at ICON Clinical Research, a global contract Research Organization. She has been programming in SAS since 1992 when she started working at RTI International. Syamala has been in the CRO industry for 13 years. Syamala has presented at PharmaSUG and has been a Section Coordinator, Paper Judge, Section Chair, and Publication Coordinator during the past 8 years. Syamala enjoys classical music and watching college basketball and professional football (Go Panthers!!)



Ellen Brookstein

has been active in PharmaSUG since co-chairing with Brian Shilling in San Francisco in 1998. She has spent the last ten years helping PharmaSUG earn its reputation as the conference with the best food by taking on the banquet coordinator role. Ellen is also known for having started the Philadelphia University SAS Certification for the Pharmaceutical Industry program which she continues to direct. Currently she is a Manager of Clinical Programming at Octagon Clinical Research in Wayne, PA. In her spare time she works hard for the Montgomery County Democratic Committee and is on the Board of Directors of Montgomery County Habitat for Humanity. She is also Super Nana to her 3 fantastic grandchildren and very proud of her youngest daughter, Rachel, who is a sophomore at UPitt.

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 Portland on May 31, 2009!



PharmaSUG 2009 Dates to Remember

Abstracts and first drafts due	December 30, 08
Registration opens	February 2, 2009
Hilton Portland Reservation Open	Now
Final Papers due	March 2, 2009
Early Registration ends	April 24, 2009
Hilton Portland Conference Room Rate Cut-off *	May 9, 2009
Regular Registration ends	May 22, 2009

*The special room rate for the Portland conference hotel ends May 9, 2009 or on an EARLIER date when rooms are sold out. In past years, rooms have sold out early.

PharmaSUG 2009 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 2009 Conference Committee

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

Academic Chair

Syamala Ponnappalli
ICON Clinical Research

Publications Coordinator

James Wu
sanofi-aventis

Treasurer

Cindy Song
sanofi-aventis

Registration Desk Coord

Jacques Lanoue
MannKind Co.

Meals Coordinator

Brian Shilling
Octagon Research
and
Ellen Brookstein
Octagon Research

Newsletter Editors

Mal Foley
Contractor/Trainer
and
Cindy Song
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Iza Peszek
Independent Professional Services
and
Freddie Paino
Quintiles

Pre/Post Conference Seminar Coordinators

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Hung Consulting LLC
and
Cecilia Mauldin
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Media & Materials Coordinators

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CVS Caremark
and
Joshua Horstman
First Phase Consulting, Inc.

Operations Chair

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Registrar

Elaine Dempsey
Omnicare Clinical Research

Assistant Registrar

Matt Becker
PharmaNet

Volunteer Coordinators

Carol Matthews
United BioSource
and
Lynn Mullins
StatKing Consulting

SAS Liaison

Michael Smith
SAS Institute Inc.

Scholarship/Speaker Sharing

Richard Allen
Peak Statistical Services

Event Coordinator

Kim Truett
KCT Data, Inc.
and
Xiaohuang Li

PharmaSUG 2009 Section Chairs

Applications Development

Mary Anne Hope
BCBS of Arizona
and
Gopal Rajagopal
Merck & Co., Inc

Hands-On Workshops

Susan Fehrer
BioClin Inc
and
Alissa Ruelle
PharmaNet

Regulatory Submissions & Standards

Eunice Ndungu
Merck & Co., Inc
and
Cindy Lee Hsiu-yung
Eli Lilly

Coder's Corner

Sandy Paternotte
PPD, Inc.
and
Meera Kumar
sanofi-aventis

Management

Pete Yribar
Genentech, Inc.
and
Jackie Lane
ICON Clinical Research

Public Health Research

Richard Allen
Peak Statistical Services
and
Paul Slagle
United BioSource

Data Management & Quality

Laura DiTullio
GE Healthcare
and
David IZard
Octagon Research

Tutorials

Nancy Brucken
i3 Statprobe
and
Xiaohui Wang
Novartis

Statistics & Pharmacokinetics

Guowei Wu
Merck & Co., Inc
and
Xingshu Zhu
Merck & Co., Inc

Posters

Jeanina Worden
Pacific Data Designs, Inc
and
Helen Wang
Merck & Co., Inc.

Technical Techniques

Eric Larson
LPD
and
Jim Johnson
ReSearch Pharmaceutical
Services

PharmaSUG 2009 Special Volunteers/Support

FDA & Industry Recruiter

Sandra Minjoe
Genentech, Inc.

Copyright Coordinator

Sandy Paternotte
PPD, Inc.
and
Lin Yan
Merck & Co., Inc.

Game Night Coordinators

Kim Truett
KCT Data, Inc.
and
Pete Yribar
Genentech, Inc.

AV Coordinator

Diana Williams
Independent Contractor

**Volunteer Party
Coordinator**

Diana Williams
Independent Contractor

Photographer

Diane Carow
Quintiles

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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