



**European Federation of Statisticians in the Pharmaceutical Industry**  
Representing Statistical Associations in Europe

# EF SPI Statistics Leaders Annual Meeting: Summary of celebrating the 10th anniversary of our community!

# Statistics Leaders Meeting 2019 – Summary

The annual EFSPI Statistics Leaders meeting took place on the 3rd and 4th July 2019 in Germany, hosted by Boehringer Ingelheim. This year, 31 statistics leaders from 25 companies met face to face for one and a half days to celebrate the 10th anniversary of EFSPI Statistics Leaders meetings. The main goals of this year's meeting were to reflect on the past EFSPI statistics leaders topics and to continue shaping the future of the EU Statistics community based on the key lessons learned from 2010–2018. There was a key emphasis on statistical leadership. In preparation of the meeting, all participants were asked to think about what they would like to have known early in their careers e.g. soft skills, which they felt would have helped them with advancing their development. During discussions, it became clear that to be impactful as a statistician it is necessary to combine technical strengths with soft skills, leadership and big-picture thinking. Christy Chuang-Stein and Alexander Schacht were invited as external speakers to further stimulate discussions on critical leadership skills for statisticians in the pharmaceutical industry. The outcome of their interactive presentations and round-table discussions with participants were thought-provoking and inspiring ideas on how to become an effective, bold and entrepreneurial statistician. We were reminded that change may seem scary at first but it can also be very energizing and “If you are taking a risk, what you are really saying is, ‘I believe in tomorrow and I will be part of it.’” – Linda Ellerbee. The following hot topics were selected by participants and debated in further break-out groups: (1) What are the skill sets, besides leadership, statisticians need to have in the future?, (2) Statistics and Data Science: “The hype is over – when are statisticians needed again?”, (3) Involvements of statisticians in drug discovery and early stages of clinical development, and (4) The use of external controls in regulatory decision making. All four topics were followed by a plenary feedback session resulting in an action plan for EFSPI on how EFSPI can provide support to pursue and implement the recommendations once endorsed by the EFSPI Council. Finally, our EFSPI statistics leaders got to know Boehringer Ingelheim’s CUBE building, learned the Agile mindset and principles, and used the Design Thinking to create prototypes for a new EFSPI website during an Agile Experience Tour.

The 2019 EFSPI Statistics Leaders Organizing Committee thanks all who contributed to making the 10th anniversary a great success! The EFSPI statistics leaders are driven by collaboration and everyone participating strongly believes in the importance of networking in the EU Statistics community. The EU Statistics leaders forum will continue to shape the strategy of EFSPI and motivate and inspire the current and next generations of statisticians in the pharmaceutical industry to reach their full potential. Stay tuned for upcoming EFSPI events by visiting [www.efspi.org](http://www.efspi.org) and connecting with us on LinkedIn, and Twitter at @EFSPItweet.

Justine Rochon (Chair, EFSPI Statistics Leaders)

Chrissie Fletcher, Hans Ulrich Burger, Stefan Driessen, Armin Schueler (Organizing Committee, 10th EFSPI Statistics Leaders Meeting)

# Statistics Leaders Meeting 2019

## – Organizing Committee



# Statistics Leaders Meeting 2019

## – Statistics Leaders Group

