PhilaSUG

newsletter

Spring 2012 Meeting Announcement

PhilaSUG Spring 2012 Meeting
Wednesday, June 6ᵗʰ

The Philadelphia Area SAS Users Group Spring Meeting will be on Wednesday, June 6, 2012 at 1:00 PM, and will be hosted by The Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, School of Public Health, Drexel University, Hahnemann Campus, New College Building, 245 N. 15ᵗʰ Street, Philadelphia, PA. A map and driving instructions are available later in the newsletter.

Registration will begin at 12:15 PM and the meeting will commence at 1 PM. Dues for the year are $30. There are no other fees for attending PhilaSUG meetings. We will accept cash, but a check is preferred. If you are a student, faculty, or staff at Drexel, fees for this meeting will be waived. A tip – to breeze through registration – bring in the completed registration form found in the back of this newsletter to the meeting, otherwise registration can still be simplified if you attach a business card to a check or $30 exact cash, as there is less writing and it will be more legible. Please do not mail in your registration fee beforehand. Receipts will be available at registration time.

Important - In order to obtain an actuate food count every attendee must RSVP with a YES response by June 3ʳᵈ at http://event.pingg.com/PhilaSUGSpring2012. An early response of maybe is helpful for planning purposes only.

Agenda

PhilaSUG Spring Meeting
You're on your own for lunch

12:15-1:00	Registration
1:00-1:10	Opening Remarks
1:10-2:00	David Horvath - Lazy Programmers Write Self-Modifying Code OR Dealing with XML Ordinals
2:00-2:20	Amos Shu - Utilize Dummy Datasets in Clinical Statistical Programming
2:20-2:35	Open Forum
2:35-3:05	Break, Posters, and light refreshments
3:05-3:55	Brian Shilling - The 5 Most Important Clinical SAS® Programming Validation Steps
3:55-4:15	Steve Kirby - Introducing your CDISC SDTM and ADaM Data with a Reviewer's Guide: A Practical Overview
4:30-4:35	Closing Remarks

Posters will be on display throughout the meeting. Authors will be present alongside their posters during the break for questions and discussions.

Abstracts and bios are found later in the newsletter.

Directions to Meeting Site

Drexel University, Center City Hahnemann Campus
New College Building
245 N. 15th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102
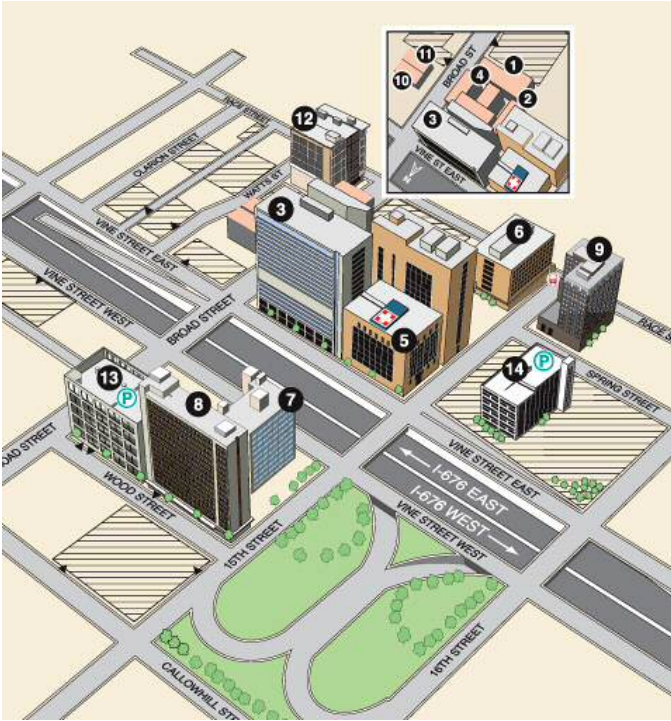
LEGEND
5.   New College Building (Meeting location)
14.   Philadelphia Gateway Parking Garage
Download the Campus Map and Directions [PDF]

From New York and the Northeast Corridor

- Take the New Jersey Turnpike south to Exit 4 (Camden/Philadelphia).

- Take NJ-73 North to NJ-38 West and follow signs to Philadelphia and the Ben Franklin Bridge.

- Cross the Ben Franklin Bridge, and stay in the left lane, following signs for I-676 West.

- Proceed on I-676 West to the Broad Street exit.

- Take the Broad Street exit and proceed south on 15th Street to Race Street. The New College Building is located on the corner of 15th and Vine Streets.

From the North

- Take I-95 South to the I-676/Central Philadelphia exit.

- Proceed on I-676 West to the Broad Street exit.

- Take the Broad Street exit and proceed south on 15th Street to Race Street. The New College Building is located on the corner of 15th and Vine Streets.

From the West

- Take the Pennsylvania Turnpike to Exit 326 (Valley Forge).

- Proceed on I-76 East to I-676 East.

- Take the Broad Street exit and proceed south on 15th Street to Race Street. The New College Building is located on the corner of 15th and Vine Streets.

From the Airport and Points South

- Take I-95 North to I-676 West (left-hand exit).

- Take the Broad Street exit and proceed south on 15th Street to Race Street. The New College Building is located on the corner of 15th and Vine Streets.

Public Transportation

For the latest schedules and information, please visit:

- SEPTA – Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority

- Amtrak

- New Jersey Transit

- PATCO – Port Authority Transit Corporation

From Philadelphia International Airport

Take SEPTA's R1 train to Suburban Station (16th and JFK Boulevard), which is four blocks from Drexel's Center City Hahnemann Campus.

Amtrak

Amtrak trains stop at 30th Street Station (30th and Market Streets). From there take SEPTA's Market-Frankford Line (the Blue Line) one stop to 15th and Market Streets. Then walk three blocks north to Drexel's Center City Hahnemann Campus.

SEPTA Regional Rail

All Regional Rail trains stop at Suburban Station (16th and JFK Boulevard), which is four blocks from Drexel's Center City Hahnemann Campus.

SEPTA Subways and Trolleys

The Market-Frankford Line (the Blue Line) and all trolley trains (the Green Lines) stop at 15th and Market Streets. From there, walk three blocks north to Drexel's Center City Hahnemann Campus. Alternatively, take the Broad Street Line to the Race-Vine stop.

About Our Host

DREXEL UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Experiential learning is a hallmark of Drexel University. Founded in 1891 in Philadelphia, Drexel is a top-ranked, comprehensive university recognized for its focus on experiential learning through co-operative education, its commitment to cutting-edge academic technology and its growing enterprise of use-inspired research. With more than 23,500 students, Drexel is the nation's 14th largest private university and ranked sixth among national universities in the most recent *U.S. News & World Report* list of "Up-and-Comers."

The School of Public Health provides hands-on opportunities for students and faculty, coupled with the rigor of an incredibly high quality academic environment. Because of our unique community-collaborative approach to education, our graduates leave the Drexel School of Public Health – founded as a "school without walls" – having already made a meaningful difference in thousands of lives.

Complementing this experiential focus is a rigorous academic program that provides students with a comprehensive grounding in the five core areas of public health:

- Epidemiology
- Biostatistics
- Community Health & Prevention
- Health Management & Policy
- Environmental & Occupational Health

The mission of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics (EB) is to apply, develop, and teach approaches to understanding the distribution and determinants of disease in populations in order to generate knowledge that can be used to improve public health.

The **epidemiology** program focuses on descriptive and analytic approaches used to understand the complex causes of major public health problems and to develop effective strategies to prevent them.

The **biostatistics** program focuses on the development and application of theory and methods in the collection, analysis and interpretation of data used in public health and other biomedical sciences.

The School of Public Health offers multiple options for scholastic achievement, including an MS in Biostatistics, MPH in Biostatistics and/ or Epidemiology, PhD in Epidemiology and an online Certificate in Biostatistics and Epidemiology. Both the MS and MPH programs require hands-on projects that give students practical applications which complement their rigorous coursework. Any questions regarding these programs can be directed to Mary Genevieve Carty, MHEd, Educational Program Coordinator for the Dept. of Epidemiology & Biostatistics at the Drexel University School of Public Health: Mary.Carty@Drexel.edu or 215-762-2518.

Thank You to our Host

The PhilaSUG Executive Committee wishes to thank Mary Genevieve Carty, MHEd, Educational Program Coordinator, Dept. of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, School of Public Health, Drexel University for making the meeting possible. In addition, we wish to thank Karin LaPann and Meenal (Mona) Sinha of the PhilaSUG Executive Committee for their efforts to coordinate this meeting.

Host Sites Wanted

We continuously seek host sites for future PhilaSUG meetings. There is not a lot of work involved, and it is a great way to put your company on the local SAS map. We need your help with this. If your company would like to host a meeting, within reasonable geographic proximity to Philadelphia, PhilaSUG would be grateful if you would contact Randy Noga at President@PhilaSUG.org.

E-mail Announcements

PhilaSUG-L is a low volume, announcement-only e-mail notification service provided free of charge to all members who wish to subscribe. In order to sign up for this service, you need only send a blank e-mail message to: PhilaSUG-L-subscribe@onelist.com. Note that you can subscribe as many times with as many different e-mail addresses as you wish to have the e-mail sent to; e.g., home and office.

PhilaSUG Web Site

Our site on the World Wide Web always contains the latest information concerning upcoming meetings, SAS training and seminars, links to SAS related hot topics, and local SAS job opportunities.

Visit us regularly at: http://www.PhilaSUG.org

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Future Meetings and Events

Next PhilaSUG Meeting

PhilaSUG Fall 2012 Meeting
October 17th
Hosted by Endo Pharmaceuticals
100 Endo Boulevard
Chadds Ford, PA 19317

November 11 - 14

You are invited to be a Presenter - PhilaSUG constantly seeks individuals who wish to participate actively in our meetings by presenting various SAS topics in the form of delivered papers or posters. This is a great way to share your knowledge with others, to brush up your presentation prior to delivery at NESUG or SUGI or some other major conference, and to gain confidence as a speaker. Short technical SAS related articles are also desired for inclusion in the Newsletter. If this is of interest to you, please use the online abstract submission form found on our web site. Presentations can be from a few minutes to 50 minutes. If you wish to participate, the deadline for the winter meeting is August 5th. Your abstract must be submitted online on our web site.

Paper Abstracts

Utilize Dummy Datasets in Clinical Statistical Programming
Amos Shu, Endo Pharmaceuticals

Due to collectability or other issues, some clinical trial reporting tables like physical examination, demographic characteristics, and some efficacy tables usually need to be partially made up in some way in the real clinical practice world. Creating dummy datasets is an effective way to improve programming efficiency in these situations. This paper discusses six ways to utilize dummy datasets in clinical statistical programming.

Amos Shu has been working in the US Pharmaceutical Industry for 10 years. He is an experienced SAS user with both Advanced and Base SAS Certificates. His SAS experience ranges from Clinical Trial to Commercial Analytics. He holds Masters Degrees in Business Administration and Medicinal Chemistry.

The 5 Most Important Clinical SAS® Programming Validation Steps
Brian C. Shilling, Shilling BioClinical Services

Validation of a SAS programmer's work is of the utmost importance in the pharmaceutical industry. Because the industry is governed by federal laws, SAS programmers are bound by a very strict set of rules and regulations.

Reporting accuracy is crucial as these data represent people and their lives. This presentation will give the programming 5 concepts of validation that can be instantly applied to everyday programming efforts.

Nate Freimark has worked at Omnicare Clinical Research for the past 12 years and is currently a Lead programmer and resident expert in CDISC AdAM database conversions. He has worked on CDISC compliant database conversions since the FDA guidance in 2003.

Brian C Shilling has over 17 years of experience in SAS programming in various therapeutic areas including Oncology, Diabetes, neurosciences, gastrointestinal (Adult and Pediatric,) infectious diseases, urology, musculoskeletal, diagnostic imaging, etc. Brian has an excellent working knowledge of clinical trials conducted in phases I to IV with emerging experience in Phase 0 (pharmacokinetic) studies. He has strong skills in SAS programming using both base SAS as well as analysis procedures. He has worked closely with biostatisticians to plan the creation and programming of analysis datasets and study analysis deliverables with respect to analysis tables, listings and supportive figures. Brian communicates well with his team members and management, statisticians and data management with respect to study design, data collection and issues and study deliverables. He has experience in programming SDTM and ADaM domains as well as training staff regarding CDISC standards. Brian is the co-author of the SAS Press publication Validating Clinical Trial Data Reporting Using SAS.
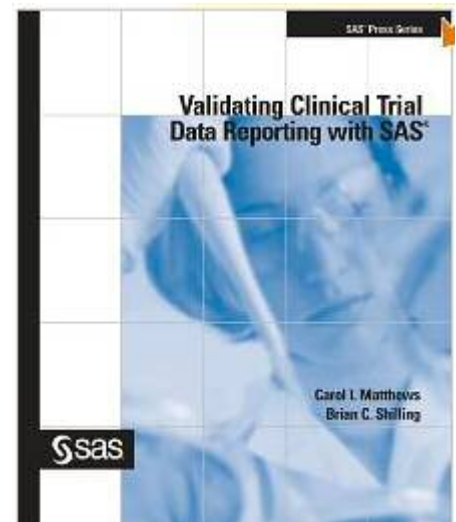
Introducing Your CDISC SDTM and ADaM Data with a Reviewer's Guide: A Practical Overview
Steve Kirby, ViroPharma Inc.

One of the key goals of submitting CDISC data supported by define data documentation to the FDA is to enable efficient review. Combining CDISC SDTM or ADaM data with a define document nicely supports review, but leaves out some content (such as an overview of custom and supplemental domains and an explanation of any conformance issues) needed for efficient use of the data by a reviewer. The FDA has increasingly emphasized that useful content not covered by the data or define document should be added to the submission package in a "Reviewer's Guide," and has provided some general guidance on what is expected. The author will highlight types of information that should be considered for inclusion in a Reviewer's Guide and will share examples of how they can be effectively formed.

Steve Kirby, JD, MS, Manager of Data Standards Implementation at ViroPharma, has over a decade of industry programming experience. His current focus is on optimizing delivery of electronic data and documentation that complies with CDISC standards.

Lazy Programmers write Self-Modifying code OR Dealing with XML file Ordinals
David Horvath, PNC

The XML engine within SAS is very powerful but it does convert every object into a SAS dataset with generated keys to implement the parent/child relationships between these objects. Those keys (Ordinals in SAS-speak) are guaranteed to be unique within a specific XML file. However, they restart at 1 with each file. When concatenating the individual tables together, those keys are no longer unique.

We received an XML file with over 110 objects resulting in over 110 SAS datasets our internal customer wanted concatenated for multiple days. Rather than copying and pasting the code to handle this process 110+ times, and knowing that I would make mistakes along the way – and knowing that the objects would also change along the way, I created SAS code to create the SAS code to handle the XML.

I consider myself a Lazy Programmer. As the classic "Real Programmers…" sheet tells us, Real Programmers are Lazy.

This session reviews XML (briefly), SAS XML Mapper, SAS XML Engine, techniques for handing the Ordinals over multiple days, and finally discusses a technique for using SAS code to generate SAS code.

David is an IT Professional who has worked with SAS, off and on, since the late 1980's using it as a data processing (4GL/ETL) and analysis tool. He has presented at PhilaSUG previously and for other user groups and organizations (workshops and seminars) in Australia, France, the US, and Canada. His Masters is in Organizational Dynamics from UPENN, has consulted with CHERP at the VA hospital, and currently works for PNC Bank in Risk Analytics Infrastructure at the Wilmington DE location. He has several books to his credit (none SAS-related) and is an Adjunct Instructor covering IT topics.

Poster Abstracts

An Alternative Approach to Process Many-to-many Merge for Two Large Datasets
Fang Chen, Wenyu Hu, Merck Research Labs, Merck & Co., Inc., Upper Gwynedd, PA

When combining two datasets to create a many-to-many merged outcome, a simple and straightforward approach is to use SQL Cartesian product. However, Cartesian product is very resource intensive, especially as it requires a lot of memory to execute the procedure when combining large datasets. In an application when one dataset has multi-million observations, the Cartesian product procedure may not be feasible due to memory and disk space limitation. In this presentation, we propose an alternative approach to conduct a many-to-many data merge. We use the SAS macro language to (1) create arrays for the smaller of two datasets for merging, (2) use data step to process the many-to-many merge, and (3) conduct necessary computation within the data step without actually saving the overall merged dataset. This method will be illustrated with an example to calculate exact rejection probability in a hypothesis test with multi-dimensional binary distributions.

Fang Chen is a Scientific Programming Analyst at Merck & Co., Inc.

Philadelphia Area SAS User Group (**Phila*SUG***)
Membership Form

To speed through registration complete this form (please print) and return it to the registration desk of any PhilaSUG meeting (do **NOT** mail it). Checks should be made payable to PhilaSUG. Our membership year runs from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31.

This is a __ new, __ renewal or __ update / correction.

Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

_____

City: _____ STATE: ____ Zip: _____

Day Time Phone Number: (   ) _____ - _____

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(Be sure to clearly distinguish a dash from an underscore)

For updates / corrections, please list your old / incorrect information below: