Bay Area SAS® Users Group

BASAS Newsletter February 2018

Newsletter for SAS® Programmers in the San Francisco Bay Area

Bay Area SAS® Meeting Announcement

Dear BASAS User Group Member,

The next meeting of the Bay Area SAS Users Group will be held on **February 21st, 2018**. Your Bay Area SAS peers, colleagues and friends will come together to exchange ideas, job/contract opportunities, and for networking.

We have three featured speakers, roundtable discussion, and open time where you can share concepts, ideas and a great networking opportunities.

Please bring along your business cards, not only for networking, but to facilitate our registration process.

There will be a bulletin board where job and/or contract opportunities, related events, and other announcements can be affixed. Hiring managers and consultants seeking contracts should bring their requirements on hardcopy for distribution as well as to post on the board.

RSVP Method:

Please click *R.S.V.P.* and fill in your information. Your timely reply will help us in ensuring adequate seating and refreshments.

Details of the Meeting

Date: Wednesday, February 21st, 2018

Time: 12:30 PM (Registration)
            1:30 - 4:30 PM (Meeting)

Location: Jazz Pharmaceuticals
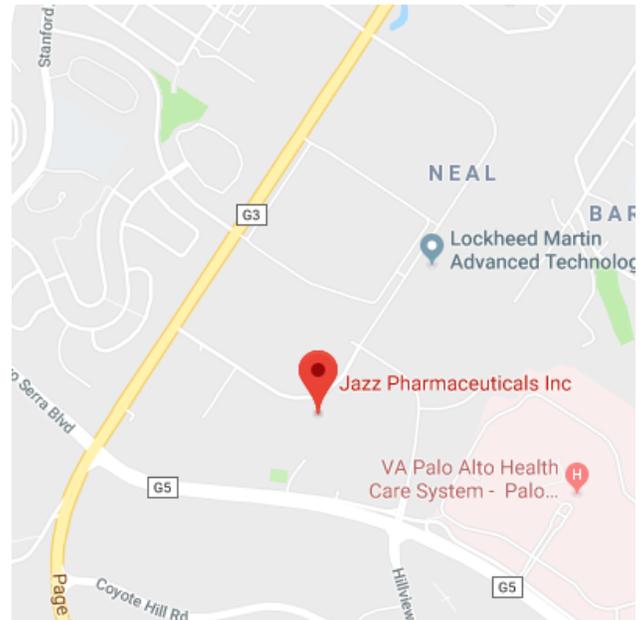   3170 Porter Drive
            Palo Alto, CA 94304

Parking: 3180 Porter Drive
            Palo Alto, CA 94304

Meeting Contacts

Facility Host: Diane Androvich (650) 496-3075
                 Diane.Androvich@jazzpharma.com

Event Host: Thomas Leung (415) 956-3611
                 tleung@tmcsoftware.com

Map of Jazz Pharmaceuticals

DIRECTIONS FROM NORTH BAY:

• Merge onto US-101 S.
• Follow US-101 S and I-280 S to County Hwy G3 / Page Mill Rd in Los Altos Hills.
• Take Exit 20 from I-280 S.
• Use left lane to keep left at the fork & follow signs for Arastradero Rd E / Veterans Hospital / Palo Alto.
• Turn left onto County Hwy G3 / Page Mill Rd.
• Turn right onto Porter Dr.
• Destination will be on the right.

DIRECTIONS FROM EAST BAY:

• Merge onto I-880 N / Nimitz Fwy N toward Oakland.
• Take CA-84 W / Decoto Road exit (EXIT 21) toward Dumbarton Br.
• Get on US-101 S in East Palo Alto.
• Take the Embarcadero Rd/ Oregon Expwy Exit from US-101 S.
• Follow Oregon Expwy and Page Mill Rd to Porter Dr.
• Continue onto Oregon Expwy.
• Continue onto Page Mill Rd.
• Turn left onto Porter Dr.
• Destination will be on the right.

Bay Area SAS® Meeting Agenda

Essential Programming Techniques Every SAS® User Should Learn
Kirk Paul Lafler

Some ways to encourage quality programming
Greg Steffens

A Six-Sigma Approach in defining Programming Strategy of recurring deliverables
Jagan Achi

More about the meeting:

Essential Programming Techniques Every SAS® User Should Learn
Kirk Paul Lafler

Abstract:

SAS software boasts countless functions, algorithms, procedures, options, methods, code constructs, and other features to help users automate and deploy solutions for specific tasks and problems, as well as to access, transform, analyze, and manage data. This presentation identifies essential programming techniques every pragmatic user and programmer should learn.

Topics include determining the number of by-group levels exist within classification variables; data manipulation with the family of CAT functions; merging or joining multiple tables of data; performing table lookup operations with user-defined formats; creating single-value and value-list macro variables with PROC SQL; examining and processing the contents of value-list macro variables; determining the FIRST., LAST. and Between by-group rows; processing repetitive data with arrays; and using metadata to perform better understand the contents of SAS data sets.

About the speaker:

Kirk Paul Lafler is an entrepreneur, consultant and founder of Software Intelligence Corporation and a SAS user since 1979. Kirk is a SAS® application developer, programmer, data analyst, mentor, SAS Certified Professional, advisor and professor at UC San Diego Extension, emeritus sasCommunity advisory board member, and provider of IT consulting services and education to SAS users around the world.

As the author of five books including PROC SQL: Beyond the Basics Using SAS, Second Edition (SAS Institute. 2013) and PROC SQL: Beyond the Basics Using SAS (SAS Institute. 2004), he has written more than five hundred papers and articles, been an Invited speaker at four hundred-plus SAS International, regional, special-interest, local, and in-house user group conferences/meetings, and is the recipient of 23 "Best" contributed paper, hands-on workshop (HOW), and poster awards.

Some ways to encourage quality programming
Greg Steffens

Abstract:

This presentation describes some process steps and SAS macros that can be used to help instill a sense of quality in a SAS programming group. Programmers' behaviors are strongly influenced by the way they are managed, the processes they are required to follow and the technology they are required to use. I will describe some easily implemented steps that contribute to letting programmers know quality is important. Topics covered include the following:

1. how the define file can be used in a more valuable way
2. how to populate the additional variable attributes required by define schema version 2
3. an approach to evaluating SAS log files
4. comparing production to validation program files
5. the myth of double programming as a validation method
6. comparing output data and TFLs
7. evaluating datetime stamps of program-related files
8. documenting called macros

About the speaker:

Greg Steffens has been using SAS for programming and applications development since 1981, primarily in the pharmaceutical and health insurance industries. He has held job positions ranging from lead technical to director-level management in seven pharmaceutical companies.

Greg's experience includes the design and development of metadata and software to automate data definition, data transformation, data validation and FDA submissions.

A Six-Sigma Approach in defining Programming Strategy of recurring deliverables
Jagan Achi

Abstract:

Development of strategy for programming recurring deliverables/tasks is very common in drug development process. Statistical Programming groups in various companies use different techniques and methods to develop processes, which would help their teams to achieve desirable outcomes.

Selecting a right approach requires a careful planning and thorough understanding of the requirements and measuring, analyzing how the chosen approach is working and finally training the staff to implement it. In this presentation, we will use how lean six sigma techniques [Define Measure Analyze Improve Control] can be used to define the right strategy with an example for generating Development Safety Update Reports [DSUR].

About the speaker:

Jagan Achi is an Associate Director Statistical Programming who works with Jazz Pharmaceuticals. Jagan has worked at Medical Devices, Clinical Research Organization over 10 years at different capacities and worked with teams to lead the statistical programming activities leading to regulatory submissions. Jagan holds a Masters in Statistical Genetics from University of Georgia and DVM from ANGRAU, India.

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