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Spring 2020 is here!!



WHEN IS THE SPRING EQUINOX?

In 2020, the spring equinox (also called the March equinox or vernal equinox) occurs on Thursday, March 19, which is earlier than it's been in over a century! This event marks the astronomical first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere.

Spring is normally a time of renewal and optimism. This year the Coronavirus has seemingly put spring on hold, but it is important to appreciate and enjoy what the season brings us. You can still enjoy a nice day by going for a walk, working in the yard, or helping a person in need.

Try to keep a positive attitude as we learn to adjust to the increasing isolation we are experiencing. Keep in touch with loved ones and try to enjoy the beauty that Spring brings us here in Southern New England!

Dinner Meeting Recaps

- In January we were at Twelve Acres in Smithfield where Mitch Henderson presented on "Quantifying Safety Performance. Mitch did an outstanding job in presenting on a very informative topic.
- February brought us back to Emmily's in Johnston. Steve Gardiner facilitated an extremely interactive and information session on "Leadership 2020" with tips on effective communication and some very good exercises and discussions.
- Unfortunately, the March dinner meeting had to be canceled due to the Coronavirus. We had Joe DeFeo of the Juran Institute booked, which would have been a great event. We will be working with Joe to present at a future dinner meeting and will keep the membership posted.

Quality means doing it right when no one is looking. Henry Ford

Quality is never an accident; it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction and skillful execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives. William A. Foster

Did you know? There are 5 ways to manage risk?!

1. Accept The Risk

Accepting the risk means that while you have identified it and logged it in your risk management system, you take no action. You simply accept that it might happen and decide to deal with it if it does.

This is a good strategy to use for very small risks – risks that won't have much of an impact on your project if they happen and could be easily dealt with if or when they arise. It could take a lot of time to put together an alternative risk management strategy or take action to deal with the risk, so it's often a better use of your resources to do nothing for small risks.

2. Avoid The Risk

You can also change your plans completely to avoid the risk. This is a good strategy for when a risk has a potentially large impact on your project or process.

3. Transfer The Risk

Transference is a risk management strategy that isn't used very often and tends to be more common in projects where there are several parties. Essentially, you transfer the impact and management of the risk to someone else.

4. Mitigate The Risk

Mitigating against a risk is probably the most commonly mitigation of risk used risk management technique. It's also the easiest to understand and the easiest to implement. What mitigation means is that you limit the impact of a risk, so that if it does occur, the problem it creates is smaller and easier to fix.

5. Exploit The Risk

Acceptance, avoidance, transference and mitigation are great to use when the risk has a negative impact on the project. But what if the risk has a positive impact? Exploit the risk to the advantage of your project or process.

Back to Basics

Quality Tools – The Role of Statistics in Fighting the Coronavirus in Vaccine development

What is Inferential statistics?

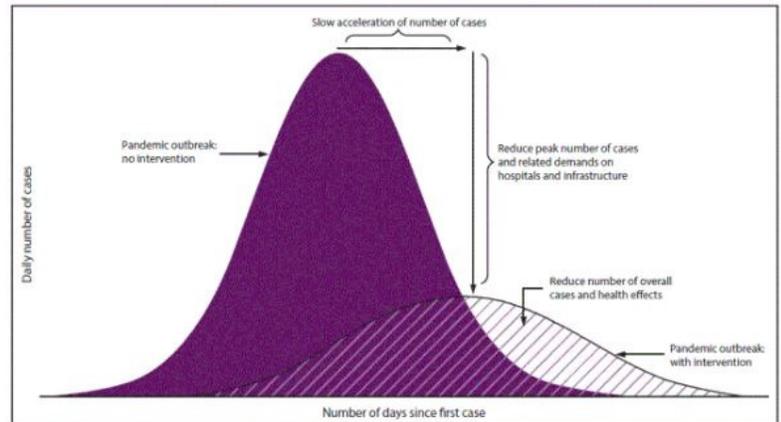
Without question, people who understand inferential stats will play a role in solving the coronavirus crisis. Inferential statistics are a family of statistics that focus on the ability to draw inferences found in samples to broader populations of interest. If you're working for a pharmaceutical company in an effort to try to develop an effective vaccine, you better have someone on your team who gets inferential stats. This person can look at findings found in your sample (e.g., the efficacy of the virus in a sample of, say, 20 young American adults) and determine whether the findings likely generalize to people in general. This is a critical part of the entire process, in fact.

How does the effect size factor in?

Effect size is what it sounds like. It includes a broad group of statistics that speak to how big or small your effect is in your sample data. If you're part of a team working on a vaccine and you have evidence that the effects of the trial vaccine are, in fact, quite small, and barely more effective than placebos, you have important information to drive the potential future productivity of the drug.

How does hypothesis testing help us?

A core part of statistical procedures these days is found in hypothesis testing—testing if some finding in a sample likely generalizes to a broader population of interest. A good statistician understands that there are potential errors embedded in the process, including the error that sees a finding as “significant” even though you are actually wrong, or a finding that does not come across as significant even though it should have been found as such. The understanding of these concepts is a hallmark of good science and absolutely essential in work on developing effective medical procedures.



Flattening the Curve of Covid-19

The use of statistics is also being used to follow the progression of the infection and to shape our behaviors in fighting the spread. Who would have thought that just a month or so ago we would be “social distancing” and “self-quarantining”??

Elected officials are using statistics, like never before, to set policy and implement executive orders to limit the interactions within our populations. Let's hope that we listen to what the statistics are telling us so we can put this crisis behind us with as little loss of life as possible.

After we have put this crisis behind us and you see a young student complaining about learning exponential log functions etc. remind them of the Coronavirus and what statistics did for us in fighting the pandemic.

5 Questions With...



If you would like to be featured in an upcoming newsletter, please send an email to the newsletter chair by [clicking here](#). All correspondence can be done via email.

This month's answers come from:
John Crawford
Senior Supply Quality Engineer at Plansee USA

1) How did you get started in quality?

I've worked in many different manufacturing roles and the one thing I could never understand is why the "Quality People" were always trying to stand in the way of moving product out the door. I figured that the only way I could ever understand how to beat them was to join them. So I jumped into the world of ASQ over seven years ago and have never turned back. What I found is that the QA/QC people I was working with didn't necessarily want to stand in the way of productivity but just didn't know how to effectively communicate their objectives to get buy-in from others. My career in Quality has focused on finding ways to help an organization understand, embrace, and improve their own unique approach to delivering value to all stakeholders.

2) How has ASQ membership benefitted you?

ASQ is a tremendous platform for knowledge and learning but it has been the people that have had the biggest impact on me. Through attending dinner meetings and other events I've had the opportunity to interact with many clear minded professionals that are willing to help. Without the great people involved with ASQ, the organization would only be some initials written on a certificate. There are many different ways to contribute and the ability to interact with other members and the community at large is what has benefited me the most.

3) What are some ways your company promotes quality?

My organization (Plansee, USA) is involved with machining high precision parts for many different industries and some of the biggest challenges are figuring out ways to design quality into our standard processes. To promote quality we have created a high-level awareness through Senior Leadership to emphasize the need for top-down commitment and define a path for the future. I've been to companies that have their Quality Policy written on a sign somewhere and that's about where it ends. At Plansee we are trying to "walk the talk" by making major investments in Quality 4.0 initiatives and the supporting roles to make it work.

Next Dinner Meeting

The next dinner meeting is postponed due to the COVID-19 social distancing measure.

Please keep in touch on our [website](#) to find out what other exciting offerings we have.

4) What are some productivity tricks/apps that I can't live without?

I'm not sure if this qualifies as a "trick" necessarily, but a motto that I try to live by is summed up in a quote from Mark Twain, "If it's your job to eat a frog, it's best to do it first thing in the morning. And if it's your job to eat two frogs, it's best to eat the biggest one first." To me this statement is about creating momentum by prioritizing and acting decisively. It doesn't matter the tool you use to get the snowball ball started because if you don't take action there is no value in spending time planning.

5) When not working on quality, what hobbies/interests do you enjoy?

Any chance I get to explore something new with my family (wife/kids/dogs) is what I enjoy the most. We always have fun.....whether at the beach, playing in the park, hiking a trail, dancing to the Wiggles, or trying different foods. I also try to jump on my mountain bike any chance I get and enjoy riding the varying terrain throughout New England.



Mission Statement: To achieve World Class Leadership in customer satisfaction, we will continually strive to create, promote and stimulate interest in quality technology and information. Our organization will foster continuous improvement, mutual respect and individual growth of all members and economic viability of the RIASQ section.

What's New? Join MyASQ

In addition to the www.riasq website also please take a look at our online community.

Please add yourself as a member or request to be a member if you can't add yourself.

<https://my.asq.org/communities/home/298>

RIASQ would like to wish all our members, friends and families a safe and healthy Spring season through these uncertain times.

RI ASQ Leadership Team

Chair – Christopher Cinieri
Secretary – Dean Chapman
Treasurer – John Torrey
Membership – Steve Blanchette
Scholarship – Jane Pilz
Nominating – Ken Hayes
Program – Dean Chapman
Placement/Auditing – John Skory
Education Chair: Rick Fay
Newsletter – Robert Soares
Outreach – John Crawford
Arrangements – Joseph Malachowski
Internet/Webmaster – Stephen Massarone
Voice of the Customer – Mitch Henderson

Education Updates

Stay tuned as we begin to roll out our 2020 lineup of education courses, click [here](#) to check for the latest offerings.

As always, if you or anyone you know would be interested in teaching a course or providing a place to hold a course, please let us know by emailing the education chair at education@riasq.org or by clicking [here](#).