

PP02: Developing R Package Capability in a Historically SAS-based Organization – The GSK Clinical Programming Experience



Abstract: GSK Clinical Programming has been on a transformative journey to integrate R programming into the clinical reporting process. At the start, the R capability amongst our programming staff was negligible. Yet we aimed to accelerate the organization's path to R integration, which necessitated centrally developed tools (packages) to be available for all staff. That said, the elements of properly developing and releasing an R package is markedly different from a SAS macro library which may support similar operational activities. Apart from simply requiring fluency in the R language, R packages are typically developed with integrated help documentation, unit testing, and consistency in ontologies and object naming conventions. This presentation aims to share our experience building the necessary capabilities from near nothing to our ultimate objective of establishing a self-sufficient R package development team to support operational activities of the whole of the clinical reporting process.

