PhilaSUG

Philadelphia Area SAS Users Group

Winter '01 Meeting Announcement

PhilaSUG Winter '01 Meeting
Monday, March 5, 2001

The Philadelphia Area SAS Users Group Winter Meeting will be on Monday, March 5, 2001 at 1:00 PM, and will be hosted by Sanofi-Synthelabo at the Wyndham Valley Forge Hotel.

Registration will begin at 12:15 PM and the meeting will commence at 1 PM. Please try to arrive early to register. This is the first meeting of 2001 so all who attend must register and pay dues. Dues for the year are $20. There are no other fees for attending PhilaSUG meetings. We will accept cash, but a check is preferred. If you are a student and present a current matriculation card fees will be waived. Registration can be made a lot easier if you attach a business card to a check or $20 bill as there is less writing to do and it is more legible.

Employees of Sanofi-Synthelabo, our sponsor for this meeting, will be given courtesy admission but we do request that they register for mailing list purposes. Please do not mail in your $20 registration fee before hand as this creates unnecessary paper work. Receipts will be available at registration time.

PLEASE READ THIS!!!!

Snow Cancellation Number

Important note: If the weather suggests cancellation please call 610-889-6451 after 10 AM on the day of the meeting. We'll leave a message there if the meeting is cancelled.
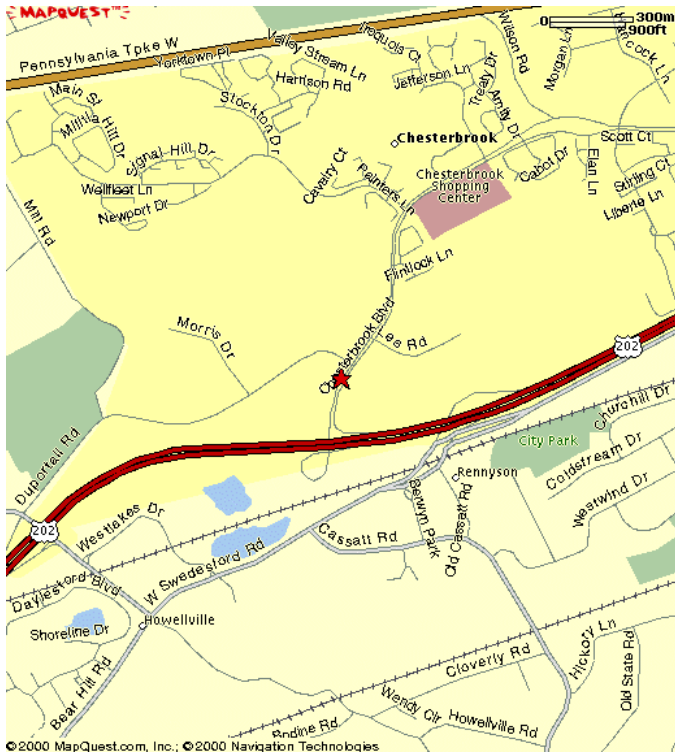
Directions to Wyndham Valley Forge

Wyndham Valley Forge
888 Chesterbrook Blvd.
Wayne, PA 19087

610-647-6700

Directions:

➢ From Route 202 heading north from West Chester:
   Take the exit for Chesterbrook/Paoli (Route 252).
   Turn left at the end of the exit ramp onto Swedesford Road.
   Make the first right onto DuPortail Road.
   Continue until DuPortail Road ends and intersects Chesterbrook Blvd.
   The hotel is at this intersection, straight through the traffic light.

➢ From Route 202 heading south from King of Prussia:
   Take the Chesterbrook Boulevard Exit.
   Turn right at the end of the exit ramp onto Chesterbrook Blvd.
   Turn right at the first light into the hotel parking lot.

➢ From Philadelphia:
   Take Route 76 West to Route 202 South.
   Follow directions above for Route 202 heading south from King of Prussia.

➢ From PA Turnpike East or West:
   Take Exit 24 Valley Forge.
   Get onto Route 202 South.
   Follow directions above for Route 202 heading south from King of Prussia.

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Map to Wyndham Valley Forge

Thank You to our Host

The PhilaSUG Executive Committee wishes to thank Gary Cunningham, Elizabeth Bond, and the Sanofi-Synthelabo R&D Biostatistics Department, for making the meeting possible. In addition, we wish to thank Robert Nicol of the PhilaSUG Executive Committee for his efforts to coordinate this meeting.

About Sanofi-Synthelabo

Sanofi-Synthelabo's North American pharmaceutical R&D headquarters is at 9 Great Valley Parkway Malvern, Pennsylvania 19355. They are the U.S. subsidiary of Sanofi-Synthelabo, the global healthcare company. In the U.S., as it is in other major markets, the principal area of business of Sanofi-Synthelabo is ethical pharmaceuticals. Their core therapeutic areas are cardiovascular disease and thrombosis; diseases of the central nervous system; cancer; and internal medicine. They market Plavix® (clopidogrel bisulfate), Avapro® (irbesartan), Primacor® (milrinone lactate injection), Hyalgan® (sodium hyaluronate) and Prenate Advance®, among other products.

The foundation of Sanofi-Synthelabo's growth is their highly regarded Research and Development (R&D)

program. They currently have more than 50 compounds under development, including 26 in Phase II and III.

The primary users of SAS in Sanofi-Synthelabo R&D are the statisticians and programmers within the Biostatistics Department. The Biostatistics Department is truly a global department, as individuals are located in both the U.S. and in Europe. The U.S. Biostatistics group consists of approximately 35 statisticians and programmers who support pre-clinical and clinical drug development. The slightly larger European Biostatistics group is split between Paris and Montpellier, France.

Agenda

12:15	1:00	Registration
1:00 -	1:15	President's opening remarks
1:15 -	2:00	*SynCoder: A SAS/AF Application for Implementing MedDRA Coding in Clinical Trials*
		Daphne Ewing,
		Synteract, Inc
2:00 --	2:15	Break, refreshments
2:15 --	2:45	SAS Macros Re-visited*: An Animated System Road Map*
		Saad Anbari, Christiana Care Health System
		Russ Lavery
		Musa Nsereko, Christiana Care Health System
2:45	3:15	*SAS Macros Re-visited – Part 2*
3:15 -	3:30	Break, refreshments
3:30 -	3:45	Open Forum
3:45 -	4:15	*SAS Macros Re-visited – Part 3*
4:30		Meeting adjourns & Dinner!!!!!

Light refreshments will be served during breaks.

Abstracts are found later in this newsletter.

The speakers and the PhilaSUG Executive Committee will adjourn for dinner at a nearby restaurant when the meeting concludes. You are invited to join us. The location will be announced at the meeting.

President's Message

President's Message
PhilaSUG Winter `01 Meeting

Greeting to all SAS Software users in the Philadelphia area! It feels like it has been a while since I offered greetings to you, and it has! We were not able to meet this past fall, so we have not gathered since our Spring '00 meeting last June. The PhilaSUG Executive Committee is thus particularly excited about the upcoming gathering, and we hope you are too! Time for another "PhilaSUG fix", as it were. Time to see your colleagues in the field whom you have not seen in a while, and catch up on what's happening SAS-wise, in our area. One thing I bet many are curious about is to see how companies in our area are adopting the new "e" technology offered by SAS in version "8e". How involved are local companies really becoming with ecommerce, and what kinds of roles are SAS tools playing in that effort? Ask around at the breakouts; you might be surprised. However, our program for the Winter '01 meeting is not focused on e-commerce, so you will have to do some digging during the breaks. But that's what they are for, right?

Our Winter '01 meeting is being hosted for the first time by Sanofi-Sythelabo, whose North American pharmaceutical R&D headquarters is located in Malvern. Gary Cunningham of Sanofi-Sythelabo and I have spoken from time to time about his company hosting a meeting, and I am glad to say the dialog is finally coming to fruition. Sanofi-Sythelabo is a major user of SAS Software, with many SAS programmers on their staff, and I am sure you will be interested in learning something about them at the meeting.

Our program has something for our pharmaceutical members, and something for everyone. First, Daphne Ewing, Managing Director, Northeast Operations of Synteract (local office in Ambler) will present a paper about a SAS/AF application her company has developed that implements the new MedDRA international medical terminology for coding adverse events in clinical trials. Many pharmaceutical companies are laying plans now to adopt this new dictionary, and I know the topic is timely. And, of course, Daphne is one of our local SAS stars, who has presented at PhilaSUG several times, always with much audience satisfaction.

Our second paper presentation is actually an "author triumvirate" who will present a three-part paper about the SAS macro language. They have created an animated map of the macro language, and use it throughout the presentation to show the relationship between the different components of the language and discuss its details. The authors are Saad Anbari, Russ Lavery, and Musa Nsereko. Saad and Musa hail from Delaware where they both work as biostatisticians for Christiana Care Health System. And Russ Lavery is an SAS consultant whose accomplishments include Certification as a SAS programmer in two areas, and membership on the PhilaSUG Executive Committee.

And, be sure to check out the abstracts for the poster presentations, too. We are planning on no less than 4 posters at the meeting! You will know two of our presenters, Shi-Tao Yeh and Rick Aster, from previous poster presentations at PhilaSUG. And Anne Horney is joining us as a presenter for the first time, from the VA Medical Center, Perry Point, Maryland. Welcome Anne!

I hope you can attend the meeting and hear and see the excellent information to be presented, as well as the information that surfaces more informally at the breaks and at dinner afterwards. As usual, any PhilaSUG member is welcome to join the presenters and Executive Committee members at dinner nearby after the meeting. Try it some time. It is a great way to integrate yourself further into the local SAS community.

I hope to see you and speak with you at the meeting.

Barry R. Cohen
President, PhilaSUG

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If you have questions about PhilaSUG, desire to become active on the Executive Committee, or wish to submit any articles, abstracts, etc. please E-mail us at mailto:Executive.Committee@PhilaSUG.org

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 Barry Cohen (610) 649-8701 or E-mail mailto:Secretary@PhilaSUG.org.

Presenters Wanted

You are invited to be a Presenter - PhilaSUG constantly seeks individuals who wish to actively participate 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 e-mail us at mailto:WebMaster@PhilaSUG.org. Presentations can be from a few minutes to 50 minutes. If you wish to participate in the Spring '01 Meeting, please submit an abstract and bio by April 3, 2001. Your abstract must include the desired length of presentation and specification of audio/visual needs.

Articles to be included in the newsletter should be submitted by May 1, 2001. Newsletter articles will also be published on our website.

The PhilaSUG-L ListBot E-mail Distribution List

PlilaSUG-L is provided free of charge to all subscribers who wish to join this E-mail notification process. In order to sign up for this service, you need only send a blank E-mail message to: PhilaSUG-L-subscribe@onelist.com. If you go to the ListBot web site, you will be asked to fill in your profile. It is your decision to enter as much personal information as you wish to provide. The only datum that is necessary is your E-mail address, although your name is useful. Note that you can subscribe as many times with as many different E-mail addresses as you wish to have the list sent to.

Any information you enter will neither be displayed nor given out to any party.

We, the PhilaSUG Executive Committee, utilize this service to inform its members of upcoming events related to PhilaSUG activities or noteworthy issues regarding PhilaSUG or SAS. This service is a low-volume announcement-only list.

Do not ask the PhilaSUG-L ListBot administrator to change your password, your E-mail address, or cancel your subscription, as he is unable to do so. Only you, the subscriber, can do these tasks.

Future Meetings and Events

SUGI 26 will be April 22-25, 2001 in Long Beach, CA

Pharma*SUG* will be May 20-23, 2001 in Boston, MA

DiaMond*SUG* will be May 30-June 1, 2001 in Chicago, IL

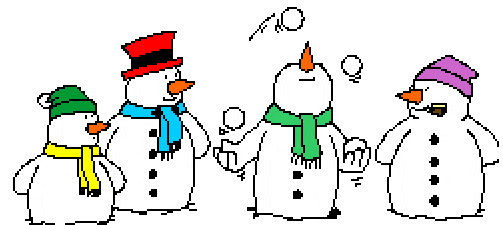NESUG 2001 will be Sept. 30 – Oct. 3 in Baltimore, MD

SUGI 27 will be April 14-17, 2002 in Orlando, FL

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

Paper Abstracts

SynCoder: A SAS/AF[a] Application for Implementing MedDRA Coding in Clinical Trials

Deborah Testa, Seven of Nine Systems, Studio City, CA
Russell Holmes, Synteract, Inc., Encinitas, CA
Daphne Ewing, Synteract, Inc., Ambler, PA

This paper presents SynCoder, a Version 7/8 SAS/AF® application that implements the new MedDRA international medical terminology for coding adverse events in clinical trials. The presentation will be accompanied by a brief demonstration of three of the application's modules: batch coding using a synonyms data set and a data mart of MedDRA hierarchical terms, an efficient search engine for browsing the hierarchies, and on-line coding of terms requiring human decision making. The application demonstrates the superiority of new features (both in the user interface and in the component technology) in SAS/AF software in Version 7 and 8 over earlier versions.

Daphne Ewing is Managing Director, Northeast Operations at Synteract, Inc. located in the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania area. Synteract is a Clinical Research Organization based out of San Diego, California. Daphne holds a B.S. in Computer Science Engineering from the University of Virginia. She has been working in the pharmaceutical data processing area since 1987, including SAS programming on a variety of platforms since 1989. Daphne is a member of the NorthEast SAS Users Group, Inc. Executive Committee, and has presented at the local, regional and national level.

SAS Macros Revisited: An Animated System Road Map

Saad Anbari, Christiana Care Health System
Russ Lavery, Independent Consultant
Musa Nsereko, Christiana Care Health System

Macros are a powerful tool for the SAS professional. To obtain full benefit of macro processing, the user must understand how the different components of the macro system relate to each other, and to the rest of the SAS system. We review SAS macro processing via a simple animated map that shows the relationship between the different components and discuss in detail the following: Components of the SAS system map, tokenization, transfer of "control" among the system components during SAS processing, macro assignment & resolution, macro compilation & execution, resolving the double &

Macro functions that interface with the datastep, local and global symbol tables, macro timing issues, iterative & conditional macro execution

Macro system errors with special emphasis on how an understanding of timing and scope issues can be useful when writing and/or debugging macros systems

Saad Anbari is currently employed as a biostatistician with Christiana Care Health System. He has used SAS for over 3 years. He is a Certified SAS Programmer.

Russ Lavery has used SAS for fifteen years. He has experience in several SAS modules and has passed two SAS certification exams.

Musa Nsereko is currently employed as a biostatistician with Christiana Care Health System using SAS software for clinical outcomes analysis and health insurance claims analysis. He has been using SAS for over 5 years and is a Certified SAS Programmer.

Poster Abstracts

Creating a Consolidated Report from Several SAS® Outputs: Using DATA NULL and PUT Statements

Anne Horney and Gail F. Kirk
Cooperative Studies Coordinating Center
VA Medical Center, Perry Point, Maryland

We often find it necessary to combine output values from several procedures into one table or page of a report. When we need a p-value from one procedure, and means and standard errors from another and frequencies from a third procedure, the separate pieces of information must be brought together in one DATA step before using PUT statements to print the table. The problem of how to get the data/output/information ready to print is particularly difficult for inexperienced programmers. We will show examples using several different methods such as PROC FREQ, PROC MEANS, PROC UNIVARIATE and DATA steps. In addition to creating PUT tables these methods can also be used to create delimited ASCII files that can be merged into word processing or spreadsheet packages.

Collapsing Adverse Experiences Records

Shi-Tao Yeh, EDP Contract Services, Bala Cynwyd, PA

One of the most challenging tasks for SAS® programmers in the clinical studies is to collapse the adverse experiences (AE) records. The AE records are identified as either collapsible or non-collapsible. The collapsible AE records can be categorized into two types. The first type is a set of multiple records with the same AE onset date. If the AE record has a missing end date, this indicates the event is continuing. The second type shows the records with a time consecutive sequence. This paper provides two SAS macros for AE records collapsing, one for each type of collapsible AE records.

The SAS product used in this paper is SAS BASE®, with no limitation of operation systems.

Using Style Sheets to Format SAS â Output Web Page Layout

Shi-Tao Yeh, EDP Contract Services, Bala Cynwyd, PA

SAS® Web Publishing Tools are SAS macros that enable users to convert data files or output files into HTML format and display it on Web browsers. A style sheet is a set of rules that format the web page layout. This paper discusses SAS Formatters, and how to implement style sheets to format SAS output to a web page. SAS Formatting Tools version 1.1 does not support style sheets. In addition, a SAS macro is provided in this paper for users using SAS software without style sheets support to be able to implement style sheets for a web publishing task.

The SAS product utilized in this paper is SAS BASE®, with SAS Formatters installed on a Unix platform.

Calendar and Clock Elements

Rick Aster

Time, as we measure it, is a linear effect. This means that time can be measured numerically by picking a unit of measurement and a point of reference, and this is the way SAS measures time. However, time is also understood in terms of cycles, such as years, months, weeks, and hours. These units form the elements of the clock and the calendar. This poster describes the SAS features for working directly with the various calendar and clock elements in order to work with the many ways in which dates and times of day are commonly written.

Rick Aster is a SAS programmer whose dedication and hard work have changed the way the world works with data. In his own work, Aster has applied his SAS programming skills to public finance, drug safety, corporate mergers, insurance, inventory control, biotechnology, and human resources, among many other subject areas. Projects he has worked on include customer data warehouses for some of the world's largest banks and an econometric model to pinpoint the local impacts of global economic changes. In his consulting, teaching, and writing, Aster has always stood for bringing the information power of SAS programming to everyone. His disciplined, creative approach, numerous innovations, and outspoken advocacy have helped to bring SAS programming the recognition it deserves - and have brought Aster recognition as the leading expert in the SAS programming field. Aster lives in a farmhouse in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. He is a musician, distance runner, philosopher, and sports photographer. His new web site, globalstatements.com, features a computer dictionary for SAS programmers. His latest book, Professional SAS Programming Logic, focuses on the general programming and data-handling features of SAS.

The NorthEast SAS Users Group (**NESUG**) will be holding their 14th annual conference this fall, September 30-October 3, in Baltimore, Maryland. An expanded 2½ day format will give attendees more opportunity to hear presentations, consult with Code Clinic experts, tour the SAS demo room, and network with other SAS users. Check the web site, www.nesug.org, for more conference details, to submit an abstract, and to volunteer to participate.

We look forward to seeing you all at NESUG '01.

PhilaSUG

% John Cohen
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