

Tributes to Karl Peace at BASS XX

For me, like so many others, Karl Peace is an inspiration. He has made enormous contributions to patients in the development of effective drugs for a wide variety of diseases and for demonstrating how industry statisticians can make important contributions to society through excellence in their craft and dedication to the objectives of high quality drug discovery and development. Karl has trained and educated numerous students and young statisticians, he has made major contributions to graduate education in biostatistics through establishing the biostatistics center at Georgia Southern, endowing the Jiann-Ping Hsu School of Public Health, and his dedication to using his resources and energy to helping others get a degree in biostatistics. His many publications and books have helped us all learn how to utilize statistical methods in an imaginative, honest and practical way, and he has made many contributions to our profession, including the wonderful BASS Symposiums. Karl has inspired us as human beings, with his success in rising from humble beginnings, his modesty, and his compassion for others. Karl is truly an amazing human being; one who serves as a model of the best that we can strive to be.

Rich Simon

Richard Simon, D.Sc.
Chief, Biometric Research Branch
National Cancer Institute

I have had the wonderful privilege of knowing Dr. Karl Peace for more than 30 years through collaborations for biopharmaceutical statistics research projects, biostatistical manuscripts, editorial work for the Journal of Biopharmaceutical Statistics, and participation in sessions of conferences and workshops addressing biopharmaceutical statistical topics, with BASS being among the most professionally worthwhile of these conferences. In all of these areas, I have found Karl's scientific insights and professional contributions to be outstanding. In this regard, his founding of the Journal of Biopharmaceutical Statistics is

particularly noteworthy since it was the first statistical journal to address statistical methodology that had a specific focus on biopharmaceutical topics. On the basis of the considerable enthusiasm that was exhibited for the manuscripts published in the Journal of Biopharmaceutical Statistics, Karl innovatively initiated the BASS conference to address the topics that were within the scope of the Journal of Biopharmaceutical Statistics so that they could have presentation in an environment that facilitated constructive public discussion. Karl has additionally made very important contributions to public health through both his professional and financial contributions to the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health at Georgia Southern University. In view of the previously noted considerations and many others, I have very much valued knowing Karl during these past 30 years and having many invaluable professional interactions with him.

Gary G. Koch, Professor
Department of Biostatistics
School of Public Health, CB# 7420
University of North Carolina

It's difficult to believe that BASS is 20! I know the work that goes on behind the scenes to put together a successful program. You have provided the direction needed for these endeavors and are to be congratulated. What many might not understand or be aware of is your generosity with the proceeds. There are at least two graduate training programs in biostatistics and numerous young biostatisticians that have been direct beneficiaries from these funds. As the former chair of the department at MCV I thank you and wish you and BASS continued success.

Hans Carter
Chair Emeritus, Dept. of Biostatistics
Medical College of Virginia

Congrats on BASS XX. Imagine that..... 20 years of BASS. Who would have thought?

Here are some factoids to put that in perspective. When BASS started, the median FDA approval time for NDAs was 27 months. SAS v6.0 user guides were paper only and, by comparison to today, seemed like the size of pamphlets listing career opportunities for liberal arts majors. The year you started BASS, the World Wide Web didn't even exist. It was so long ago the Dead Sea was probably just sick.

Your vision, energy, and commitment to establish and sustain BASS deservedly needs to be recognized and celebrated. BASS has endured as an institution and has consistently met its primary mission of providing educational assistance to many, many worthy BASS Fellows along the way. It is quite an accomplishment. You can justifiably take tremendous pride.

On a personal note, you may recall that I believe we first met in the winter of 1991 or 1992 at the December Deming Conference in Atlantic City. After that I regularly attended every BASS conference until I retired in 2007. BASS offered technical insight and training as well as valued camaraderie. It kept me abreast of the latest stat techniques, awareness of rapidly emerging statistical analysis computer applications, shifting regulatory requirements, and important insight as to where FDA thinking was headed. Then, at some point now lost to a faded memory, you invited me to join the Program Committee. It opened the door that allowed me to directly engage thought leaders in academia, industry, and government. But just as importantly, I got to know and work with great people like Tony, Janis, and Jeff. In fact, returning to BASS year after year to meet and socialize with old and new friends was as much a draw as the technical program. Looking back, BASS turned out to be essential to maintaining my situational awareness of what was going on outside my own narrow little OTC bubble.

It was an honor and a privilege to have been a part of BASS all those years. My only regret is that I wish we had met earlier in my career.

Fond memories and please stay in touch,

Jim Nick (Retired)
Director, Biostatistics
McNeil Consumer Products Company

Karl Peace is sneaky.

Let me tell you a story. Way back in the 1990's I was a somewhat younger statistician working at The Upjohn Company. Karl had a consulting company and worked with us on a tough product defense project. I got to know and appreciate Karl and he got to know me.

One day, Karl asked me if I would like to be the moderator for the FDA session at BASS IV. The session was all planned out and all I would have to do was introduce the speakers. That shouldn't be too hard, thought the fly of the spider's offer...

That first one *was* easy... Over the years on the BASS program committee, you might think you are working hard to pull together one of the best opportunities for statisticians from industry, regulatory agencies, and academia to share ideas and discuss issues (and you are). But you are also part of a scholarship generating machine built by Karl and powered by a 450 HP Peace engine. Yes, Karl Peace is sneaky, but only in that you don't realize at first how intensely driven and sincerely committed he is to the humanitarian goal of making things better for others. It has been and continues to be an honor to know and work with Karl. And it's not so bad here caught in the web with the rest of the program committee.

Jeff Schwartz
Senior Director
SCBU Neuroscience Statistics

Karl Peace provided the vision for the BASS meetings. The essential components of BASS included identifying expert speakers from the pharmaceutical industry, academia and regulatory agencies, giving those speakers sufficient time to fully develop their tutorial and short course topics, fostering opportunities for lively question and answer

sessions and an interactive atmosphere and finally, and perhaps most importantly, using funds generated from BASS to support graduate student in biostatistics. Karl Peace was the founder of BASS and has worked diligently over the years to recruit speakers, develop programs and take care of the numerous and sundry logistical details required to have a successful BASS meeting.

On a personal note, I first met Karl Peace in the spring of 1975. My first impression of him was that he was a superb basketball player. He was “country strong”, a tenacious rebounder who had the ability to succeed against much taller players and an amazingly accurate jump shot. When I first met Karl, little did I know that he would become a world-class statistician, entrepreneur and philanthropist.

Tony Segreti
Senior Director, Biostatistics
Targacept, Inc.

It gives me great pleasure to recognize Karl this afternoon for creating and leading this wonderful symposium that we are currently enjoying. It is no small feat to not only sustain, but grow, this unique collision of academia, FDA, and industry for the 20 years we celebrate now. True to Karl's passion to do good, this symposium has created scholarships for graduate students pursuing work associated with pharmaceutical drug development. It's not good enough just to have great speakers and good discussion, as meaningful as that is. Karl has shown us how to take good conversation and excellent research and produce tangible support for real students who will be the next leaders in subsequent innovation.

My first introduction to Karl was vicariously through one of his students who taught me Survival Analysis as a young biostatistics graduate student at the Medical College of Virginia. My instructor used the handwritten notes that Karl had produced of his own lengthy derivation of DR Cox's proportional hazards partial likelihood function. Step by step, nothing was left to chance as Karl's derivation took up many pages

to comb through, It was wonderful and I was spellbound wondering who this man was that was so detailed and clear in his exposition.

I then had the honor to meet Karl because he taught at another university nearby and he , like I, enjoyed playing racquetball. He and I would go head to head at the MCV courts and I usually was taken to school by Karl, winding up a humbled loser on most occasions. Yet delighted by Karl's competitiveness and I would go back for more! Another student who has gone on to a great career in pharma and here at BASS, Janis Grechko, would also humble me at the game so I was an equal opportunity loser.

I had the recent privilege to read Karl's autobiography "Paid In Full". I delayed reading it for a while because it seemed like such a large volume to digest. But I knew I wanted to read it this year and once I started reading, I literally could not put it down. I encourage each of you to read this outstanding, candid, recollection of an amazing life. No matter how hard, how difficult Karl's circumstances have been, he has shown us all how to serve our fellow man; in particular, how to leverage the science of statistics to not just be about number crunching but to put to use for the common good. And to have human beings, real people, at the center of those efforts.

In closing, I think the greatest tribute that can be paid comes from those who know you best, your family. Just last year, Karl's son Chris, on behalf of the Peace family and under the auspices of the American Statistical Association, established the Karl E. Peace Award for Outstanding Statistical Contributions for the Betterment of Society to recognize statisticians who have made substantial contributions to the statistical profession and society in general. Ironically the awardee this year is Rich Simon, whose work in personalized cancer drug development has been quoted more than once in this symposium.

So Karl, with my sincere appreciation for all you have done, and love for who you are, here's to a great 20 years of BASS and best wishes for many more.

Greg Enas (Retired)
Senior Director, Cardiovascular Medical Affairs & Mathematical Sciences
Eli Lilly

My first BASS meeting was the sixth, in 1999, which was held on Hilton Head Island that year. It was the first week of December and very mild – I still recall that a special treat was the fact that I could take a swim in the ocean each day after the sessions. But of course that is not the reason I came to BASS then, and it's not the reason you're here today. Over the years BASS has distinguished itself as the premier meeting for applied statisticians working all along the pharmaceutical development spectrum, whether in industry, within regulatory bodies, or otherwise vested in clinical trials methodology.

Karl Peace's dedication and relentless persistence has stood behind the success of BASS since the beginning, and that is what we're here to honor tonight.

Over the years I have come to know Karl, through the interactions we've had and through what I have read, and I must say that that has truly been a privilege. Those of you who know Karl know exactly what I mean. And if you don't know Karl, I urge you to take the opportunity during this meeting to introduce yourself, during the breaks or at the banquet tomorrow night, to just learn a little bit about this remarkable man...

Karl's professional accomplishments, both in academia and in the pharmaceutical industry (and he has had full careers in both) have been uniquely remarkable, not just because of the tremendous obstacles he has had to overcome, but also because of the way Karl has consistently, throughout his career, leveraged the fruits of his work for the good of others. Karl Peace combines professional passion with human compassion like none other I know. BASS is a perfect example of this. It is a great service to the profession, in terms of offering a meeting where speakers (by invitation only) have enough time to develop highly relevant topics in depth, colleagues from across the industry have ample

opportunity to question, exchange ideas and discuss, and, importantly, net conference proceeds are used entirely to support deserving graduate students in biostatistics. Despite reasonable registrations fees, BASS has generated several hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years that have been used to support dozens of graduate students at Georgia Southern and Virginia Commonwealth Universities.

In a word, tonight we are truly honoring a scholar and a gentleman. It's a privilege to know you Karl, and we are very grateful to you.

Andreas Sashegyi
Senior Research Adviser
Eli Lilly