

**Mentoring of professional statisticians under auspices of accredited statistical program:  
example of Statistical Society of Canada (SSC)**

Judy-Anne W. Chapman\*

NCIC Clinical Trials Group, Queen's University, Kingston, ON, Canada

[JChapman@ctg.queensu.ca](mailto:JChapman@ctg.queensu.ca)

An effective professional statistician requires skills beyond formal statistical training. A new practitioner needs to learn how to 1.) integrate formal education in a manner appropriate for the subject matter area(s) of practice, 2.) communicate clearly both verbally and in writing about a project from its inception to completion, 3.) work cohesively with people in other disciplines, 4.) maintain ethical statistical practice, and 5.) participate in effective professional development. An integral part of Statistical Society of Canada (SSC) Accreditation is the SSC Mentorship Program, which seeks to enhance the development of professional statistical practice in Canada through matching and sharing of knowledge and experience between professional statisticians (P.Stat.) and accredited members with less than 6 years practical experience, Associate Statisticians (A.Stat.). All A.Stat. need to be matched with a mentor. The choice of mentor may be determined by the A.Stat.'s hope for personal contact in a geographic region, or advice from a similar subject matter expert, who could interact electronically from a distance. The frequency and type of interactions are determined by the P.Stat. mentor and A.Stat. mentee, with a focus on individual situations. The process should help introduce A.Stat. to their new statistics careers, establish professional development plans and career goals, and accelerate achievement; should be satisfying for P.Stat. with sharing of professional skills and knowledge, enhancement of communication and leadership abilities; should be a benefit for employers helping A.Stat. employees to have greater job satisfaction and accelerate their organizational achievements. Generally, mentors act as older, more experienced friendly advisors who listen and help their mentees in situations facilitating the total adjustment of the mentee to circumstances that they may be unprepared to deal with on their own. The mentee may choose to implement suggestions from the mentor while retaining responsibility for the interface with their employer. The speaker has been the SSC facilitator for mentorship matching of P.Stat. with A.Stat. since the SSC began accrediting A.Stat. in 2006.

Key Words: Mentoring, professional statisticians, accreditation