

# Minutes of the Accredited Members' Annual General Meeting 2008 SSC Annual Meeting

The meeting was held on Monday May 26 2008 at 12:15-1:00 pm in Montpetit 204, Ottawa University.

Present:

Arnason, Neil (acting chair)	Dean, Charmaine
Abraham, Bovas	Keen, Kevin
Amrhein, John	Koval, John
Binder, David	Macdonald, Peter
Chipman, Hugh	Monette, Georges
Chouinard, Aline	Rubin-Bleuer, Susana
Davis, Karelyn	

1. Approval of agenda.
2. Approval of minutes from annual general meeting at Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador, Monday June 11 2007.
3. Business arising from minutes (none).
4. Report from the Chair (Neil Arnason chairing for Committee Chair, Carl Schwarz)
  - introduction of new P.Stat., A.Stat members

Applicants for AStat and Pstat in a fall and winter competition were reviewed by members of the accreditation committee with recommendations forwarded to the board, resulting in the following:

5 AStat applicants were approved at the October 2007 Board meeting:

AStat #013	Adamic, Peter F.	(Laurentian University)
AStat #014	Chow, Ka Chung	(University of Toronto)
AStat #015	Metzger, Riley A.	(Wilfred Laurier University )
AStat #016	Shakya, Sulin	(Regional Municipality of York )
AStat #017	Yu, Amanda	(BC Centre for Disease Control)

9 Astat and 5 PStat applicants were approved at the May 2008 Board Meeting

AStat #018	Amuah, Joseph E.	(University of Calgary)
AStat #019	Diallo, Mamadou S.	(Statistique Canada)
AStat #020	Lafleur, Kimberley A.	(BBM Canada)
AStat #021	Fu, Longdi	(University of Toronto)
AStat #022	Gray, Derrick T.	(BBM Canada)
AStat #023	Nevill, Max E. N.	(Checkwell Decision Corp.)
AStat #024	Stewart, Samuel A.	(QE II Health Sciences Centre)
AStat #025	Umlauf, Jennifer	(University of Toronto)
AStat #026	Pinizzotto, Juliana	(Canadian Niagara Hotels)
PStat #102	Apaloo, Joseph	(St. Francis Xavier University)
PStat #103	Ghosh, Sunita	(Alberta Cancer Institute)
PStat #104	Morissette, Daniel	(StatExpert, Inc.)

PStat #105 Panzarella, Tony (University of Toronto)

PStat #106 Stewart, Delbert E. (Brogan, Inc.)

- distribution of P.Stat, A.Stat buttons (thanks to Richard Lockhart for bringing the buttons: they are now in the custody of the acting chair)
- Accreditation and Appeals committee changes: there were elections for both of these committees. A list of candidates who consented to run (or stand again...members may serve up to 2 consecutive 2-year terms) was developed with the assistance of the Accreditation committee and members were also invited to volunteer themselves as candidates. The results of the election were confirmed at the meeting by David Binder, and the composition of the committees for the coming 2 years (July1 2008-June 30 2010) will be (asterisks indicate members serving a second term):

Appeals Committee (6 members)

Chen, Edward

Farrell, Patrick

\* Hao, Yong

Kovacevic, Milorad

Koval, John

\* Spinelli, John

Accreditation Committee (12 members)

Amrhein, John

\* Haller, Tina

\* Angers, Jean-François

\* Hogg-Johnson, Sheila

Bocci, Sheila

\* Lesperance, Mary

Chipman, Hugh

Lix, Lisa

Crépeau, Hélène

\* Pageau, François

Hamilton, David

Smith, Stephen

Retiring members of these committees are noted, with thanks, under item 8, below.

5. Report on Accreditation matters at the Board

- Bovas reported that 3 accreditation issues arose at the board: Astat and PStat candidate approvals, committee election results, and a progress report on mentoring (all AStats have been assigned mentors...this was handled by Judy-Anne Chapman)
- Peter MacDonald explained the loss of some documents due to hacker activity on SSC server; normally files are backed up but some accreditation files were not accessible to backup ...this will be sorted out when Carl gets back
- David Binder confirmed results of approvals and elections at the Board. The new chair of the accreditation committee will be chosen by the incoming president and approved by the Board. David also noted that renewals form for SSC membership and accreditation will be combined this year on a new form (to synchronize times of 1 or 2 year renewals).

6. Report on Database Administration and Services to members

- The chair reported on the member's Forum and searchable Database and raised the possibility of using a member-maintained Wiki. The forum and DB were recently created by Adriel Dean\_Hall with guidance from Judy-Anne Chapman. Thanks were extended to these two for the work done in this area. Discussion of each of these ensued:
- Forum: a number of threads have been created and some test messages posted. Peter Macdonald noted he had tried to get discussion going via D-SSC but there was not much response. It was suggested that the forum have a mechanism to permit members to sign

- up to be notified of new postings (Adriel will be asked). David Binder suggested posting the service discussion from the St. John's meeting to the forum to elicit discussion.
- The Database is a fixed format incorporating bio information solicited from members and translated via the SSC office and members (paid for by accreditation committee). It is useful for careers days, locating consultants and mentors. Public access should be implemented soon.
  - A Wiki is a publicly searchable web site where members have creative control of their own page but can follow a template. It is likely to be more current than a fixed, centrally controlled DB and is likely to be indexed by search engines (e.g. Google). A prototype was created at <http://ssc-pstat.pbwiki.com/>. PM suggested that effort be put into getting the DBase going first...the DBase can contain a link to each member's home page where more current information can be made available. Other questions and concerns were: How is a wiki paid for? by (unwanted) ads? [no, by fees for extra space and refined access controls]. Is being off-site a concern? [no, Wiki maintains backups and so can Wiki administrator; we could set up our own in-house Wiki server, but it might be difficult to duplicate the services provided by a public Wiki provider like PbWiki].
7. Request for, and discussion of, ideas for services/activities for and by accredited members:
- Could forum post job ads? PM responded that this would undermine an important source of revenue for Liaison (advertises in Liaison get free posting to D-SSC).
  - Suggestions for improving visibility of accredited members: appoint a marketing manager to spearhead activities (S R-B). Contact subject-matter journals re importance of accredited statisticians. Develop a poster for use by consulting services. Contribute editorial article to major Canadian subject journals in biostatistics area (CD). Encourage members to use their own connections to promote accreditation.
8. Thanks to outgoing Chair, Carl Schwarz and committee members.
- Thanks were voted to Carl for serving as chair of the accreditation committee for the last 2 years.
  - Thanks were voted to the following retiring members of the accreditation committee: Bovas Abraham, Neil Arnason, Jean-Marie Berthelot, Gemai Chen, Ivan Hon, Ken McRae and Susana Rubin-Bleuer.
  - Thanks were voted to the following retiring members of the Accreditation Appeals committee: Sylvia Esterby, Geoff Hole, Pierre Lavallée, and Victor Yu.
9. Other business.
- D. Binder brought up 2 administrative matters: members who change address should notify him (as Executive Director)... he can then forward the information to Judy-Anne for updating the DBase; Members may use the PStat and AStat seals which are available at <http://www.ssc.ca/accreditation/images/>. (This info is included in the welcoming letter to newly accredited members)
  - B. Abraham noted that there is a problem in assessing candidates with no Canadian degrees. Need guidelines and some feedback on this from committee members. PM noted that P.Stat. might be particularly useful to new immigrants seeking work.
  - It was suggested (KK) that the accreditation committee develop guidelines on a fee structure and hourly rates for consulting. Also, might look into provision of private practice insurance (e.g. as available to CStat members of the RSS).
10. Adjournment