



HARTFORD AREA SAS® USERS GROUP

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Note from the Chairperson

Barbara Moss
CIGNA

Our next meeting will be held at Purdue Pharma in Stamford, Connecticut. You may want to consider taking the train when devising your transportation plans. Purdue Pharma is an easy walk from the Metro North train station in Stamford. Please see the "Meeting Announcement and Directions" section for travel tips and directions.

The May HASUG meeting is the time when we elect the steering committee. As of the writing of this article the following people are nominated to serve: Michael Davis from Bassett Consulting Services, Inc., Bernard Dubb from Online Associates, Miguel Hernandez from Client Associated Businesses, Inc., Albert Lavoie from Bristol-Myers Squibb, Cindy Johnson, Karol Katz from Yale University, Tom Mansfield from Purdue Pharma, Barbara Moss from CIGNA, Charles Patridge and Peter Prause from The Hartford, Janet Stuelpner from Citigroup, and Gerald Zuckier from Bayer. Other nominations will be taken from the floor at the May meeting. The Steering Committee will elect the new chairperson from among its' members.

My heartfelt thanks go to the members of the steering committee for all their support over the last two years. It has been an entertaining time as chairperson and was made easy by the fine team with which I got to work. It truly is a remarkable group of people that support HASUG.

New members are always welcome on the steering committee. The responsibilities of the committee are: coordinating the quarterly meetings, selecting topics, finding speakers, preparing the newsletter. If you have an interest in becoming involved, please email or speak to anyone on the steering committee.

Meeting Announcement

The second quarter HASUG meeting is to be held on **Friday, May 24, 2002, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 at Purdue Pharma, Stamford, Connecticut.** Refreshments will be available at 8:30 a.m. **Please note that day and date of this meeting have been changed from the originally scheduled day and date of Thursday, May 16, 2002!**

Please pre-register for this meeting by completing the short pre-registration form at <http://www.hasug.org>. In the comment section, please let us know if you would like to eat lunch, at your own expense, in the Purdue Pharma cafeteria. The cafeteria needs this information to determine if extra meals need be prepared. If questions, contact our host, Tom Mansfield at 203-588-8038 or 1-800-745-7445, extension 8038, or by email at Tom.Mansfield@pharma.com.

Our first presentation will be by **Michael Davis, Bassett Consulting Services, Inc.**, who will present **"Understanding SAS/Warehouse Administrator[®]."**

Some firms have looked at SAS/Warehouse Administrator and decided to continue developing applications in the traditional way. Why? Reasons include high investment cost, difficulty of incorporating legacy code, and the awkwardness of using terminal emulators when running SAS/Warehouse Administrator on a server located in a "glass room" or other remote location. However, if one can overcome these objections and let SAS/Warehouse Administrator write the required SAS code, the advantages of metadata take over. These advantages include easier maintenance and more rapid development of new data warehouse applications. Another advantage includes quickly determining the impact of changing columns and rows. Last, SAS/Warehouse Administrator automatically publishes HTML documentation and process diagrams. This presentation will illustrate how a data mart is modeled in SAS/Warehouse Administrator, drawing upon a prototype that the author recently created. The example will highlight how conditional processing can be accommodated by CASE expressions. A technique to work around the limitations of terminal emulation will also be demonstrated.

Michael Davis is Vice President of Bassett Consulting Services, Inc., a SAS Alliance Silver Member[™]. An independent consultant since 1994, he previously worked for Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Connecticut and the Connecticut Hospital Association. A SAS user since 1985, Michael specializes in developing custom web-enabled and full-screen decision support systems using SAS/IntrNet[®], SAS/AF[®] FRAME, and other SAS products, including SAS/Warehouse Administrator. He is a past chairman of the Hartford Area SAS

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User Group and is a frequent presenter at NE-SUG and SUGI. Michael is also the past president of the Connecticut Chapter of the Independent Computer Consultants Association.

The second part of this meeting will feature two product demonstrations:

David Ward, InterNext will demonstrate **Onyx SAS Server Tools**. Onyx is a full-featured application server that can be used to control the SAS system in a unique way from any other software application, even on remote machines. Onyx fully and in a special way supports communication with the web (i.e. web pages) using CGI (common gateway interface), or other methods like Java Server Pages. Utilizing a unique TCP/IP protocol, SAS can be queried to perform a number of tasks using other applications like Java, Perl, Visual Basic, or C/C++. An advanced multi-threaded application server running in Java provides a transparent and load-balanced way to process SAS requests on any number of servers, even across platforms.

David Ward is President of InterNext, Inc., a software and consulting company focusing on SAS-based solutions. An independent consultant since 2000, he previously worked in the pharmaceutical industry writing commercial software applications. InterNext has drawn from its consulting and application development experience to build and sell several commercial applications. He is an active speaker at local and regional SAS user groups and serves on the executive committee for the New Jersey SAS users group.

Dana Rafiee, Destiny Corporation will demonstrate **ASAP™**. ASAP Version 2.0 from **complementSoft™** is a complete development platform and software productivity tool for SAS users and programmers. With ASAP, you can easily visualize, edit, transfer, and debug SAS programs. Built-in program flow, execution flow and data flow visualization, automatic remote execution, and source code template support are just a few of the features that makes complementSoft an essential tool in any SAS environment.

Dana Rafiee is President of Destiny Corporation. Destiny Corporation is a SAS software training and consulting company, headquartered in Wethersfield, Connecticut, and providing services for

clients through the United States and Europe since 1987. Destiny Corporation is a member of the SAS Alliance.

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The HASUG Recruiting Policy

HASUG's primary mission is to provide a forum for SAS professionals to meet and share experiences. HASUG also recognizes that searching for new employment opportunities is a normal activity when professionals meet. Since we depend on our respective employers to support HASUG by providing time for members to attend, prepare presentations, and provide meeting facilities, we do not wish to jeopardize those relationships we have all nurtured.

Therefore, when attending any of our quarterly meetings, we request that all parties engaged in recruiting activities be "professional and discreet", and suggest that such activities be carried outside and after our meetings. Those seeking or offering positions may display materials at a location designated by HASUG at each quarterly meeting. The materials may include resumes, job openings, contract opportunities, business cards, etc. None of the materials may include salary information. All such materials left after the meeting will be discarded. Violators of this policy may be asked to leave the meeting.

For other recruiting opportunities, please see the SAS CONSIG article elsewhere in this newsletter or visit www.sconsig.com.

The HASUG Sponsorship Policy

All parties are encouraged and welcome to attend our quarterly HASUG meetings scheduled during the months of February, May, August, and November of each year. Usually these meetings are scheduled the 3rd Thursday from 9:00 am to noon at various locations throughout Connecticut. Past locations have included Hartford, Meriden, Middletown, Norwalk, Glastonbury, and New Haven. We are always looking for new hosts within the state of Connecticut. If you feel your organization can host a meeting of up to 70 or so people, please contact one of the Steering Committee members.

Change to HASUG Distribution List

The HASUG Email List Distribution has changed within the past year. In most aspects, the process and privacy issues remain the same as before. The only obvious difference is when you sign up to be a member in the HASUG.org web site, you will see you have two choices to select which list to join (HASUG Email or SCONSIG). You are able to join either or both Email Lists at the same time by MARKING the CHECK BOXes to the left of each list.

Select your interests

HASUG Email

SCONSIG

Both SCONSIG and HASUG share the cost to make this feature available to its respective members, and both lists are separate and independent from each other.

If you were already a member prior to this change, your membership has been automatically transferred to the new list, and you do not have to do anything. However, in case you have changed your email address recently, your membership is automatically purged from either list due to bounced emails.

The List automatically checks for valid email addresses and if any should become invalid, your membership is cancelled without notice as your email address is no longer valid, hence no way to contact you.

February Highlights

Albert Lavoie, Bristol Meyers Squibb

Peter Prause of The Hartford Insurance Company was the host of the February HASUG meeting. As host, he welcomed everyone and introduced the speakers for the day. There must be some truth to the old saying "Talk about XML, and they will come". Meeting attendance continues to grow this month as it has in the recent past

"A More Capable XML Libname Engine"

Tony Friebel, the SAS architect of the SAS XML engine, was the first speaker. Those in attendance were quite fortunate because a more knowledgeable person on the subject of XML doesn't exist. One of the XML issues that was covered by Tony included the unique function of XML with respect to the future of Information Technology. XML will very likely become a de-facto communications standard, actually a set of standards, since many aspects of XML are becoming unique based on individual industry needs. By covering the basic syntax of the XML language, Tony gave the audience a good sense of the complexity of the syntax. Most of us were left with a good appreciation of what the SAS XML engine can do for us. The bottom line is that the SAS XML engine will shield the SAS programmer from having to deal with code level XML syntax.

"Modeling Lifetime Value for Financial Services"

The second presenter was C. Olivia Par Rudd from Data Square, LLC. She spoke about SAS as a tool for developing predictive financial models. Olivia's specialty is data mining and has been a consultant in this field for many years. Through her excellent presentation, Olivia provided good insights, hints and techniques for designing effective financial predictive models. Olivia has written a book on the subject, titled "The Data Mining Cookbook" (John Wiley and Sons).

Continuing With Education...
Peter Prause, The Hartford

Local SAS training is available at Destiny Corporation of Wethersfield, CT. Below is a list of their scheduled classes through August 2002. You can reach Destiny at 1-800-787-2464 or at 860-721-1684, or send an email to info@destinycorp.com. You can visit their web site at www.destinycorp.com.

Introduction to Programming Using SAS Software	May 6 - 7
Programming I: SAS Essentials	May 20 - 22
Programming II: Data Manipulation Using the DATA Step	June 5 - 7
Programming III: Advanced Techniques	June 24 - 25
Programming IV: Optimizing Programs in SAS Software	July 15 - 16
Macros in SAS Software	July 29- 31
SQL Processing with SAS Software	Aug 12 - 13

The SAS Institute Regional Training Center in Glastonbury, CT is offering these courses through September 2002. Course information for these courses and many other non-local courses is available on the SAS Internet web site www.sas.com. To register for a course or to get more information, phone SAS Institute at 1-800-333-7660.

SAS Programming II: Manipulating Data with the DATA Step	Apr 30 - May 2
SAS Programming I: Essentials	May 29-31
Introduction to Time Series Forecasting Using SAS/ETS Software	Jun 12-14
SQL Processing with the SAS System	Jun 19 - 20
SAS Programming I: Essentials	Jul 30 - Aug 1
SAS Programming II: Manipulating Data with the DATA Step	Aug 6 - 8

SAS Programming III: Advanced Techniques	Aug 21 - 22
Introduction to Programming Concepts Using SAS Software	Sep 5 - 6
Optimizing SAS Programs	Sep 18 - 19
SAS Programming I: Essentials	Sep 24 - 26

Please visit the Destiny and SAS Institute web sites for the latest information

Calendar of Events

Future HASUG Meetings and SAS Conferences of Interest:

May 24, 2002	Purdue Pharma, Stamford, CT
Aug 15, 2002	Yale Univ., New Haven, CT
Sep 29, 2002	NESUG, Buffalo, NY

HASUG Steering Committee Meetings:

May 24, 2002	Immediately after HASUG mtg.
June 13, 2002	Conference call, 11:30-12:30
Aug 15, 2002	Immediately after HASUG mtg.

Editorial and Production Staff:

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	Al Lavoie
	Barbara Moss
	Charles Patridge
	Peter Prause

Consultants' Special Interest Group (SCONSIG)

The SAS Consultants' Special Interest Group (SCONSIG) operates and maintains a web site located at www.sconsig.com. This site lists employment opportunities, contracts, vitas, resumes, and companies seeking SAS professional talent. It is updated weekly. You are encouraged to visit that web site or to contact Charles Patridge. E-mail: Charles_S_Patridge@prodigy.net) for further information.

Tips and Techniques from SCONSIG

Disclaimer:

"Each tip included here addresses a problem, and presents a use of one or more SAS concepts. Use it to stimulate your thinking and help you on your way to solving your own problem. Some tips may or may not work in your environment or with your version of the SAS Software, and you should use these tips with this in mind.

Neither HASUG nor contributing Author(s) should be held responsible for any direct and/or indirect damage to you or your applications from using these free tips."

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TIPS IN BLUE ARE IN THIS NEWSLETTER, ALL TIPS CAN BE LOCATED ON WWW.SCONSIG.COM

TIP00310 - A way to COMPRESS Special Characters Out of a Character Variable by Paul Dorfman

TIP00312 - Using the PIPE Engine, an example of getting a list of file names from your PC directory saved to a SAS Dataset by Charles Patridge and Peter Crawford

TIP00313 - The EUROCURR function converts one European currency to another and returns a value - Mostly cut & pasted from SASDoc by Philip Mason

TIP00314 - Simple program scheduler using a SAS macro by Philip Mason

TIP00315 - Parse Date/Time Text Field by Venky Chakravarthy

TIP00320 - SAS Efficiencies by Nick Warman, Ian Whitlock, Charles Patridge, Heide Tribius, Larry Bertolini and Paul M. Dorfman

TIP00321 - Retrieve the Path Name of the Last Fileref Opened under SAS Version 8.x by: Rob Krajcik

TIP00322 - How to read all datasets in a library by using a wildcard by Jack Hamilton

TIP00324 - Convert a Macro Parameter List into Observations by Paul Dorfman, Pete Lund and Charles Patridge

SAS Q&A: Creating Multiple Output Files in the Same ODS Destination

This coding tidbit shows how easy it is to concurrently open multiple files in the same Output Delivery System (ODS) destination simply by assigning an ID to the ODS destination.

Read more at http://www.sas.com/service/techtips/ts_qa/multifiles.html

Quick Tip: %SQUEEZE-ing Before Compressing Data

SAS data compression techniques can optimize the space required to contain a SAS data set. Minimizing the length of integer numeric variables in a data set can save additional space. This tip discusses some appropriate uses of compression and length reduction, and describes the use of the %SQUEEZE macro to find minimum variable lengths.

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Read more at <http://www.sas.com/service/techtips/quicktips/squeeze.html>

New Free Online Tutorial for SAS/ACCESS Software

A new online tutorial illustrates the basics of using SAS/ACCESS interfaces to read, write and update data in third-party database management systems. In about an hour, you learn how to reference a DBMS as a SAS library, use DBMS objects (such as tables) as data sets in your SAS programs, and use the SQL Procedure Pass-Through Facility to send DBMS-specific SQL statements directly to a DBMS to save processing time. Read more at http://www.sas.com/software/tutorialsv8/access/m0_1.htm

Technical Tip: SAS Dates, Times and Interval Functions

One of the questions most frequently asked of SAS Technical Support regards counting weekdays within a period of time. This SAS Technical Support Note discusses how SAS measures and uses time and time intervals. For instance, finding the last day of a particular month can seem troublesome, but really it is not difficult to do. The note shows how to answer this and other date and time interval questions.

Read more at <http://ftp.sas.com/techsup/download/technote/ts668.html>

How do I make the SAS Explorer window look like the Windows Explorer window?

Read SI's technical note on how to

do this
<http://www.sas.com/service/techsup/unotes/SN/006/006939.html>

/** TIP 00310 **/

Is there a convenient way (e.g., function) to compress "high-bit" special characters out of a char string? I.e., I want only the basic letters, numbers, & keyboard chars, no special umlauts, etc.

Author: Paul M. Dorfman
Email: paul_dorfman@HOTMAIL.COM

```
Simple. Write a macro along the lines of
%Macro AlphN (Str) ;
  Compress(&Str, Compress (Collate
(0,255), Ucase
('abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz') || Low-
case('abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz') ||
('0123456789')))
%Mend AlphN ;
```

First, it grabs the entire collating sequence (all available characters) and purges alphanumeric characters out of it. Then, it purges what is left (i.e. non-alphanumeric characters only) from your string. Just let us check it out:

```
15 Data _Null_ ;
16 S = Collate(0,255) ;
17 C = %AlphN (S) ;
18 Put C = ;
19 Run ;
```

S=0123456789ABCDEFGHIJKLMNPOQRSTUVWXYZ
WXYZabcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

Looks like it works. Name the macro according to your liking ("CompJunk"? - give your fancy a fly, just make sure you will not have to sift through the memory to recall the name), put it on autocall, and call it whenever necessary *as if* it were a function.

```
/** end of tip 00310 **/
/*****
/** TIP00312 ***/
/** Author: Peter Crawford &
```

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Charles Patridge
Email: peter.crawford@DB.COM
Charles_S_Patridge@prodigy.net
SAS Macro to create a SAS Dataset that contains a list of all files by the given OS Directory command

Using the PIPE Engine (Only in V8 not for V6) parameters

mydir = Is the OS Directory command ie Windows DIR c:\download\P*.sas

mysasdsn = Is name of SAS DATA SET you wish to create that hold the list of files requested

example call For Windows Platform **%cr_dir (dir /b/s c:\download\c*.sas, myfiles)** - list of all sas files starting with the letter "c" and has extensions starting with "sas" which will include sas7bdat, sasold, etc

For OpenVMS Platform

%cr_dir (dir userdisk1:[patridge]fix*.sas, myfiles)- list all sas files starting with the letters "fix" and has extensions starting with "sas" which will include saseb\$data, sasold, etc.

```
****/
/*****
%macro cr_dir( _mydir_ , OUT= );
  %local rc myref ;
  /* now obtain a free fileref */
  %let rc = %sysfunc( filename( myRef, . ) );
  %let myRef = %substr( &myRef, 2 );
  /* strange delivery of # converted to _ */
  filename &myRef pipe "&_mydir_";
  data &out;
    infile &myRef trunccover;
    input myfiles $char200.;
  run;
  /* release the fileref */
  filename &myRef ;
%mend cr_dir;
```

/* Windows Platform - /b/s is bare format including all subdirectories in MSDOS execute HELP DIR to get more info about DIR command */

/* create a list */
***%cr_dir (dir /b/s c:\download\P*.sas , out=myfile);

%cr_dir (dir /b/s c:\download*.sas , out=myfile);

/* export to excel */
%myexcel(work.myfile, "c:\download\myfile.csv");

/* Alpha OpenVMS Directory command */
***%cr_dir (dir userdisk1:[patridge]p*.sas , out=sasuser.myfile);
/* end of tip 00312 */

/* TIP 00315 */
Parsing a Date/Time Text Field
Author: Chakravarthy, Venky
Email: swovcc@hotmail.com

```
%macro parsedt( _datestr, _newdate, _newtime );
  _y_ = input(substr(&_datestr, 5,2)||substr(&_datestr,1,3)||substr(&_datestr,8,4)||"|"||substr(&_datestr,13,8)||"."||substr(&_datestr,22,3)||" "||substr(&_datestr,25,2),datetime40.) ;
  &_newdate = datepart(_y_) ;
  &_newtime = timepart(_y_) ;
  format &_newtime time. &_newdate date.;
  drop _y_;
%mend parsedt;
```

data testdate;
infile cards missover;
input d1 \$ 27. @31 d2 \$ 27. ;

```
%parsedt( d1, d1date, d1time ) ;
%parsedt( d2, d2date, d2time ) ;
cards;
May 21 2001 12:00:00:000AM   May 18 2001
11:01:24:126AM
May 21 2001 12:00:00:000AM   May 18 2001
11:23:57:870AM
May 21 2001 12:00:00:000AM   May 18 2001
4:29:14:216PM
May 21 2001 12:00:00:000AM   May 11 2001
8:01:30:010AM
May 21 2001 12:00:00:000AM   May 11 2001
8:14:01:020AM
;;;
run;
```

/* end of tip 00315 */

/* TIP 00322 */
I would like to read all datasets in a library by using a wildcard.

Data test ;
set libone.* ;

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run ;

This would allow me to not have to put in all the datasets to concatenate them.

Solution by Jack Hamilton
Email: JackHamilton@FirstHealth.com

The easiest workaround (in my opinion) uses SQL and the SASHELP views of DICTIONARY tables to create a list of data sets to include:

```

%global alldsns;

proc sql noprint;
  select trim(libname) || '.' || memname
  into :alldsns
  separated by ' '
  from sashelp.vstabvw
  where libname = 'SASUSER';
quit;

data test;
  set &ALLDSNS ;
run;

```

This will give you all data sets and views in the library. If you want only real data sets, or only views, you could do that using either different SASHELP views or the underlying dictionary tables.

By changing the WHERE clause, you can select only those data sets whose names match a particular pattern.

/** end of tip 00322 **/

/** TIP 00324 **/

I'm trying to write some code that will take a macro variable like this:

%let list=4,23,89,78,41,13 ;
and create a dataset like this:

```

list
4
23
89
78
41
13

```

Solution #1
Paul M. Dorfman
Email: paul_dorfman@HOTMAIL.COM

```

%let list=4,23,89,78,41,13 ;
data list ;
  do list = &list ;
    output ;
  end ;
run ;

```

Solution #2
Pete Lund
Email: pete.lund@nwcsr.com

```

%let list=4,23,89,78,41,13 ;
data test(drop=i);
  do i = 1 by 1 while (scan("&list",i,',') ne "");
    value = scan("&list",i,',');
    output;
  end;
run;

```

Solution #3 (IN CASE LIST is Character)
Charles Patridge (Paul's solution adapted - Nice Trick Paul!)
Email: Charles_S_Patridge@prodigy.net

```

%let
list='0A1','4','23','89','78','41','13','1234567890
';
data list ;
  length list $ 10.; /** length of longest
quoted string in list **/
  do list = &list ;
    output ;
  end ;
run ;

```

/** end of TIP 00324 **/

All Tips can be located on <http://www.sconsig.com> and we welcome anyone to submit their little GEMS to HASUG steering committee to share with the rest of the SAS community. Please submit your tips to Charles Patridge at email:
Charles_S_Patridge@prodigy.net

Hyperlinks of Interest

The SAS Consultants Special Interest Group's web site URL has changed. Edit the bookmarks on your favorite Browser to point to:

<http://www.sconsig.com>

Read Past SUGI Proceedings Online at:
(link supplied by Curtis Smith):

<http://www.sas.com/usergroups/sugi/proceedings/index.html>

Information about the SAS Users Group International (SUGI), including information about the 2003 conference in Seattle can be found at:

<http://www.sas.com/usergroups/sugi/sugi28/index.html>

Links to see webcasts from SUGI 27 in Orlando:
http://www.sas.com/news/feature/15apr02/sugi_webcast.html

(continued next column)

Steering Committee

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SAS OnlineDoc is available from SAS on the World-Wide Web. To register to view SAS OnlineDoc on the web, register at the following URL:

<http://www.sas.com/v8doc>

NorthEast SAS Users Group Conference, to be held Sept 29-Oct2, 2002 in Buffalo, NY
To Register:
<http://www.nesug.info/A558C0/NESUG.nsf?OpenDatabase>

Some of the papers and other handouts distributed at recent HASUG meetings can be found at the following two web sites:

<http://www.hasug.org>
<http://www.bassettconsulting.com>

Directions to Purdue Pharma

Ride Metro-North Railroad to Purdue Pharma

Driving to Purdue Pharma during the morning rush hour can be difficult because of heavy commuter traffic.

Consider traveling to Stamford using the Metro-North Railroad. Purdue is a two-block walk from the Stamford Transportation Center (one block North on Atlantic Street, one block East on Tresser Boulevard). Fare and schedule information can be obtained by calling (800) 638-7646 or by visiting the Metro-North web site, <http://www.mta.nyc.ny.us>.

Driving From New York (I-95 North)

- Take Exit 8 (Atlantic St.) in Stamford
- Turn left on Atlantic St. at end of

ramp

- Turn right at second light on to Tresser Blvd
- Go straight past first light
- Take next right into the visitor garage entrance where security will assist you

Driving From New Haven (I-95 South)

- Take Exit 7 (Atlantic St.) in Stamford
- Continue straight at end of ramp (you will pass the Purdue Pharma Building on your right)
- Turn right on to Atlantic Street
- Turn right at second light on to Tresser Boulevard
- Go straight past first light
- Take next right into the visitor garage entrance where security will assist you.

Map showing Purdue Pharma and Surrounding area of Stamford

