

BASUG Quarterly Meeting Announcement

Want ultimate control of your ODS output? Come and learn how from a SAS Institute ODS author! With three presentations at the March 2010 BASUG Quarterly Meeting, Cynthia Zender, ODS expert and developer, will skillfully and gently demystify ODS. You will learn about Templates, Styles, and Tagsets, and how they work with ODS in general. See the abstracts for further details.

Immediately following the meeting, we will provide an informal light buffet lunch for all meeting attendees. We hope you can stay for this opportunity to network and socialize with your fellow SAS users.

Please note our venue for this meeting!

Topic: *Ultimate Control With ODS*

When: Wednesday, March 10, 2010
8:15 AM – Noon

Where: **Microsoft New England Research & Development Center**

One Memorial Drive
Conference Center First Floor
Cambridge, MA 02142
(857) 453-6000

Note Location

Directions: Please visit: <http://www.basug.org/directionsNERD.html>

How: **Individual, On-Line Registration Required.** No e-mail please.

Please visit: <http://www.basug.org/register.php3>, and register by Monday, March 8th.

*(We have to provide a list of attendees to our host PRIOR to the meeting day.)
If you have not registered on-line by March 8th, you will need to bring a picture ID to show at the door.)*

Contact: If you have questions about the meeting please contact:

Sara Hickson (sara.hickson@yahoo.com) or
Brian Saper (briansaper@yahoo.com)

Agenda

8:15-8:45 Sign-in and refreshments
8:45-9:00 Announcements
9:00-9:50 **Markup 101**
9:50-10:05 Break
10:05-10:55 **Tiptoe Through the Templates**

10:55-11:10 Break

11:10-12:00 **Under the Hood: How to Use the ExcelXP Tagset**

12:00-1:00 **Informal buffet lunch** (provided by BASUG)

Note: Times are approximate.

Please re-visit the BASUG website (www.basug.org) for updated information.

Bio and Abstracts

Cynthia Zender has been with SAS since 1996 as an instructor and course developer. She currently serves as the Curriculum Manager for Report Writing and Output Delivery System education. She has over 25 years of experience programming and reporting with SAS in a number of different industries such as Education, Public Utility, and Telecom. Cynthia is a frequent speaker at SAS Global Forum and at regional SAS user groups. She recently finished two graph related courses and is the co-author of the recently published SAS Press book, *Output Delivery System: The Basics and Beyond* (co-authored with Lauren Haworth and Michele Burlew).

Markup 101

Do you want to know what this "Markup" buzz is all about? Does it surprise you to know that the concept of "marking up" text for computers has been around since 1969? So what's all the excitement about? And what does SAS have to do with it?

Tiptoe Through the Templates

Are you confused about the difference between style templates, table templates, tagset templates, and graph templates? Do you wonder how they're all used with ODS? This presentation provides an overview of all the different ODS template types and how they're used with the Output Delivery System. This presentation will provide an overview and several concrete examples for each template type.

Under the Hood: How to Use the ExcelXP Tagset

This presentation provides a brief overview of the TAGSETS.EXCELXP destination. Then, concrete examples of using the ODS destination, TAGSETS.EXCELXP, will be demonstrated. Programs shown will include: using the ExcelXP suboption list; getting the ExcelXP internal help file to display in the SAS log; creating and naming multiple worksheet files; controlling when a new sheet starts; setting column width defaults; using an INI file to set defaults such as orientation or zoom level; sending Excel formats from SAS so that leading zeroes or decimal places are shown when the file opens in Excel. In addition, some enhancements for the output will be demonstrated, such as performing traffic-lighting, setting column widths, supplying Excel header and footer information, and specifying Excel zoom level. A link to the program code will be given out to attendees.

BASUG Membership

Keep your BASUG Membership up-to-date! Print out a membership form from our website, and bring it with you to the meeting, along with your check. (Please note that we discontinued Corporate Memberships in 2005.) We provide only Individual Membership at \$30 annually, on a calendar year basis. For more information on our membership policy, or to print out a form visit: <http://www.basug.org/basugj.shtml>

Directions to Microsoft New England Research and Development Center

NOTE LOCATION

Please visit: <http://www.basug.org/directionsNERD.html>

BASUG Contacts

Mailing Address:

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P. O. Box 170253
Boston, MA 02117

To email our Webmaster: basugwm@basug.org

BASUG Quarterly Meeting Announcement

Imagine a SAS® world where data merges don't require sorting and where any function you need is at your command. Yes, this is possible. Come to our BASUG meeting and learn new techniques to manipulate your data and create your own functions. This could rock your world.

See abstracts for further details.

But wait, there's more. We will also have 2 Coders Corner presentations to add juicy tidbits to this already meaty program!

This morning BASUG meeting is the first of two BASUG events on May 7, 2010. Consider coming to our afternoon training session as well (separate event). For more information on the afternoon training, click here:

[May 7, 2010 Afternoon Training Announcement](#)

Immediately following the meeting, we will provide an informal light buffet lunch for all meeting attendees. We hope you can stay for this opportunity to network and socialize with your fellow SAS users.

Topic: **New Techniques for Manipulating Data and Files**

When: Friday, May 7th, 2010
8:15 AM – Noon

Where: **Microsoft New England Research & Development Center**
One Memorial Drive **Note Location**
Conference Center First Floor
Cambridge, MA 02142
(857) 453-6000

Directions: Please visit: [Directions to NERD](#)

How: **Individual, On-Line Registration Required.** No e-mail please.

Please visit: [BASUG Registration](#), and register by Wednesday, May 5th.

(Our host requires a list of attendees PRIOR to the meeting to allow admittance. If you have not registered on-line by May 5th, you will need to bring a picture ID to show at the door.)

Contact: If you have questions about the meeting please contact:

Asli Memisoglu (asli_memisoglu@comcast.net) or
Robert Rosofsky (RRosofsky@HealthInfoSys.net)

Agenda

- 8:15-8:45 Sign-in and refreshments
8:45-9:00 Announcements
9:00-9:50 **The “Key” Merge, by Russ Lavery, Independent Consultant**
9:50-10:05 Break
10:05-10:55 **User Defined Functions via PROC FCMP: “The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly”, by Jerry Lewis, Biogen Idec**

10:55-11:10 Break
11:10-12:00 **Coders Corners**
 1. **Age Matters, by Robert Rosofsky, Independent Consultant**
 2. **Visualizing PROC TRANSPOSE!, by Dan Boisvert, Genzyme**
 3. **A Few Practical Uses of Data from the SASHELP Tables, by Victor Pontes, Independent Consultant**

12:00-1:00 **Informal buffet lunch** (provided by BASUG)

Note: Times are approximate.

Please re-visit the BASUG website (www.basug.org) for updated information.

Bio and Abstracts

The “Key” Merge, by Russ Lavery

The key merge (A.K.A. _IORC_ merge) is an efficiency technique. It is a method of merging two files without having to perform a slow, and disk-space-consuming, pre-sorting of the files. Because this merge does not require pre-sorting of the files to be merged, it can be faster and can use less disk space than a "BY" merge.

The _IORC_ merge is considered one of the "Table Lookup Techniques" and as such is a competitive technique for “BY merges”, format table lookups, if-else-if blocks, key-indexing, bitmapping, hashing and SQL joins. It is a useful technique for SAS programmers because it is fairly fast (faster than a “BY merge”) and easy to understand. Additionally, _IORC_ merging is part of the material in the SAS certification exam.

This animated talk will show what happens in the PDV as SAS performs an _IORC_ merge. This demonstration of the low level processes, oddly enough, makes the _IORC_ merge very easy to understand. Even if you don't have a need for merging large files, this talk will greatly increase your understanding of the PDV, the DATA step, and the SET statement, thus increasing your own programming flexibility.

Russ Lavery is a frequent, multiple award winning presenter at SAS conferences. He is the creator of “The Animated Guide:” series of talks on SAS and statistical topics. One of his talks (with his voice) was burned onto a CD and included in Art Carpenters book “Carpenter's Complete Guide to the SAS REPORT Procedure”. He started learning SAS in 1985 and is still learning. In the past year he has presented in America, Europe and Asia.

User Defined Functions via PROC FCMP: “The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly”, by Jerry Lewis

With PROC FCMP (Function Compiler Procedure) it is possible to write your own functions in SAS (without the need for SAS/TOOLKIT®) and use them in data steps and many procedures. Practical aspects of using

PROC FCMP will be discussed in the context of solving some actual statistical problems. Alternate approaches of FCMP compiled functions versus macro pseudo functions (cf. http://www.basug.org/downloads/2008q1/Jerry_Lewis2.pdf) will be contrasted, highlighting the strengths of each approach. A hybrid approach combining the strengths of both will be suggested.

Jerry Lewis, PhD, is a Lead Biostatistician (nonclinical) at Biogen Idec in Cambridge. Expertise includes statistical computing and numerical analysis issues on several platforms. He has been using SAS® in academia and industry since 1976.

Age Matters, by Robert Rosofsky

You know that your age increments by one year on your birthday, but does SAS know this too? This Coders Corner presents some of the methods for calculating age, some incorrectly, with a recommendation to use a specific macro to enable the precision you need.

Robert Rosofsky has been developing and implementing health information systems, to improve patient care and public health, for over two decades in both the public sector and as an independent consultant. He offers services in project management, systems analysis, SAS development, and SAS training.

Visualizing PROC TRANSPOSE! by Dan Boisvert

PROC TRANSPOSE continues to confuse programmers. The ability to effectively transpose a data set is very important when working with different data structures and different data standards. This Coders Corner will provide a non technical approach to understanding the transpose procedure by showing the programmer how to visualize the expected output. PROC TRANSPOSE will be deconstructed into three simple movements: what goes up, what goes down, and what goes into the middle. Programmers who have a hard time fully grasping PROC TRANSPOSE will benefit from this presentation.

Dan Boisvert majored in German and Religious Studies at Hamilton college before going to Germany to teach English. While in Germany he learned SAS from an industry veteran. Now, Dan Boisvert has been programming SAS for 7 years, the last 4 of which have been at Genzyme in Kendall Square. Dan's expertise is within the clinical programming realm, focusing on increasing productivity and modernizing clinical analysis. Dan has given multiple presentations at BASUG, NESUG and PharmaSUG.

A Few Practical Uses of Data from the SASHELP Tables, by Victor Pontes

The SASHELP tables are an extremely handy tool for handling meta-data; that is data about your datasets. It would take hours to demonstrate even a fraction of their uses. We will take a look at the data available in several of the most frequently used SASHELP tables, and some ways in which they can be used to streamline programming.

Victor Pontes has spent his entire professional life programming, mostly using SAS but also as an applications programmer. Five years ago he founded Inatec, Inc., through which he works as an independent consultant, primarily in the areas of pharmaceutical and biomedical research.

BASUG Membership

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BASUG Contacts

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P. O. Box 170253
Boston, MA 02117

To email our Webmaster: basugwm@basug.org

BASUG Half Day Training Announcement

Go that extra mile, understand what SAS is really doing with your macro code, and enhance your SAS macro programming skills. Spend half a day with one of the most innovative, multi-award winning SAS instructors. We are thrilled to have Russ Lavery present this class for BASUG!



Rectangu

Join us for this informative training, and consider coming to our morning quarterly meeting as well (separate event). For more information on the morning meeting, click here:

[Q2 Morning Meeting Announcement](#)

BASUG is hosting a light buffet networking lunch between the morning and afternoon sessions – please join us for this free lunch!

Topic: **An Animated Guide© to SAS Macro Quoting**

Summary: Macro quoting is an essential skill for programmers who want to advance their careers by maintaining macro libraries or becoming a SAS developer. Animation of the SAS supervisor, macro table and macro catalog has proven to be a very effective mechanism to communicate the complex process of macro quoting. This presentation uses an animated map of the SAS system to SHOW the details of macro quoting and makes understanding this complex process much easier. Group exercises, and working through more examples” of macro masking than exist in all the on-line SUG papers will make this class a skill changing experience.

Please see detailed topics below.

Instructor: Russ Lavery, Independent Consultant

When: Friday, May 7th, 2010
1:00pm – 5:30pm

Where: **Microsoft New England Research & Development Center**
One Memorial Drive
Conference Center First Floor **NOTE LOCATION**
Cambridge, MA 02142
(857) 453-6000

Please see directions below

Price: \$125 (if paid by check postmarked by Wednesday, April 21st, 2010)
\$160 (paid at-the-door)

Please see details below

Prerequisites: 6 months of Macro use and an interest in macro quoting.

Level: Intermediate/advanced SAS programmers

- Benefits:** Career advancement: Increased knowledge and capabilities for extending your skills and flexibility in writing macros.
- Contact:** If you have questions about the course contact
Eric Hamann (eric.hamann@pfizer.com) or
Rita Volya (volya@hcp.med.harvard.edu)
- Registration:** *Pre-registration is required. Please see detailed information below.*
-

Course Overview

This half-day workshop covers SAS topics that intermediate and advanced SAS programmers may find helpful.

Macro quoting is an essential skill for programmers who want to advance their careers by maintaining macro libraries or becoming a SAS developer. Animation of the SAS supervisor, macro table and macro catalog has proven to be a very effective mechanism to communicate the complex process of macro quoting. This presentation uses an animated map of the SAS system to SHOW the details of macro quoting and makes understanding this complex process much easier. Group exercises, and working through more examples of macro masking than exist in all the on-line SUG papers, will make this class a skill changing experience.

Since macro quoting is used to modify the actions of the macro processor, this presentation is also an in-depth review of the functioning of the macro processor. It covers a review of the SAS macro system, the three SAS compiles and the three SAS executes, Tokens acting as rule triggers, locations in the SAS supervisor that trigger rules, a review of macro rules, %str, %NRStr, %quote, %Bquote, %Nrquote, %NRBQuote and %superq.

Course Topics

- 1) **The components of the SAS Supervisor and how they work**
 - a) Input stack
 - b) Word Scanner/Token Router
 - c) Macro Processor
 - d) Macro Symbol Table
 - e) Macro Catalog
 - f) SAS compiler, SAS execute
- 2) **The 4 types of tokens and the process of tokenization**
- 3) **How Base SAS executes your code**
- 4) **How Quoting is done in SAS – adding a constant to the ASCII code value**
- 5) **How Base SAS and the Macro Processor interact to create and execute your code**
 - a) The three compiles and three executes in a SAS program that uses macros
 - b) Global and Local Macros
 - c) Getting tokens into and out of the Macro Symbol Table
 - d) Tokens as rule triggers on Macro *variable* compilation and macro *variable* Execution
 - e) Getting tokens into and out of the Macro Catalog
 - f) Tokens as rule triggers on Macro *program* compilation and macro *program* Execution

- 6) **The Different types of tokens and how they can trigger rules at different points in the**
 - a) Masking tokens as they enter the Macro Symbol Table
 - b) Masking tokens as they leave the Macro Catalog
 - c) The XLS sheet of examples of Macro Quoted macro
- 7) **How the macro processor processes a simple %IF statement**
- 8) **How the macro processor processes a %IF statements involving evaluation of unmasked and masked values**
- 9) **The Three step process**
 - a) Evaluate the macro as many times as is needed
 - b) Perform unmasking
 - c) Evaluate the %IF

As a finale: More examples of macro unmasking than exist in all the on-line SAS literature combined.

Instructor Bio

Russ Lavery is a frequent, multiple award winning presenter at SAS conferences. He is the creator of “The Animated Guide:” series of talks on SAS and statistical topics. One of his talks (with his voice) was burned onto a CD and included in Art Carpenters book “Carpenter's Complete Guide to the SAS REPORT Procedure”. He started learning SAS in 1985 and is still learning. In the past year he has presented in America, Europe and Asia.

Registration and Payment Instructions

Please read this entire section carefully!

1. Pre-register

You ***must pre-register*** for this training. [Click here for the registration page.](#)

**INDIVIDUAL, ON-LINE PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.
NO EMAIL, PLEASE!**

All registrants will receive an immediate email confirmation of their pre-registration. Within 72 hours you will then receive another e-mail, with a customized invoice for the training, based on your membership and registration status.

Seats are limited, so register early! Seating is guaranteed only for pre-paid registrants.

2. Mail your check

Complete the invoice form and mail it along with your check (made payable to “BASUG”), postmarked by **Wednesday, April 21st, 2010**, and mail to our Treasurer at:

**BASUG
PO Box 170253
Boston, MA 02117**

3. Members only!

Note that this class is open to BASUG members only. This means that your 2010 \$30 individual membership dues must be paid up in order to attend! If you are not currently a member, your invoice will include the \$30 fee for 2010 BASUG membership dues.

If you have any questions about your BASUG membership status, please contact our Membership Coordinator (Robert Rosofsky) at:
RRosofsky@HealthInfoSys.net

4. Cutoff date

Please do not mail any checks after Wednesday, April 21st, 2010.

If you miss the mail-in deadline, bring your completed invoice form and a check made payable to BASUG to cover the at-the-door tuition rate of \$160, plus any \$30 membership fees due, as specified in your invoice form. For walk-ins, we will only be able to accommodate people on a first-come, first-served basis until seats are filled.

**We are preparing handouts ONLY for those registrants who pre-pay!
If you pay-at-the-door, we will mail you the handout after the class.**

Full payment is due by the day of the class. There will be NO EXCEPTIONS. As a small voluntary organization, we cannot accept credit cards at this time. We also will not handle cash, so checks only please.

5. Refund Policy

To receive a full refund, notify either of the meeting coordinators (see “Contact” above) by **5PM on Wednesday, April 21st, 2010**. **After that date, we will refund your payment only if we can fill your seat with attendees at the door.**

BASUG Membership

Keep your BASUG Membership up-to-date! Bring a completed membership form to the meeting, along with your check. The Individual Membership fee is \$30 per year. Corporate memberships were discontinued. For more information on our membership policy, or to print a membership form visit: [Membership Form](#)

Directions and Parking [Directions to NERD](#)

BASUG Contacts

To email our Webmaster: basugwm@basug.org

Mailing Address:

BASUG
PO Box 170253
Boston, MA 02117

BASUG Quarterly Meeting Announcement

Do you know a little bit of statistics but want to learn more? Have you always been a little intimidated by regression modeling? What is logistic regression anyway? These speakers will teach you how to strut down the statistical modeling catwalk. So, let's get ready for some lessons on regression!

Please join us for these informative talks, and consider staying for the afternoon class (separate event), taught by Rod Sturdivant. *For more information on the afternoon training, please visit www.basug.org/events/t201009.htm*

Immediately following the meeting, we will provide an informal light buffet lunch for all meeting and afternoon training attendees. We hope you can stay for this opportunity to network and socialize with your fellow SAS users.

Topic: **Ready For Regression**

When: September 1, 2010
8:15AM – Noon

Where: **Microsoft New England Research & Development Center**
One Memorial Drive
Conference Center First Floor
Cambridge, MA 02142
(857) 453-6000

Directions: Please visit: <http://www.basug.org/directionsNERD.html>

How: **Individual, On-Line Registration Required. No Email!**

To register: Please visit: <http://www.basug.org/register.php3>

Contact: If you have questions about the meeting contact:
Bridget Neville: bridget_neville@dfci.harvard.edu
Karen Olson: Karen.Olson@childrens.harvard.edu

Agenda*

- 8:15 Sign in and Refreshments
- 8:45 Announcements
- 9:00 **Association vs. Prediction for Regression Models**
 By Lee-Jen Wei, Harvard University
- 10:00 **Predictive Modeling Deception**
 By Timothy C. D'Auria, Boston Decision, LLC
- 11:00 **SASabermetrics: Proc Logistic in the Hall of Fame**
 By Rod Sturdivant, United States Military Academy
- Noon Meeting Adjourned – Networking Lunch

**Note: Times (and sequence) are approximate and subject to change. Please re-visit the BASUG website (www.basug.org) for updated information.*

Abstracts and Bios

Association vs. Prediction for Regression Models

by Lee-Jen Wei

We are told that there are two aims for doing regression analysis. The first one is to quantify the association between the response and "independent" variables. The second one is to make a prediction of response based on those independent variables. Because a model is just an approximation of the true one (if there is one), the association parameters may vary from model to model (especially in the presence of confounders). Moreover, it seems difficult (if not impossible) to validate association even with an independent dataset. On the other hand, prediction may be validated even with a working model. We provide a couple of examples to show how to utilize the prediction idea for personalized medicine in the comparative effectiveness area, which is a hot topic under the new national health care initiative.

Lee-Jen Wei is a Professor of Biostatistics at Harvard University, a Professor of Biostatistical Science and Computational Biology at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, the Scientific Director for the Program of Quantitative Science in the Pharmaceutical Industry at the Harvard School of Public Health, and an Associate Editor for the Journal of the American Statistical Association. He has a B.S. in Mathematics from Fu-Jen University in Taipei, Taiwan and a Ph.D. in Statistics from University of Wisconsin in Madison, WI.

Dr. Wei's research has focused on the development of statistical methods for the design and analysis of clinical trials. He developed methods for analyzing data with multiple outcomes or repeated measurements and his "multivariate Cox procedures" to handle multiple event times have become quite popular. He and his colleagues are also responsible for developing alternative models to the Cox proportional hazards model for analyzing survival observations. Recently he has developed various quantitative methods for personalized medicine in the comparative effectiveness research area.

Predictive Modeling Deception: A demonstration of how variable confounding can lead to erroneous decisions and organizational risk

by Timothy C. D'Auria

For this compelling demonstration, the audience will play the role of a Boston-based health insurance company. Using logistic regression in SAS, we will prove that chronic depression causes cancer. We will present this evidence to executives, convincing them to divert new resources to depression management and education. We will also alter our premium structure such that those who have suffered from depression are demoted to our least-preferred premium status. By applying the new changes, we expect incidence of cancer to decline over time and the new premium structure to better align with incurred risk if all else remains constant. These impacts are expected to yield increased profits.

At the conclusion of the demonstration, we will turn our analysis on its head and challenge the audience to uncover what went wrong. Does chronic depression truly cause cancer? Or, were we misled by our analysis and/or its interpretation? Shockingly, the thought and analytical processes that yield the demonstration's results are commonly observed in practice and literature. This is one presentation you won't want to miss, for it may mean the difference between life and death - staying in business or going insolvent.

Timothy D'Auria leads Boston Decision, LLC, a company he founded after seeing a need to clear industry confusion and assist health-related organizations correctly apply analytical modeling to yield better decisions. Tim formerly led the SAS Analytics Practice for a New England-based SAS Partner; the practice grew over 10-fold during the economic recession. Most recently, he completed leading development of a SAS framework for predicting physicians at risk of being sued for medical error, results of which will be registered with the state of NJ and likely impact many physicians working there. Tim's contributions in the field of business data mining

have been featured in leading industry publications and have been incorporated into educational programs at NYU, the University of Denver, and Cornell University. Timothy received his Bachelors of Science degree in Statistics and Biology with Distinction in Research from Cornell University. He is also a certified Emergency Medical Technician.

SASabermetrics: PROC Logistic in the Hall of Fame by Rod Sturdivant

Sabermetrics is the statistics of baseball, which has become increasingly popular not just with fans but major league teams looking for an edge. We will demonstrate some of the usefulness of PROC Logistic (covered later in the training session) while considering which players should make the baseball Hall of Fame. Additionally, we present some published "rare events" modeling results (using other SAS procedures) applied to games in which a team scored 20 or more runs.

Rod Sturdivant is an associate professor at the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York and is currently program director for the introductory probability and statistics course. He is also founder and executive director of the Center for Data Analysis and Statistics within the math department. His research interests are largely in applied statistics with an emphasis on hierarchical logistic regression models. He is currently on sabbatical in the biostatistics department at The Ohio State University where, among other things, he is working on the new edition of Applied Logistic Regression by Hosmer, Lemeshow and Sturdivant.

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BASUG Contacts

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To email our Webmaster: basugwm@basug.org

BASUG Half Day Training Announcement

Delve deeper into logistic regression! We are pleased to welcome Rod Sturdivant, a statistics professor from the United States Military Academy and co-author of a major book on applied logistic regression.

Please join us for this informative training, and consider coming to our morning quarterly meeting as well (separate event). For more information on the morning meeting, click here:

www.basug.org/events/b201009.htm

BASUG is hosting a light buffet networking lunch between the morning and afternoon sessions – please join us for this free lunch!

Topic: **Logistic Regression: Beyond the Basics**

Summary: Logistic Regression is a popular approach to modeling data with a binary response. The models offer advantages both in terms of model fitting and interpretation that have lead to widespread use in a variety of fields, most notably perhaps medical studies. This training will consider the use of procedures and programs in SAS (primarily PROC Logistic) and cover material from the popular book “Applied Logistic Regression” by Hosmer and Lemeshow (3rd edition being written).

Please see detailed topics below.

Instructor: Rodney Sturdivant, Ph.D.
United States Military Academy
West Point, NY

When: Wednesday, September 1, 2010
1:30pm – 5:00pm

Where: **Microsoft New England Research & Development Center**
One Memorial Drive
Conference Center First Floor
Cambridge, MA 02142
(857) 453-6000

Please see directions below

Price: \$125 (if paid by check postmarked by **August 20, 2010**)
\$160 (paid at-the-door)
Please see details below

Audience: SAS users at all levels will benefit from this course. It is an essential course for anyone who needs to model data with binary or categorical outcomes, and who needs to estimate probabilities of given outcomes based on predictor variables.

Prerequisites: Knowledge of introductory statistics.

Benefits: Attendees will come away with a greater understanding of logistic regression and model building.

Contact: If you have questions about the course contact:
Brian Saper briansaper@yahoo.com or
Bruce Haimowitz bhaim@alum.mit.edu

Registration: *Pre-registration is required. Please see detailed information below.*

Course Description

Regression models have become an integral component of any data analysis concerned with describing the relationship between a response variable and one or more explanatory variables. It is often the case that the outcome variable is discrete, taking one two or more possible values. Over the last decade the logistic regression model has become, in many fields the standard method of analysis in this situation.

This course will enhance your ability to perform this commonly-used statistical technique in SAS.

Course Topics

- 1) Overview of Logistic Regression
- 2) Model Building Approaches
- 3) Interpretation of Models
- 4) Assessing Model Adequacy & Fit
- 5) Special Topics (As Time Permits)

Instructor Bio

Rod Sturdivant is an associate professor at the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York and is currently program director for the introductory probability and statistics course. He is also founder and executive director of the Center for Data Analysis and Statistics within the math department. His research interests are largely in applied statistics with an emphasis on hierarchical logistic regression models. He is currently on sabbatical in the biostatistics department at The Ohio State University where, among other things, he is working on the new edition of Applied Logistic Regression by Hosmer, Lemeshow...and Sturdivant.

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RRosofsky@HealthInfoSys.net

- 4. Cutoff date** **Please do not mail any checks after August 20, 2010**

If you miss the mail-in deadline, bring your completed invoice form and a check made payable to BASUG to cover the at-the-door tuition rate of \$160, plus any \$30 membership fees due, as specified in your invoice form. For walk-ins, we will only be able to accommodate people on a first-come, first-served basis until seats are filled.

Full payment is due by the day of the class. There will be NO EXCEPTIONS. As a small voluntary organization, we cannot accept credit cards at this time. We also will not handle cash, so checks only please.

- 5. Refund Policy** To receive a full refund, please send an email to both of the meeting coordinators (see "Contact" above) by 5PM on **August 20, 2010**. **After August 20, 2010, we will refund your payment only if we can fill your seat with attendees at the door.**

BASUG Membership

Keep your BASUG Membership up-to-date! Bring a completed membership form to the meeting, along with your check. The Individual Membership fee is \$30 per year. (Corporate memberships were discontinued.) For more information on our membership policy, or to print a membership form visit: <http://www.basug.org/basugi.shtml>

Directions and Parking <http://www.basug.org/directionsNERD.html>

BASUG Contacts

To email our Webmaster: basugwm@basug.org

Mailing Address:

BASUG
PO Box 170253

Boston, MA 02117

BASUG Quarterly Meeting Announcement

Expand your ability to access and compare data, whether it is a SAS data set or data found in external relational databases. Please read below.

Immediately following the meeting, we will provide an informal light buffet lunch for all meeting attendees. We hope you can stay for this opportunity to network and socialize with your fellow SAS users.

- Topic:** Expanding Your Toolkit for Data Management
- When:** **Tuesday, November 9, 2010**
8:15AM – Noon
- Where:** **Microsoft New England Research & Development Center**
One Memorial Drive
Conference Center First Floor
Cambridge, MA 02142
(857) 453-6000
- Directions:** Please visit the [meeting site directions page](#).
- How:** **Individual, On-Line Registration Required. No Email!**
- To register:** Please visit the [meeting registration page](#).
- Contact:** If you have questions about the meeting, contact [Bruno Berszoner](#) or [Lori Goldman](#)

Agenda*

- 8:15 Sign in and Refreshments
- 8:45 Announcements
- 9:00 PROC SQL for DATA Step Die-hards
by Christianna Williams
- 9:50 Break
- 10:05 Avoiding Common Traps When Accessing RDBMS Data
by Mike Rhoads, WESTAT
- 10:55 Break
- 11:10 PROC COMPARE – Worth Another Look!
by Christianna Williams
- Noon Meeting Adjourned – Networking Lunch

**Note: Times (and sequence) are approximate and subject to change. Please re-visit [the BASUG website](#) for updated information.*

Abstracts and Bios

PROC SQL for DATA Step Die-hards
by Christianna Williams

PROC SQL can be rather intimidating for those who have learned SAS® data management techniques using exclusively the DATA Step. However, when it comes to data manipulation, SAS often provides more than one method to achieve the same result, and SQL provides another valuable tool to have in one's repertoire. Further, Structured Query Language is implemented in many widely used relational database systems with which SAS may interface, so it is a worthwhile skill to have from that perspective as well. This paper will present a series of increasingly complex examples and hands-on exercises. In each case I will demonstrate the DATA Step method with which users are probably already familiar, followed by SQL code that will accomplish the same data manipulation. The simplest examples include subsetting variables (columns, in SQL parlance) and observations (rows), while the most complex situations will include MERGEs (JOINS) of several types and the summarization of information over multiple observations for BY groups of interest. This approach can help to clarify for which situations the DATA STEP method or, conversely, PROC SQL is better suited. After this presentation, you should come away with a good grounding in Data Step to PROC SQL translation – it is my intent that even die-hard Data Step-ers may find themselves “thinking in SQL”!

Christianna Williams is an independent consultant focusing on data management and statistical analysis in epidemiology and health services research. She received her PhD in Epidemiology from Yale University in 2002 and has been using SAS to support research for 25 years. A member of the NESUG Executive Committee, in 2007 she was conference co-chair for the 20th NESUG 2007 in Baltimore, Maryland. In her down-time, Christianna is an avid runner, reader, and recipe-collector.

Avoiding Common Traps When Accessing RDBMS Data

by Mike Rhoads, WESTAT

Accessing data from databases such as Oracle and SQL Server has become an increasingly common requirement for SAS® programmers. SAS offers powerful and flexible capabilities for accessing such data, and many aspects of this process are quite straightforward, especially when LIBNAME engines are used. However, there are a number of traps that lurk for the unwary that can potentially produce unexpected error messages, incorrect output, or frantic calls from your normally-friendly Database Administrator. This presentation highlights some of the most common traps and explains how to avoid them.

Mike Rhoads first started using SAS software during the late 1970s and has been hooked ever since. He is currently a Vice President in the Information Technology group at Westat, where he still manages to sneak in an occasional DATA step or two when not attending to his other responsibilities. He has contributed to numerous NESUG, SUGI, and SAS Global Forum conferences as a section chair, paper presenter, and session coordinator, and served as chair of the DC SAS User Group for two years.

PROC COMPARE – Worth Another Look!

by Christianna Williams

PROC COMPARE is one of those workhorse procedures in the Base SAS® closet that deserves to be dusted off, tuned up and pressed into service again! With well-chosen PROC COMPARE options and statements, you can compare pairs of SAS datasets at multiple levels without the need for DATA step MERGEs or SQL JOINS. Specifically, you can identify differences and similarities across SAS data sets with respect to: data set attributes; variable existence and attributes; existence of matching observations; and variable values (at user-specified levels of precision). This handy PROC can even be used to compare values of one variable to another within a dataset. Additionally, several different reporting options are available and can be customized to project needs. This flexibility makes PROC COMPARE an extremely useful tool for a variety of purposes, including data cleaning and validation, ensuring that new data is consistent with “legacy” data (or differs in expected ways), and even for some simple longitudinal analysis! This tutorial-style presentation will teach you how to harness some of the power of this under-appreciated procedure!

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Directions to Microsoft New England Research & Development Center

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