

BASUG September 2023 Meeting Presenter Biographies

Panel Discussion: Advice for Students and Early Career SAS Professionals

Jacqueline Johnson, DrPH Principal Analytical Training Consultant, SAS



Jacqueline Johnson is a principal analytical training consultant in Global Academic Programs at SAS. In her role at SAS, she conducts SAS software training at academic campuses around the country and works with faculty to support efforts to develop the future analytics workforce. She holds a DrPH in Biostatistics from UNC Chapel Hill. Prior to SAS, Dr. Johnson's career has focused on statistical analyses of clinical trials data and includes working as a biostatistics faculty in at the UNC Chapel Hill School of Medicine and a biostatistician in industry at Novartis Pharmaceuticals and Rho, Inc. She has been teaching with SAS in commercial and academic settings since 2009 and joined the SAS Global Academic Programs instructional team full-time in 2019.

Asli Memisoglu, ScD Sr. Director, Biostatistics, Cerevel Therapeutics



Asli Memisoglu has served as a biostatistician in the biotechnology industry for over 15 years. During this time, she has leveraged her in-depth knowledge of statistics and regulatory guidelines to advance drug development in various therapeutic areas (major depressive disorder, schizophrenia, addiction medicine, gastrointestinal disorders). Throughout her career Asli has used SAS and other analytic tools to analyze data and create data visualizations which convey clear, compelling stories that resonate with technical as well as non-technical audiences.

Asli currently works at Cerevel Therapeutics as Sr. Director of Biostatistics. Prior to that, Asli led the biostatistics/statistical programming function at Seres Therapeutics, supporting the BLA submission of VOWST, recently approved for the treatment of recurrent *C. difficile* infection. Asli worked for many years as a biostatistician at Alkermes, where she provided technical and strategic leadership leading to NDA submissions and FDA Advisory Committee Meetings. At Alkermes she contributed to programs in various CNS indications, including major depressive disorder, schizophrenia, substance use disorder and binge eating disorder. Asli holds a BS (Biology) from Tufts University as well as a ScD (Molecular and Cellular Toxicology) and MS (Molecular Epidemiology) both from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Asli resides in Concord, MA with her husband and numerous pets. In her spare time, Asli enjoys hiking, kayaking, biking, birdwatching and spending time on Cape Cod.

Michael Salé, DPS
Chairperson, Department of Management & Business Analytics, Stonehill College



Michael Salé is an Associate Professor of Management Information Systems at Stonehill College. He has vast experience in information technology management/consulting and multiple successes in helping organizations leverage IT systems to meet their strategic goals. He is also an Agile software development coach. Dr. Salé began his career as a Senior Project Manager in the higher education software industry where he led the implementation of enterprise-level administrative software at hundreds of colleges and universities in the United States and overseas. He also owns his own consulting firm, Portico Consulting Group, which specializes in providing services to college and university information technology teams. His main teaching areas include management information systems, data analytics, and software engineering.

Justin Scheets
Director, Product Analytics, athenahealth



I am a proud father of 4 children: Vivian 7, Liam 5, Claire 3, Luke 10 months and loving husband to Elizabeth (who also works for athenahealth). I have 2 dogs named Mia & Chase and have lived in MA for my entire life. I'm a huge sports fan with the culmination of my sports fandom being attending Super Bowl LIII in person (Tampa Bay is my all-time favorite). I have been at athenahealth for 10 years working in an analytics capacity across all those 10 years (with many different focuses). The coolest place I have ever visited is Hong Kong which I did in support of my job prior to athenahealth. Both my undergraduate and graduate degrees are from Stonehill College.

Karen Wallace, MPH
Manager, Quality Analytics
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Rhode Island



Karen Wallace has over fifteen years of experience working in the healthcare industry across a variety of settings. Karen is a driven public health professional well-versed in information technology who acts as a servant leader over a growing analytics team at Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island.

Karen received her Master's in Public Health (MPH) from Tufts University School of Medicine and an Honors Bachelor of Science (B.S.) from Cornell University. Following receiving a SAS® Data Programming certificate from University of California – San Diego Extension, Karen presented her Capstone project “A Novel Approach to Calculating Medicare Hospital Readmissions for the SAS® Novice” at SESUG and SAS® Global Forum, where she received a Junior Professional Award in 2016.

Karen has served on the Steering Committee of the Boston Area SAS® Users Group since 2019. In her spare time, Karen enjoys arts, gardening, and learning new programming skills.

Trustworthy AI

Sterlina Smith, JD Sr Manager, Data Ethics Practice, SAS



Sterlina Smith is a Senior Manager in the SAS Data Ethics Practice (DEP), a cornerstone of the company's Responsible Innovation efforts. Prior to joining the DEP, she led the SAS Corporate Social Innovation and Brand division's data for good programs and has served in numerous other roles over the course of her 22 years at SAS. She is also a licensed attorney in the state of North Carolina.

The DEP works internally and externally to guide SAS and its customers in developing and deploying technologies that promote human well-being, agency and equity; establish SAS as a leading contributor to the growth of responsible innovation in AI and analytics; ensure SAS' approach to responsible innovation is coordinated globally; and develop best practices to quickly respond to regulatory changes.

How Do You Use SAS® to Access Data and APIs From the Web?

Chris Hemedinger Director of SAS User Engagement, SAS



Chris Hemedinger is the Director of SAS User Engagement. His talented team looks after SAS online communities, SAS user groups, developer experience and GitHub, tech newsletters, expert webinars and tutorials. Chris is a recovering software developer who helped build popular SAS products such as SAS Enterprise Guide. Inexplicably, Chris is still coasting on the limited fame he earned as an author of SAS For Dummies. You can follow Chris on Twitter as @cjdingler.