



PharmaSUG 2005

Volume 1, Issue 1

November 2004

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**Greetings from
our PharmaSUG
2005 conference
co-chairs**

**Nancy Brucken
and
Susan Fehr**

Plan Now for PharmaSUG 2005

By Susan Fehr

Phoenix, Arizona will be the host city for PharmaSUG 2005, which will be held at a resort property, Pointe South Mountain Resort (www.pointesouthmtn.com), from May 22nd through May 25th. Plan to attend!!!

Nicknamed “The Valley of the Sun,” the Phoenix metropolitan area is located in the heart of the Sonoran Desert, surrounded by mountains. Daily temperatures will be in the 90s and low 100s in May, though the humidity is very low and the heat more tolerable.

Phoenix is home to a number of professional sports franchises: the NBA Phoenix Suns, the NFL Arizona Cardinals, the MLB Arizona Diamondbacks, and the NHL Phoenix Coyotes.

Pointe South Mountain Resort is six miles or a ten minute ride from Sky Harbor International Airport- just a short shuttle ride away. The resort is an all-suite property; each suite has a living area and bedroom, with either a patio or balcony off the bedroom. And, incredibly, we will have the same room rate that we have had for the last two years - \$165/night.

To take advantage of all amenities offered in a resort, there is an additional \$15/room/day resort fee. This fee includes such things as high-speed internet access, access to The Oasis, which is an incredible water park with two eight-story (yes) water slides, a shuttle to the nearby Arizona Mills Mall with 24 movie theaters, including an IMAX, and admittance to the fitness center. Without paying the resort fee, you will still have access to four swimming pools.

Pointe South Mountain also offers a child care program for children ages 4-12, featuring different activities each

day of the week. Please contact the hotel for more information.

Nancy and Susan, 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 one 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, with many vendors, and SAS representatives available to answer questions.

The Section Chairs are working to line up exciting presenters, both experienced and first-timers. And, as a result of comments from the closing session in San Diego, we are offering a new section, Public Health Research, encompassing papers in Epidemiology, Health Economics and Outcomes Research. Based on the feedback we have already received, it promises to be an exciting new section.

The Hands-On Workshop Section, so popular in its debut last year, will this year feature Daphne Ewing and Neil Howard as Section Co-Chairs. Again, SAS will be lending us laptop computers, and presentations are by invitation only.

Nancy and I must thank our Conference Committee, as without these very dedicated people who volunteer their time and expertise, there would be no conference. Matt Becker and Mal Foley will be preparing for their 2006 conference Co-Chair responsibilities by taking the roles of Registrar and Publications Coordinator, respectively. David Izard will be assisting Matt as Assistant Registrar. Margaret Hung serves as PharmaSUG Treasurer. Greg Nelson will again prepare the final CD-ROM of the Conference Proceedings, even while serving as SUGI Chairperson. Ellen Brookstein will be planning the excellent meals that we have come to associate with PharmaSUG conferences. This year, Margaret Hung will also be assisting Sandra Minjoe in organizing the Pre- and Post- Conference Seminars. Brian Shilling repeats as the SAS Bowl Coordinator and emcee – a fun event enjoyed by all. Elizabeth Dennis and Brenda Bishop will again serve so ably as Sponsor & Vendor Coordinators. Elaine Czarnecki and Zhuoye Xu will coordinate Media & Materials, which includes all of the PharmaSUG posters around the conference area. We have two new Event Coordinators to plan fun events for us in Phoenix, Mary Anne Hope and Sarbjit Rai. To take advantage of some of the resort facilities, we are

hoping to sponsor table tennis and sand volleyball tournaments (in the cooler evening hours). Charlie Shipp will be ably serving as A/V Coordinator, a position for which he has volunteered for the last several years, and will be assisted by Bob Graebner. Cecelia Mauldin and Iza Peszek will serve as Volunteer Coordinators – please volunteer and make their jobs easier! (and there is a Volunteer party one evening)

We have a new Webmaster, Malcom Ong, this year. Please visit our website (<http://www.pharmasug.org>) and explore what PharmaSUG has to offer. Our wonderful logo and other graphics have been designed by Kimberly Riddell – isn't the logo great?

And, how can we thank Patsy Harbour of SAS Institute for being our liaison? We so appreciate her time, dedication, and expertise.

Elaine Dempsey is again serving as the Newsletter Editor (and doing double duty as serving also as a Section Co-Chair), assisted by Brian Shilling; without their help, you would not be reading this newsletter!

From the Planning Meeting luncheon held in San Diego, we had many volunteers who agreed to serve in many capacities. Our 2005 Section Co-Chairs are: Craig Brelage, Jennifer Lester, Tyler Cole, Jim Edgington, Syamala Kasichainula, Steve Yao, Richard Read Allen, Ron Simpson, Laura DiTullio, Curt Wehrley, Daphne Ewing, Neil Howard, Elaine Dempsey, Cindy Song, Patricia Cerrito, Guangbin Peng, Jim Johnson, Xiaohui Wang, Alfredo Rojas and David Stokar.

We look forward to seeing you in Phoenix in May!



**Happy PharmaSUG Volunteers
Be One!**

What to do while you are in Phoenix, Arizona

By Elaine Dempsey

Admittedly, Phoenix is not as cosmopolitan as our last two PharmaSUG venues, Miami and San Diego. However, adventure can be found anywhere and Phoenix is no exception. If you are planning to spend a few extra days after the conference, here are some ideas.

Desert Botanical Garden - This unique garden is home to 50 acres of rare and endangered plant life as well as a showcase for the beauty of the Sonoran Desert.

Heard Museum – has been a Phoenix landmark for 75 years. With over 130,000 sq ft of galleries and classrooms, this is the place to learn about the Native culture and art of the region.

Taliesin West – Home and studio of Frank Lloyd Wright and now a National Landmark.

Castles 'N Coasters – If you are into fun and games, the roller coasters and water rides of this amusement park should be very satisfying.

Dude Ranches – If you like horses and fancy yourself in the Wild West, visit one of these guest ranches.

Grand Canyon – Approximately 200 miles north of Phoenix lies one of the natural treasures of the US. Please take the opportunity to visit the Grand Canyon, if you have not yet seen it. It will be an experience you will never forget.

Whatever you do in Phoenix, be prepared for some heat! Temperatures will be close to 100 degrees with no ocean breeze like San Diego and Miami had. But, "Yes, it is a dry heat."

EPSUG is coming soon!

Building on the winning formula of PharmaSUG, a European equivalent is currently being organised for 2005.

Planning started back in April when Stephen Bamford contacted PharmaSUG 2004 chairs, Diana Williams and Richard Allen, to seek their advice and counsel.

Taking time to digest the wealth of information from Diana and Richard, Stephen then discussed the idea with James M^cDermott; founder of Oxford Pharmaceutical Sciences (OPS). An initial draft plan was formed, which led to the inaugural meeting on September 16, 2004 in London. This was a resounding success with representation from most of the major Pharma companies and CROs.

As a result of this overwhelming support, unanimous

agreement was reached to create a Pharmaceutical European SAS User Group. SAS Institute was, of course, represented at the meeting and they confirmed that they are keen to provide maximum support to help make the new event a success.

Plans are now currently in progress for the first three day EPSUG conference to be held in October 2005 in Heidelberg, Germany. The overall vision is that this new annual conference will be held at the same time every year, in varying locations around Europe. Full details on the 2005 conference will be released over the coming months.

For such a venture to be a success, it is paramount that it has the support of the Pharma Industry. Organizers have requested that you start thinking now about any papers you may wish to present since the conference is less than one year away and they will soon be calling for abstracts!

If you would like more information, or if you would like to volunteer to help in the organising of EPSUG 2005, please contact Stephen Bamford at stephen.bamford@pfizer.com.



From left to right: Dave Smith (SAS), Danny Morris (Amadeus), Lawrence Heaton-Wright (Quintiles), Adrienne Jenn (Roche), Stephen Bamford (Pfizer), Tamsin Sargood (GSK), Greg Silva (Biogen Idec), Dirk Spruck (Covidence), James M^cDermott (OPS), John Hirst (Covance), Roy Ward (Novartis) and Kevin Kilminster (Novartis)

Conference with an International Flavor

PharmaSUG 2004 was well represented with people from 14 countries. Zibao Zhang, a biostatistician working for Medifacts International Shanghai Office in China, had the longest trip of all to San Diego.

In order to attend PharmaSUG 2004, Zibao needed to apply for a visa to visit the USA. As part of the visa application process, Zibao needed an invitation from

PharmaSUG to attend the conference. Also, a letter was written to the US Consulate in Shanghai to invite him to the conference. With less than two weeks to spare between Zibao's government interview for his visa and the start of the conference, I was hopeful that the visa application would be approved. And, on the day of the government interview, it was!

Zibao is not a stranger to SAS User Group meetings. There is a Shanghai SAS Users Group meeting that is held every other month (SHSUG – www.shsug.org) which he founded in 2001 and attends as often as his workload permits.



We hope to see Zibao in Phoenix at PharmaSUG 2005

PharmaSUG 2004 in Review

by Diana Williams

No one can say that PharmaSUG 2004, held in beautiful downtown San Diego at the Emerald Plaza Wyndham, was not a huge success... because it was! The final count of 630 attendees from 14 countries around the world and 36 US states enjoyed two and one half days of informative presentations, great food, wonderful fun, meeting old friends and making new ones in the pharmaceutical industry. The 11 pre/post conference seminars had the best attendance ever as new and more advanced topics were offered.

Richard Allen and I opened the conference Sunday evening by welcoming everyone, we presented a summary of the History of PharmaSUG, gave a special thanks to all the corporate sponsors, vendors, conference committee members and volunteers. Then Richard introduced our terrific keynote speaker, Laurie Rose, from SAS Institute who entertained and informed us all. Opening Session was followed by a reception and the terrific Sunday dinner banquet.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning were

packed from early morning until evening with presentations, posters, the SAS Demo and Exhibit room, and Hands-on Workshops. Many of us had a great time Tuesday night at the always entertaining and informative SAS Bowl followed by the pool side Volunteer Party.

Wednesday finished off the conference with a very popular hour long Open Forum discussion of industry standards for data sets followed by Closing Session, which included some fabulous door prizes.

I personally would like to thank my conference co-chair, Richard Allen, for being an excellent listener, planner, and all round great guy! Also my heart felt, very special thanks to the entire conference committee and section chairs who volunteered their time and worked hard not only for months prior to the conference but during the conference as well. Lastly, a huge thank you to those volunteers who pitched in, helped out, and were there to help with anything that needed doing from stuffing conference bags to working the registration desk, helping the section chairs with session coordination and paper judging.

Many, many thanks to everyone who took part in making PharmaSUG 2004 a huge success!



A PharmaSUG sponsored outing at the San Diego Zoo (above) and happy conference goers (below)



And Now We'd like to 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 2004 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



PharmaSUG 2004 Best Papers

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

APPLICATIONS DEVELOPMENT

Nick Paszty, XOMA (US) LLC,
"Building a Powerful Clinical Decision Support System using SAS/IntrNET"

Tim Williams, PRA International,
"Version Control on the Cheap. A User-friendly Cost-effective Revision Control System for SAS"

CODER'S CORNER

Jim Box and Joey Morris, RTI International,
"Backups at the Click of the Mouse"

Dirk Spruck and Monika Kawohl, Covidence GmbH,
"Using SAS to Speed up Annotating Case Report Forms in PDF Format"

DATA MANAGEMENT

Kim Truett, independent,
"A SAS Macro for Rapid Identification of Missing Data Records"

Sandra Minjoe, Genentech, Inc.,
"Use That SAP to Write Your Code" [statistical analysis plan]

FDA COMPLIANCE: ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION & VALIDATION

Sy Truong, Meta-Xceed, Inc.
"Data Standards with and without CDISC"

Michael Harris, Amgen, Inc.,
"Using Cyclomatic Complexity to Assess Test Coverage for SAS Programs"

POSTERS

Yan Lei, GlaxoSmithKline,
"Be Careful When You Merge SAS Datasets"

STATISTICS & PHARMACOKINETICS

Paul Juneau, Pfizer Global Research & Development
"Simultaneous Nonparametric Inference in a One-Way Layout Using the SAS System"

TECHNICAL TECHNIQUES

Hong Zhang, Merck & Co, Inc.,
"%Cox_PH -- An enhancement of SAS Proc PHREG"

Richann Watson, Kendle International Inc.
"Generating Least Square Means, Standard Error, Observed Mean, Standard Deviation, and Confidence Intervals for Treatment Differences Using Proc Mixed"

Best papers continued.....

TUTORIALS

Kirk Paul Lafler and C.E. Shipp, Software Intelligence Corporation
"A Visual Introduction to SQL Joins"

And now a word from our SAS BOWL quizmaster.....

"It's All About Me"

By Brian Shilling

If you were new to PharmaSUG this year, you will have noticed this phrase at the very entertaining and ever popular SAS Bowl.

If you are a PharmaSUG SAS Bowl veteran, you will recognize this phrase as my mantra during the game each year.

SAS Bowl is a game that pits you against your friends and colleagues to test your SAS knowledge as well as your PharmaSUG knowledge. This year we introduced a new format, a format that follows the TV game show Jeopardy. We introduced categories in SAS, PharmaSUG and San Diego. It was a rough start and a bit lengthy but we did finally make it to the finish line with as many laughs and jabs as usual.

There are no rules, unless I decide there are, and I change them as I see fit. It sounds dictatorial (and appears that way at times) but makes for a really great time. Players must keep themselves in check in order to keep their points.

Next year, SAS Bowl will be held in the Kachina/Lantana/Mohave rooms (wouldn't that make a great name?) We have shortened the length and worked out the kinks and the Jeopardy format will be back and stronger than ever!

Be sure to sign up for a team on the message board or just come and enjoy the game!



Here is Brian in action

Try your luck at these SAS Bowl teasers:

1. This is where the value of the macro variables #byval comes from.
2. These are provided to all SAS employees on each Wednesday of the week?
3. True or False: eight underscores ('_____') be a valid SAS variable name?
4. This is the valid character length of a data set name in SAS V9.
5. This is the zip code of the 2005 conference hotel?
6. The resort has 5 of these as a fun activity.

Answers:

1. What is PROC REPORT's by statement?
2. What are M&M's?
3. What is True?
4. What is 40?
5. What is 85044?
6. What are Water Slides?

Everything you would like to know about our PharmaSUG 2005 conference co-chairs

Nancy Brucken hails from Ann Arbor, MI and has been a SAS Programmer for 19 years with 13.5 of those years spent working in the pharmaceutical industry. After spending 12 years at Parke-Davis and Pfizer, she has now found a home at i3 Statprobe. Nancy served as a session coordinator at SUGI for five years before moving over to PharmaSUG where she has served as a Section Chair and Publications coordinator during the last four years. When she is not busy with SAS, Nancy can be found on a volleyball court, a softball field or out canoeing in the woods.

Susan Fehrer resides in New Jersey and is president of BioClin, Inc., an independent consulting company. She has been programming in the SAS System since 1981 starting with version 79.6. Susan has worked for large and small pharmaceutical companies, CROs and biotech companies, both as an employee and a consultant. She also teaches at Philadelphia University as part of the Clinical SAS Programming Certificate Program. Susan has presented at PharmaSUG and has presented pre-conference seminars. She has also served as section co-chair and as registrar of PharmaSUG.

About PharmaSUG....

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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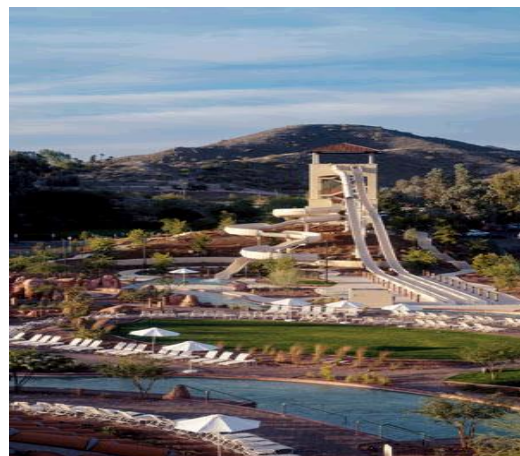
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Please visit our website at WWW.PHARMASUG.ORG

A Volunteer Conference Committee and Section Chairs organize the conference. Anyone interested in volunteering his/her time and services to the organization is encouraged to contact Volunteer Coordinators, Cecilia Mauldin and Isa Peszek.



Phoenix
Here
We
Come!



May 22-25
2005

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PharmaSUG 2005 dates to remember

December 16, 2004	Abstracts due
December 16, 2004	First drafts due
February 7, 2005	PharmaSUG registration opens
February 7, 2005	Pointe South Mountain Resort Registration opens
February 21, 2005	Final Papers due
April 15, 2005	Early Registration ends
May 13, 2005	Regular Registration ends

Registration Fees

On-site Registration	\$500**
Regular Registration	\$450**
Early Registration	\$400**
Presenter rate	\$300**
Government Rate*	\$300**

Note – *Proof of government employment is required to qualify for the Government Rate

**\$50 will be deducted from above rates if you use the PharmaSUG online registration system at

www.pharmasug.org/2005