



Meet the PharmaSUG 2020 Conference Team

The conference committee is comprised of all sorts of people with varying backgrounds. As we continue our series “Getting to Know Your PharmaSUG Committee”, we would like to introduce you to two section chairs. **Derek Morgan** is the section co-chair for Artificial Intelligence and **Sunil Gupta** is the section co-chair Software Demonstrators.

Derek Morgan aka “Mr. Dates & Times in SAS” was born in Philadelphia but moved to St. Louis in 1983 (although he still considers Philadelphia his hometown). Derek loves to travel and tries to take at least one big trip a year with his wife and son. They are currently planning a trip to Italy in fall of 2020 for their 25th anniversary. He also likes trains - both big and small, and his family is building an N-scale (a popular model railway scale) in his basement. Derek has also run a real steam locomotive on the Essex Steam Train and Riverboat (because you don’t drive one, as it follows the tracks). You can run it too at: <https://essexsteamtrain.com/experiences/hand-on-the-throttle/>. Derek’s other loves include snacking on Reese’s Peanut Butter Cups and watching ice hockey, although he admits not being good enough at skating to play. He does have a big wrist shot from playing floor hockey as a kid, though. His favorite hobby has been playing electric bass over the last 40 years, and he has until recently performed in the St. Louis area with several blues bands and famous people. He is now semi-retired from performing because there are fewer bands and it’s difficult to be a live musician. He still goes to jam sessions though and fills in for friends.

Derek had started with SAS back in 1979, using batch processing on punch cards in a statistics class at Washington University in St. Louis. However, he didn’t pursue SAS until 1987, when he dropped out from a PhD in Immunology and Medical Microbiology and turned his computer programming hobby into a career. He got hired at his first job based on his programming background in BASIC and FORTRAN. Derek has spent most of his career creating databases, interactive data entry, and study management tools for academic research using SAS/AF and SAS/FSP, until he landed in Pharmaceuticals. When you happen to meet Derek in person, be sure to ask him about his first day as a SAS programmer, and how he crashed the university’s computing system!

Sunil Gupta was Born in India, and grew up in Greenville, South Carolina, but currently lives in southern California. His interests include hiking, playing tennis and watching science fiction movies while munching on his favorite snack, trail mix.

Sunil’s passion is to explore the efficiencies that SAS can create, by saving time and performing multiple tasks at the same time. In his own words, “After long hours of writing DATA Step to do several tasks, I decided to write Proc SQL code that’s more concise to perform similar tasks; SAS Institute has posted this tip on their website.” Since then, he has been an advocate of, and frequently uses this unique technique to save time. He also loves using SAS to provide intelligent information about data and to act on the data to automatically address issues and data processes.

Apart from his day job, Sunil is currently a part of the CDISC 360 team. He has also written several SAS books including: ‘Quick Results with the Output Delivery System’, ‘Sharpening Your SAS Skills’, ‘Sharpening Your Advanced SAS Skills’, and ‘Clinical Data Quality Checks for CDISC Compliance Using SAS’. In addition, Sunil teaches CDISC and Data Science classes at UCSD and UCLA extension programs. He was also the keynote speaker for a PHUSE SDE in Hyderabad, India in 2018 and the Program Chair for WUSS in 1998.