



## HARTFORD AREA SAS® USERS GROUP

Volume 16, Issue 3

Third Quarter, August 2004

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The HASUG Flash is available for reading on the World Wide Web at <http://www.hasug.org>  
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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

By Charles Patridge

First, let me begin with saying Thank You to James Blaha for carrying the baton as HASUG's Chairperson for the past year – a job well done!

Second, I would like to squash any rumors about Michael Davis. Michael is alive and well, working at Aetna from Blue Bell, PA. Michael has been associated with HASUG for close to 20 years and his dedication to making HASUG a great local SAS user group will be sorely missed!

I will be your Interim Chairperson for the next year or until we have another volunteer who is willing to take the reins and set a course for continued success. HASUG has a number of good people on the steering committee willing and experienced at helping run the organization smoothly. So, being chairperson is not a lonely position but rather, a position of being a conductor to orchestrate the "music" you hear at our quarterly meetings.

In order for HASUG to be effective to its members, the Steering Committee needs your input, suggestions and advice on the topics you would like to see at our meetings. We have implemented an online form for anyone to fill out to let us know what you wish to have at our future meetings, so please use this ([http://www.hasug.org/hasug\\_ideas.htm](http://www.hasug.org/hasug_ideas.htm)) to tell us what you want!

Also, please inform your colleagues to register their email addresses with HASUG so we can inform everyone about our meetings. We have taken all reasonable precautions to ensure your registered email address is secure from being spammed, and we do not share our list with any 3<sup>rd</sup> parties.

And finally, I urge every member to consider becoming an active HASUG participant by volunteering for one or more of the following:

- a. consider sharing some of your tips or techniques for publication
- b. consider presenting one of your SAS applications with the group
- c. volunteer to read one of the SAS Books by Users and write a book review – you get to keep the book for your own library
- d. volunteer to become a member of the Steering Committee and help set the future direction of HASUG
- e. if your employer can host approximately 70 to

90 people, consider volunteering to host one of our future meetings

Please contact any member of the Steering Committee (<http://www.hasug.org>) if you wish to volunteer for one of the above tasks.

The members of the HASUG Steering Committee and I look forward to hearing from you in the near future and hope our efforts have demonstrated HASUG to be one of the best local SAS User Groups in the SAS community.

## EDITORIAL and PRODUCTION STAFF:

Editor:	Janet Stuelpner
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Member Lists:	Charles Patridge
Web master:	Charles Patridge
Contributors:	Peter Prause David Smith

## AUGUST MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The third quarter HASUG meeting for 2004 is to be held on Wednesday, August 11, 2004, 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Laboratory of Epidemiology and Public Health (LEPH) Building, Yale University, 60 College Street, New Haven, CT 06510.

Refreshments and networking will be available at 8:30 a.m.

Please pre-register by NOON Tuesday, August 10, 2004 for this meeting. If you have any questions, contact our host Karol Katz at Yale.

This Quarter we will have a potpourri of speakers, presenting some of the BASE SAS Procedures that are often under utilized:

Robert Krajcik (BMS): will present the SAS Editor and how to effectively use it with all of its bells and whistles.

Karol Katz (YALE): will present Proc Forms

Karol Katz: will present Proc Datasets

Charles Patridge (The HTFD): will present Proc Transpose

Cindy Johnson (BMS): will present Proc Compare

Larry Apuzzo (BMS): will present Proc Contents

## Biographies of our Speakers

Rob Krajcik has been working with SAS software since 1981. His interests include: Macro functions, Output Delivery System, transporting data between Unix and Windows, MS Office applications, graphics, web design and the Enhanced Editor. Rob became a SAS Certified Base Programmer in 2004.

Karol Katz has been a SAS user for 17 years. She is employed in the School of Medicine at Yale University. As a member of the Biostatistics Consulting Unit in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, she served as a consultant on data management, study design and statistical issues to researchers in the hospital and university. She is the data analyst for several multi-center longitudinal randomized Clinical Trials. Her areas of expertise in SAS/STAT include linear and logistic regression, and survival analysis.

Cindy Johnson has been using SAS to do data reporting and database structuring on medical data since 1973. She has seen many trends come and go in data collection and database structures, but BASE SAS is the tool which has remained stable through it all. Currently she works in the pharmaceutical industry for Bristol-Myers Squibb in the Oncology area.

Larry Apuzzo works as a Principle Analyst and has been at Bristol-Myers Squibb since 1997 working in Oncology. Larry has been a SAS programmer primarily in the pharmaceutical industry for the last 11 years.

Charles Patridge has been using SAS since 1979 in various positions, companies and consulting assignments. He has worked for Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Co., LIMRA, CIGNA, Aetna, Coldwell Banker Relocation, Bayer Inc., SNETCO, State of Connecticut, Automobile Association of British Columbia, United States Postal Service, Australian Federal Health Insurance Commission, Australian Government, Applied Psychological Techniques, Alan K. Campbell Public Affairs Institute, Arthur Andersen Consulting, Paine Webber, and currently, for The Hartford. In addition, he operates his own company (PDPC, Ltd.) specializing in SAS and "fuzzy merge" applications as well as statistical analysis in a variety of industries. His area of SAS expertise lies in BASE, STAT, AF, FSP, Macros, and ETS.

## MAY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

By David Smith

The May meeting of the Hartford Area SAS Users Group took place on May 27, 2004 at Bristol-Myers Squibb in Wallingford, Connecticut. The meeting was attended by approximately 75 participants and was held in the main auditorium.

Presentations were given by Ron Cody and Jonas Bilenas. Ron is very well known in the SAS community and is the author of several SAS books in the SAS Books By Users program. As Ron was within a day of retiring from the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, we were very grateful that he was able to spend time with us during a busy week. Jonas Bilenas works for Chase Manhattan Bank in New York, and is a HASUG Steering Committee member of HASUG.

Ron's presentation was titled "An Introduction to Regular Expressions in SAS V9: Perls of Wisdom". The capability to utilize Perl with SAS is one of the new features available in version 9. Perl is an open source programming language that is based primarily on C with other languages (awk, the Unix Shell, and others) having a lesser influence. Ron's talk focused on the flexibility that Perl offers in finding, manipulating and replacing text strings, and in pattern matching of text strings and in reading unstructured data. I immediately saw the value that Perl offers for text mining analyses. Ron emphasized that there is a (small) learning curve necessary when SAS programmers start to build regular expressions in Perl, but with practice, the expressions will become a great deal easier to write. The Perl expressions are embedded with SAS DATA Steps.

Following the break, Jonas gave a presentation titled "The Power of PROC FORMAT". Jonas reminded the audience of the power that PROC FORMAT offers, and as with so many other widely used SAS PROC's, its potential utility is often well under utilized. Jonas provided several examples to demonstrate the versatility of PROC FORMAT including the assignment of new variables, extraction of data, specifying ranges, data merges, finding unexpected values, picture format templates and saving formats in a SAS library and strategies to improve the presentation of results. Jonas is working on completing a SAS manual titled "The Power of PROC FORMAT" that is due to be published in October, 2004.

Both Ron's and Jonas's presentations, with SAS code examples, are available on the HASUG web site.

Following the presentations the Steering Committee had lunch in the Bristol-Myers Squibb cafeteria. Regular business was conducted, and plans were begun for the next meeting to be held at Yale in the fall.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Future General Meetings & Conferences:

August 11, HASUG ,Yale University, New Haven,  
 Nov. 14-17, NESUG, Baltimore, MD  
 November 4, HASUG Foxwoods Resort, Mashan-  
 tucket, CT

### HASUG Steering Committee Meetings:

August 11 Immediately after HASUG meeting

## 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.

## CONTINUING WITH EDUCATION...

By Peter Prause, The Hartford

The SAS Institute Regional Training Center in Glastonbury, CT is offering these courses through December 2004. Course information for these courses and many other non-local courses is available on the Internet at the [support.sas.com](http://support.sas.com) web site. To register for a course or to get more information, phone SAS Institute at 1-800-333-

SAS Programming II: Manipulating Data with the DATA Step	Aug 31-Sep 2
SAS Programming III: Advanced Techniques	Sep 9-10
Optimizing SAS Programs	Sep 14-15
SAS Programming I: Essentials	Sep 28-30
Intro to Programming Concepts Using SAS Software	Oct 13-14
Creating Detail and Summary Reports	Oct 26-28
SAS Macro Language	Nov 3-4
SAS Programming I: Essentials	Nov 8-1
New Features in SAS V9	Nov 30
SAS Programming II: Manipulating Data with the DATA Step	Dec 1-3
Querying and Reporting Using Enterprise Guide	Dec 13-14
SQL Processing with SAS	Dec 15-16

Destiny Corporation is offering the following courses at their training facility located at 2075 Silas Deane Highway, Rocky Hill, CT. You can reach Destiny at 1-800-787-2464 or at 860-721-1684, or send email to [info@destinycorp.com](mailto:info@destinycorp.com). You can visit their web site at [www.destinycorp.com](http://www.destinycorp.com).

Intro to Programming Using SAS	Sep 9-10
V9 Changes and Enhancements	Sep 14-15
Macros in SAS Software	Sep 29-Oct 1
Programming II: Using the Data Step	Oct 6-8
Advanced Macros	Oct 26
V9 Changes and Enhancements	Nov 8-9
SQL Processing in SAS Software	Nov 15-16
Creating Static and Dynamic Web Solutions Using SAS/IntrNet	Dec 6-8
Statistics I: Basic ANOVA, Regression, and Logistic Regression	Dec 13-15

## 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, Stamford 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.

## HASUG EMAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST

This service is provided free of charge to all who wish to subscribe to the email notification process. In order to sign up for this service, you need only point your browser to the HASUG web site,

<http://www.hasug.org>, and click on the hyperlink

[Join HASUG Email Distribution List](#)

Or go directly to

<http://listserv.pace.edu/archives/hasug2-1.html>

then click on

[Join or leave the list \(or change settings\)](#)

You will see:

All you need to do is to:

1. type in your email address and name
2. click on "Join the List" button to Join
3. or, if you wish to unsubscribe click on "Leave the list" (still need to type in your email address and name)

If you know and understand the various options, feel free to alter them as desired. However, HASUG suggests you leave them "as is".

Your name and email address is not displayed nor given out to any party, including members of the HASUG Steering Committee. Only the list administrators have access to subscription information.

If you should change your email address under which you subscribed, you will need to unsubscribe with your old email address, and then re-subscribe using your new email address.

Typically, a notice is sent approximately 3 weeks before meetings, as well as a couple of days beforehand to remind people of the date, time, location and topics to be presented.

*Only List administrators will be able to send out email messages to the HASUG2-L members.*

## HYPERLINKS OF INTEREST

SAS Users often ask, "How can I find any recent SUGI papers that deal with a particular subject?" Lex Jansen has put up the following link that lets one search the online SUGI proceeds using the Google search engine:

<http://www.lexjansen.com/sugi/>

Similarly, to search the SAS-L archives, one can use the following two links:

<http://www.axomsoftware.com/sas-l.php>

[http://groups.google.com/groups?](http://groups.google.com/groups?hl=en&lr=&ie=UTF-8&group=comp.soft-sys.sas)

[hl=en&lr=&ie=UTF-8&group=comp.soft-sys.sas](http://groups.google.com/groups?hl=en&lr=&ie=UTF-8&group=comp.soft-sys.sas)

The SAS Consultants Special Interest Group's web site URL is:

<http://www.sconsig.com>

Read Past SUGI Proceedings Online at:

(link supplied by Curtis Smith):

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

Information about the North East SAS Users Group (NESUG), including information about the 2004 Conference in Baltimore can be found at:

<http://www.nesug.org>

SAS OnlineDoc is available from SAS on the World-Wide Web. To register to view SAS Version 8 OnlineDoc on the web, register at the following URL:

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

To register to view SAS Version 9 Online Doc on the web, register at the following URL:

<http://www.sas.com/v9doc>.

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>

## **CONSULTANTS' SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SCONSIG)**

The SAS Consultants' Special Interest Group (SCONSIG) operates and maintains a web site located at [www.sconsig.com](http://www.sconsig.com). The 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 at:

## **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."

SAS, SAS/ACCESS, SAS/CONNECT, SAS/FSP, SAS/GRAPH, SAS/IntrNet, and SAS/STAT are registered trademarks of SAS Institute Inc., Cary, North Carolina

TIPS IN BLUE/**BOLD** ARE IN THIS NEWSLETTER, ALL TIPS CAN BE LOCATED ON [WWW.SCONSIG.COM](http://WWW.SCONSIG.COM)

### **Creating a Directory Listing Using SAS for Windows: It's Not a Pipe Dream By Ross Bettinger, SAS**

<http://support.sas.com/sassamples/quicktips/04may/listings.html>

**Here's the link to a SAS program that calculates the dates for Federal holidays and daylight saving time submitted by Glenn Heagerty**

<http://support.sas.com/faq/018/FAQ01802.html>

### **Quick Tip: Plotting Variables with SAS/GRAPH**

Leif Kirschenbaum, a SAS user at IBM, optimized SAS code to generate an XY plot where the many graph features are controlled by macro variables. "Setting the macro variables for axis low, high, interval and format is tiresome," he explains. "So I devised a macro variable to plot where each variable contains the axis limits, interval, format and color for each variable to be plotted."

Read More at:

<http://support.sas.com/sassamples/quicktips/04mar/plotting.html?ETS=1786&PID=44951>

**TIP00401** - A kind of Reverse Proc Contents - load attributes of variables into the metadata of a SAS dataset by Ian Whitlock

**TIP00399** - Proc Sort with NODUP & Many Variables by Paul Dorfman

### **SAS® 9.1: Oh the Things You Can Do!**

Melinda Theilbar, author of Bits & Bytes, offers this "Insiders" look at SAS 9.1. She writes, "This new version is going to work for you much like your old version did. You'll have new functions and procedures that will open up new ways to use SAS or will make old programming tasks easier. There will be some new buttons to play with, maybe even a new interface, but SAS will do everything it did before, just better."

Read More at:

[http://support.sas.com/news/insider/mt\\_91tasks.html?ETS=1784&PID=44951](http://support.sas.com/news/insider/mt_91tasks.html?ETS=1784&PID=44951)

### **Looking Inside SAS®9**

SAS®9 includes a new suite of Java interfaces designed to manage and deliver intelligence to users throughout the organization. Underneath all of the Java interfaces, the core of the SAS system has taken a quantum leap forward in terms of power and efficiency. "Insider" Bob Louder, solutions architect at SAS, offers this

look at the specific enhancements and additions to SAS®9 topics. Read More at: [http://support.sas.com/news/insider/bl\\_91hilites.html?ETS=1784&PID=44951](http://support.sas.com/news/insider/bl_91hilites.html?ETS=1784&PID=44951)

### **New ODS PRINTER features for SAS 9.1**

Justified page numbers and dates Page i of n support Improved Table of Contents options Ability to generate contents list.

<http://support.sas.com/rnd/base/topics/odsprinter/new91.html>

### **009869 How to print the current date and time in the SAS Output window instead of the date and time that the SAS session was started.**

Component: Display manager (OS)

Release(s) Reported: 8.2

Release(s) Fixed:

Date Created: 23APR2003

Date Last Updated: 17MAR2004

SN <http://support.sas.com/techsup/unotes/SN/009/009869.html>

### **000302 Information on when SAS/FSP is needed**

Component: General FSP applications

Release(s) Reported: 7,8

Release(s) Fixed:

Date Created: 13JAN1999

Date Last Updated: 17MAR2004

SN <http://support.sas.com/techsup/unotes/SN/000/000302.html>

### **/\*\* TIP00401 \*\*/**

Maybe I'm missing something, but I am looking for some kind of reverse PROC CONTENTS. I read ASCII data and don't want to enter the metadata (variable labels and many other attributes) by hand by writing a piece of data step code. The information is available in another ASCII file, which I would like to read using the standardized variable names from PROC CONTENTS (into a dataset) and feed back to a (still empty) dataset, just like

the CNTLIN option with PROC FORMAT allows for importing formats from a dataset. If that is not possible I would could read the metadata to generate normal data step code to %include, but that is more work.

Author of Solution:

[Ian\\_Whitlock!!@!!comcast.net](mailto:Ian_Whitlock!!@!!comcast.net)

The code needed to do what you want depends on what you want, and the structure of the metadata. Here is a simple example.

```
data dict ;
    input var $ lab $ ;
cards ;
var1 lab1
x xxx
;

data w ;
    x = 1 ;
    var1 = "abc" ;
run ;

proc sql ;
    select var || "=" || quote(lab) into :Lablist
    separated by " "
    from dict ;
quit ;

proc datasets lib = work ;
    modify w ;
    label &lablist ;
run ;
quit ;
```

/\*\* end of tip 00401 \*\*/

### **/\*\* TIP00399 \*\*/**

Proc Sort nodup with many variables. I have a dataset with 200+ variables. If I run a Proc Sort step on it with the nodup option, can I be certain that the records that are deleted are definitely identical (in all variables) to ones in the datasets that remain? (i.e.,

does SAS ensure that all variables have the same value before the record is deleted?)  
(Tip 00399 cont.)

For example,  
Proc Sort data=mydata nodup;

by ID; run;  
where mydata is a dataset with 200+ variables;  
Paul M. Dorfman  
The answer is "no". Instead, use

## THE HASUG STEERING COMMITTEE

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**Laboratory for Epidemiology and Public Health, LEPH**  
60 College Street, New Haven, CT 06510

**Parking options when attending HASUG Aug. 11 at Yale.**

- Pro-Park @ Doctor's Building **\$4.00 max** (Lafayette St between Church St So. & Washington Ave. **P on map**)
- Pro Park @ George and College \$7.00 max (**ALT on map**)
- AIR RIGHTS GARAGE \$ 8.00 max (**ARG on map**)

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS**

**From I-95 North or South**

I-95 traveling north or south Exit 47 to Route 34 west, Get in Right Lane (exit only ) to Exit 1. When exiting stay in the Left lane. Go Left onto Church St South (1st light). Go Right onto Lafayette St (2nd light). Parking lot entrance is the first driveway on the right.

**From I-91 South**

I-91 traveling south Exit 1 to Route 34 west , Get in Right Lane (exit only lane) to Exit 1. When exiting stay in the Left lane. Go Left onto Church St South (1st light). Go Right onto Lafayette St (2nd light). Parking lot entrance is the first driveway on the right.

**Wilbur Cross Parkway (Rte. 15) traveling south**

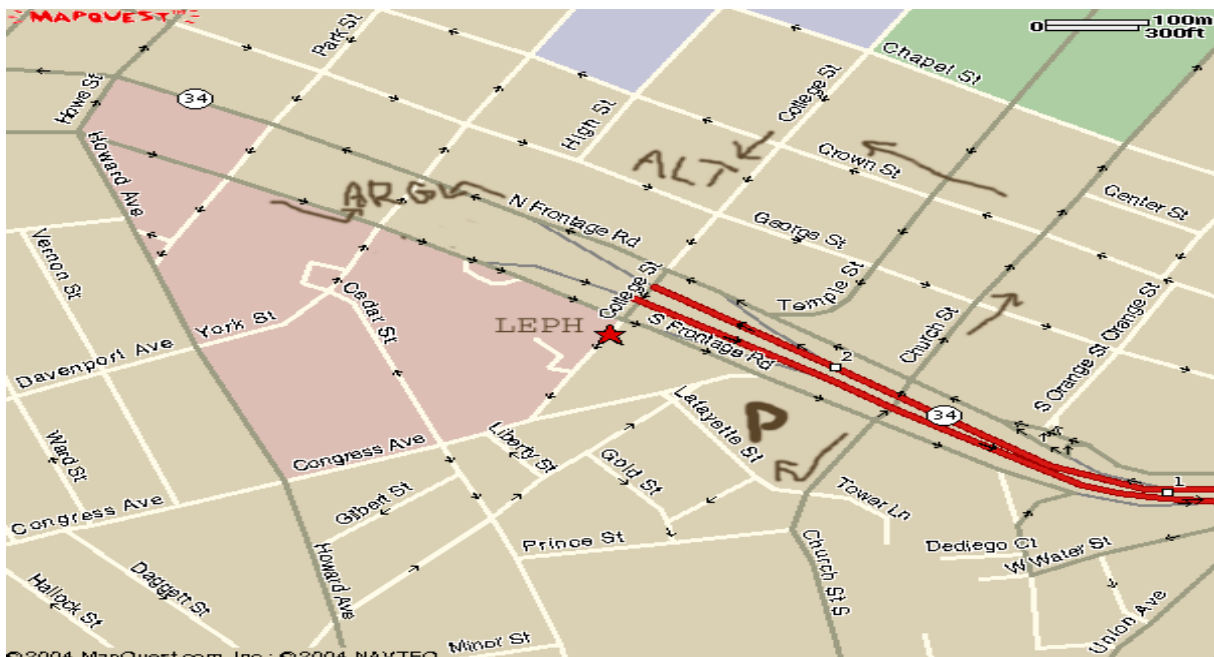
Exit 59 immediately after tunnel. Right at end of ramp. Merge left onto Whalley Avenue at light. Stay on Whalley until you see signs for Yale-New Haven at Park Street. Follow hospital signs, then make a left turn onto South Frontage Road. Continue on South Frontage to Church St South. Turn Right onto Church St South. Turn Right onto Lafayette St (1st light). Parking lot entrance is the first driveway on the right.

**Merritt Parkway (Rte. 15) traveling north**

Exit 57 to Route 34 east into New Haven. Right onto Ella T. Grasso Boulevard (Rte. 10) and left onto South Frontage Road (Legion Ave.). Follow hospital and Rte. 34 signs. Continue on South Frontage to Church St South. Turn Right onto Church St South. Turn Right onto Lafayette St (1st light). Parking lot entrance is the first driveway on the right.

**Route 1 (Boston Post Road) traveling east**

Make a Left turn onto Ella T. Grasso Boulevard (Rte. 10), turn Right onto South Frontage Road. Continue on South Frontage to Church St South. Turn Right onto Church St South. Turn Right onto Lafayette St (1st light). Parking lot entrance is the first driveway on the right.



Directions to the Yale-New Haven Medical Center

